



CHAMPS Visits Alaska!

AI/AN CHAMPS works with Alaska Native hospitals on Baby-Friendly™ designation. In September 2016, CHAMPS site visited Alaska Native



From left: Dr. Anne Merewood, Abra Patkotak, Kirsten Krane, and Camie Goldhammer

Medical Center (ANMC) in Anchorage, Norton Sound Regional Hospital in Nome, and Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital in Barrow. Official highlights included community meetings and a 1 hour live radio show in Barrow – the northernmost town in the United States – with simultaneous translation into Inupiaq. Unofficial

highlights included the Polar Plunge from the Barrow beach, and a spontaneous serenade on the beach in Nome. CHAMPS thanks our gracious hosts in Alaska and looks forward to ongoing collaboration!

September 12th:



Board at ANMC with mountain climbers representing progress toward each of the 10 steps to Baby-Friendly™ Designation

At ANMC, the team met with nurses, physicians, administrators, and the Baby-Friendly Task Force, led by Michelle Tschida. CHAMPS consultant Camie Goldhammer presented “Culture, Trauma, and Breastfeeding: How It Is All Connected” to over 80 staff.

September 13th:

In Nome, CHAMPS met with the Baby-Friendly leads, Megan Timm and Kelly Zweifell Keyes, and with the hospital’s large, active Baby-Friendly



On the Bering Straits in Nome



Norton Sound Hospital in Nome

Task Force. Camie conducted a 4-hour Clinical Competency Training for nurses and a 3-hour physician training while CHAMPS Program Director Anne Merewood and Project Manager Kirsten Krane met with community members and senior administrative leadership.

September 14th:



Abra outside her very purple pre-maternal home

In Barrow, CHAMPS was welcomed enthusiastically by Abra Patkotak, a fierce breastfeeding advocate and Director of the Pre-maternal Home. CHAMPS presented “Culture, Trauma, and

Breastfeeding: How It Is All Connected” and “Step by Step to the 10 Steps” at the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital, and met with members of the Arctic Slope



Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital in Barrow

Breastfeeding Coalition. The

team also spent time with WIC staff and Screening for Life program.



Team in grocery store in Barrow posing beside posted flyers of CHAMPS events

September 15th:

The CHAMPS team interviewed live for a health-focused, 1-hour radio show at the Barrow radio station on breastfeeding, trauma and healing;



Team at Radio station with James, Inupiaq translator

the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative; health benefits of breastfeeding; and breastfeeding in special circumstances. The interview was simultaneously translated into the Inupiaq language, and broadcast to the many villages in the area.

The CHAMPS team survived a plunge in the icy waters of the Arctic Ocean and looks forward to more visits, if not more swimming. Thank you to everyone who took the time and dedication to make it a great CHAMPS trip to Alaska!

