

# Alaska Telehealth Advisory Council



## 2002 Annual Report

## **Credits**

Report sections written by Thomas Nighswander, MD, MPH, and various Alaska Telehealth Advisory Council workgroup members

Cover picture: Kerry Dorius with patient (Girdwood Clinic)

Design and layout by Thomas Nighswander, MD, MPH and Edward Bean

Photographs by Alaska Health Resources and ATAC Staff

Editorial by Thomas Nighswander, MD, MPH

Printed by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Copy Center

# Table of Contents

## **In Memory - Tom Posey**

### **ATAC Membership/Background**

Council Members .....	i
Workgroup Members .....	ii
Background to the Council .....	iii
Core Principles .....	iv

Executive Summary .....	1
Editorial .....	3

### **Summary of Current Alaska Telehealth Programs**

AFHCAN .....	5
Alaska Department of Corrections .....	8
Reimbursement .....	9
Telepsychiatry .....	10
Efficacy Trial .....	11
Clinical Access .....	12

### **New Telehealth Ventures**

Network as a private utility .....	13
330 Clinics Expansion .....	14
Statewide Evaluation - University of Alaska .....	15

### **Appendices**

Appendix A - Operating Budget .....	16
Appendix B - Meeting Agendas .....	17
Appendix C - Alaska Telemedicine Contacts .....	20
Appendix D - Meeting Schedule .....	27

(blank)

# In Memory: Tom Posey



Down the winding path of life, serendipity plays a big part in the people you meet and who add to your life by having known them. Tom Posey fills that bill for me. If it had not been for the work of the ATAC group I would have never met Tom, and I would have missed an opportunity. Here was an individual with the grandest, most infectious smile, persistent optimism who in my book had his priorities sorted out. He was absolutely devoted to his beautiful family and the community in which he lived. We traveled in different circles but we immediately connected in such a way that my conversations with Tom were easy and more often about the twists and turns of our families and our personal journeys than professional work.

He was tragically brought down at age 45 by a previously unknown brain aneurysm this spring, and he, his family and all the rest of us were cheated.

We all miss Tom for who he was and what he believed and the influence he had on all of us.

Tom Nighswander

(blank)

# Council Members

## Co-Chairs

**Paul Sherry**, Chief Executive Officer  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

**Jay Livey**, Commissioner  
Department of Health and Social Services

## Members

**Kathryn Anderson**, Sr. Vice President  
Sales and Marketing  
Alaska Communications Systems

**Douglas Bruce**, Chief Executive  
Providence Health System in Alaska

**Ron Duncan**, Chief Executive Officer  
GCI

**Mike Felix**, President, CEO  
AT&T Alascom

**Dee Hutchison**, Administrator  
Alaska Native Medical Center

**Jeff Jessee**, Executive Director  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

**Mark Johnson**  
Business/Regulatory Analyst  
Alaska Telephone Association (Rep.)

**Marilyn Kasmar**, Executive Director  
Alaska Primary Care Association

**Edward Lamb**, President, CEO  
Alaska Regional Hospital

**Jerome List**, MD, Past President  
Alaska State Medical Association

**Karen Perdue**, Associate Vice-President  
Health, University of Alaska

**Mike Powers**, Chief Executive Officer  
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital

**Alex Spector**, Director  
Department of Veterans Affairs

**Nanette Thompson**, Commissioner  
Regulatory Commission of Alaska

**Eric Wall**, MD, Medical Director  
Premera Blue Cross

**Mary Weiss**, RN  
Alaska Nurses Association (Rep.)

## Staff

**Tom Nighswander**, MD, MPH, Facilitator  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

**Edward Bean**, Administrative Coordinator  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

# Workgroup Members

**Five workgroups were formed to address specific telemedicine issues: Clinical Providers, Legal, Reimbursement, Technical, and Telepsychiatry.**

## **Clinical Provider Members**

Leslie Bryant, 261-3162

Richard Burger, MD, 452-6610

Major Peter Ehrnstrom, 580-2520  
Elmendorf Air Force Base Hospital

Owen Hanley, MD, 456-3750

Debbie Kiley, NP, Partner, 261-3096  
Alaska Health Resources, LLC

Joe Klejka, MD, 543-6028  
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

Jerome List, MD, 261-3096  
Alaska State Medical Association

Annette Siemens, NP, 224-3076  
Chugachmiut

## **Legal**

Tim Schuerch, General Counsel, 729-1908  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

## **Reimbursement Members**

Kathe Boucha, Telemedicine Director  
Providence Alaska Medical Center, 261-4955

Anita Halterman, 334-2400  
State of Alaska, Division of Medical Assistance

Teri Keklak, 334-2400  
State of Alaska, Division of Medical Assistance

Vonne Mason, 334-2400  
State of Alaska, Division of Medical Assistance

Gwen Obermiller, 334-2400  
State of Alaska, Division of Medical Assistance

Andrew Soli, Provider Network Executive  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska, 677-2408

Marijo Toner, Regional Affairs Coordinator  
Bartlett Regional Hospital, 586-8488

## **Technical Members**

Kathy Fanning, 257-5426  
Technology Management Service

Stewart Ferguson, PhD, 729-2262  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Mark Johnson, Business/Regulatory Analyst  
United Utilities, 273-5290

Doug LaMarche, 264-7316  
AT&T-Alascom

Leigh Thurston, 458-5465  
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital

Marijo Toner, Regional Affairs Coordinator  
Bartlett Regional Hospital, 586-8488

Dan Toomey, 264-7290  
AT&T Alascom

## **Telepsychiatry Members**

Ron Adler, Executive Director  
Ketchikan Gateway Center, 225-4135

Leslie Bennett, Behavioral Health Clinician  
Eastern Aleutian Tribes, 497-2342

Tony Blanford, MD, 488-9821

Mark Erickson, Psychiatrist, 269-7100  
State of Alaska, Alaska Psychiatric Institute

Jeff Jessee, Executive Director, 269-7963  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Beth Landon, Director, 786-6589  
UAA, Alaska Center for Rural Health

Vern Stillner, MD, 586-8498  
Bartlett Regional Hospital Outpatient Services

Wandal Winn, MD, 562-0794

William Worrall, MD, 269-7319  
State of Alaska, Department of Corrections

# Background to the Council

In November of 1998, Dr. Tom Nighswander was with Karen Perdue, our former health commissioner at a meeting with Senator Ted Stevens when he discussed funding for the AFH-CAN project. Given the logistic challenges in Alaska, he saw the possibilities of what this technology could provide, not only for health care issues, but for education as well.

His vision was that this initiative, while initially directed to the Federal Partners in Alaska, would have spin-offs that could be made available to all Alaskans.

To provide some level of coordination and cooperation, he requested Commissioner Perdue to organize an advisory body that consisted of membership from the telecommunication industry, major healthcare provider organizations, professional provider groups, the University of Alaska and representatives of the major payers of health care in our State.

While meeting three to four times per year, the first task was the development of core principles that have now come to fruition. The real work of the group is done by individual members/organizations, or by committees for specific tasks.

The results of this effort have been remarkable. Many of the original issues that seemed insurmountable have been resolved.

Senator Stevens' encouragement to form the Council was prescient.



ive. The first task was the development of core principles that have now come to fruition. The real work of the group is done by individual members/organizations, or by committees for specific tasks.

port. Many of the original issues that seemed insurmountable have been resolved.

ne above agenda

# Core Principles



The Alaska Telehealth Advisory Council in 1999 established five ground rules for the development of Telemedicine in our state. They have stood the test of time and progress has been made on all of them, but we are not finished.

They are restated with every edition of our annual report as a reminder of where we have been and where we are going.

- 1) Any entity that becomes engaged in statewide telehealth in Alaska should ensure equal access, when financially realistic, to all Alaskans who would benefit from this technology.
- 2) All entities participating in telehealth must assure that their systems meet inter-connectivity and inter-operative standards and participate in the coordination of other telehealth efforts in the state of Alaska.
- 3) All telehealth applications should be acceptable to both the patient and the provider and be easy to use.
- 4) All entities that participate in telehealth must determine their financial viability for the long term, including the provision of professional capacity development and training as an ongoing component of operating expenses.
- 5) All participants in telehealth in Alaska should engage in a needs assessment and evaluation of services.

# Executive Summary

---



# Executive Summary

The first meeting of the Council was held in January 1999. It was an organizational meeting with the goal of framing the issues related to telemedicine in the state and developing strategies to direct them. The most recent meeting (May 2002) was held in Kotzebue and Kiana. ATAC members were able to review Maniilaq's extensive functional telemedicine network. This included store-and-forward and real-time capacity to all of its villages. There has also been an offering for Continuing Medical Education in real-time from the Family Practice Residency Program in Anchorage to clinicians at the Maniilaq Medical Center. It has been a very productive journey.

This past year has seen the maturing of thinking in programs for telemedicine throughout the state. Increased connectivity at higher bandwidths is now more widely available, and the telecommunication industry is playing an increasingly active role in its development and implementation.

By this fall the Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network (AFHCAN) carts will be almost completely deployed to all participating communities, Department of Defense, and Public Health Nursing sites. As a result, AFHCAN is in the process of reinventing itself to address the issues of the next five years. A principle focus will be sustainability with an increased focus on the maintenance, training and development of the telemedicine cart.

Reimbursement for store and forward by the State Medicaid program should be completed before November 2002 and Alaska's leading private insurance carrier, Premera, has agreed in principle to do the same. The State already has a Medicare waiver for practitioners to seek reimbursement for store and forward telemedicine services.

The Gateway Mental Health Program in Ketchikan has sponsored and coordinated a Telepsychiatry children's clinic that began in January 2002, linking the Bartlett Memorial Hospital child psychiatrist to the community of Metlakatla. The Department of Corrections has upgraded both telepsychiatry equipment and capacity to the prison system throughout the State.

The rapid clinical access system, connecting clinicians throughout the state, will be enrolling clinicians this coming fall. The Efficacy Project in Southcentral Alaska--connecting private Anchorage clinical specialties to rural clinical providers and collecting data on the effectiveness, efficiency and cost of telemedicine service--will be completed by this fall.

## Executive Summary continued...



An ATAC sponsored evaluation of Telemedicine efforts will be conducted by the University of Alaska in the coming year. This evaluation will explore the development of telemedicine in Alaska, what has worked and what hasn't, continuing gaps and suggestions for future directions.

An increased emphasis will be placed on making this technology available to all Alaskans, one of the core operating principles of the council. One avenue for this is opening the existing infrastructure of the AFHCAN project to entities not included in the Federal Partnership (the sponsoring agency of AFHCAN).

# Editorial

---



# Editorial



I had the opportunity to attend the American Telemedicine Association meeting in June 2002. It was widely attended by the principals of Telemedicine in this country and from around the world. I was interested in what they were thinking and what changes have occurred over the last few years. Here is what I learned.

After the initial concern about having enough bandwidth for face-to-face encounters (including elaborate clinical production facilities), it turns out that although there has been a substantial leap in bandwidth at more affordable prices, it is also estimated that 80 percent of telemedicine consultations can be done through store-and-forward applications (which has always been our emphasis in Alaska).

There are multiple definitions of what we are doing--telemedicine, telehealth, and e-health. Fundamentally, however, it is the efficient and timely transmission of mostly clinical information. Just as we had hoped, it remains patient centered, but allows for services to be provided in ways that make sense to all of us.

Dr. Don Berwick, known to many of us as the nation's leading spokesperson for improvement in quality of care was featured on the front page of the Wall Street Journal recently. Dr. Berwick, said that 80 percent of patient encounters do not need to occur in the doctor's office--most could be handled by phone or e-mail communication. In fact, in the future there is the possibility of examining patients wherever they might be located. At the ATA Conference we saw successful applications of taking the doctor's office to the workplace (by telemedicine). This application reduced time away from the office from 1-1/2 hours to twenty minutes. The new home monitoring equipment easily allows for the office to be in the patient's home, harking back to the time when physicians used to provide home visits--now with a 2002 twist.

At its most fundamental level, telemedicine solves the problem of time, not distance. Using this paradigm, it becomes clear that telemedicine can be appropriate in urban areas as well as our distant rural sites. Alaska's own Dr. Declan Nolan has said that he wished more primary care providers in Anchorage would send him images of x-rays so that he could make decisions on whether or not a patient needed to come to the office.

## Editorial continued...



There were extended discussions about sustainability. The trends are clear. Telemedicine, including store and forward applications, will be reimbursed--probably at the same rate as a face-to-face encounter. Reimbursement will not pay for telemedicine service--it will not cover infrastructure costs. It will end up as the cost of doing business. Most of the infrastructure is a utility--like lights, fax machines, and phone lines. But with this technology providing new opportunities in doing clinical business, to be fully utilized and cost efficient, will require a new way of thinking as well as a changed behavior in our practice settings. An example given was an e-ICU, where a team of ICU specialists can monitor a patient at several distant hospitals continuously, night and day, including weekends. The ICU nurse will not have to contact the specialties in the middle of the night; they will already be there with the patient data continuously in front of them.

Sustainability will be achieved when this way of doing business is accepted as a better way to perform a task by the caregiver, management and patients.

Tom Nighswander, MD, MPH

(blank)

# Summary of Current Alaska Telehealth Programs

---



**Section Contents**

**AFHCAN**

**Department of Corrections**

**Reimbursement**

**Telepsychiatry**

**Efficacy Trial**

**Clinical Access**

# AFHCAN

The Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network (AFHCAN), the four-year project (1999 – 2002) to improve access to health care for federal beneficiaries in Alaska through sustainable telehealth systems, concluded its fourth year of operation on September 30, 2002. ***The overall mission of linking 235 federal and state sites in Alaska in a telehealth network was formally completed this past year.***

## ***AFHCAN Design***

AFHCAN is designed to be a “system” to support existing referral patterns throughout the federal health care system in Alaska. The technical components of the system include the telecommunications infrastructure, AFHCAN web-based software and AFHCAN carts. During the past 20 months, most of the 235 AFHCAN sites have been connected in a dedicated statewide network used for transmission of telehealth cases, teleradiology, videoconferencing, and other data and voice communications. During that time, approximately 285 carts and 48 servers have been deployed to AFHCAN sites.

The AFHCAN Project is actively seeking to connect the AFHCAN network to non-AFHCAN sites and to other health care networks. Project staff are working with consultants, the AFHCAN Informatics Committee, the ATAC Technical Workgroup and the telecommunications industry to design a secure and scaleable interface. The initial design will be developed during statewide meeting in late September. When implemented, this will greatly expand the capacity and utility of telehealth in Alaska.

Development of the AFHCAN web-based software has continued with major performance improvements, added features, and the recent release of “server-to-server” (S2S) technology. S2S represents a significant advancement in store-and-forward telehealth, whereby organizational servers can communicate with other servers through a secure central node server. This allows organizations to have two-way trust relationships with each other, to share telehealth data, and to have the data appear locally on their own server. This removes many of the satellite barriers, which affect software performance. The release of “multi-node” S2S software in late September will greatly expand this capability by allowing multiple nodes to act as a single node. This will allow “Enterprise Telehealth,” whereby servers and nodes placed outside the AFHCAN network will be able to communicate with the node and servers on the AFHCAN network.

# AFHCAN continued...

## ***Clinical Utilization of the AFHCAN Telemedicine System***

Approximately 3000 store-and-forward telemedicine cases have been completed in the past 12 months of the AFHCAN project. Most of these cases were consultations from community health aides to physicians. Practitioners used the video otoscope, digital camera, or ECG along with the AFHCAN telemedicine software to create and send the information to the referral provider. Audiologists have also been using the system to communicate important information to otolaryngologists. In one region, telemedicine has helped to decrease the backlog of ENT specialty clinic patients, by providing images and data in a more timely fashion. AFHCAN is conducting a study to assess the reliability of store-and-forward images for follow-up of tympanostomy tube placement.

## ***AFHCAN Financial Summary***

AFHCAN was designed as a four-year (1999-2002) project with an estimated \$30,000,000 budget. Through the fourth year of the project, AFHCAN has received \$29,367,002 plus \$643,741 interest payments. Through FY 2002, the AFHCAN Project received funds from Indian Health Service (\$16,000,000), Department of Defense (\$4,733,000), Veterans Administration (\$1,750,000), and a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services (\$6,852,000). The AFHCAN Project has met its objectives within the four-year timeline while remaining under budget. Project-to-date, the AFHCAN Project Office has expended 26% of its funds on operations to include software development, 23% on site funds, 25% on equipment, 2% on network, research and development, and ATAC. AFHCAN has committed over \$2,000,000 for the first year of transition planning for FY03.

## ***Evaluation***

A summative evaluation process, coordinated through the University of Alaska Office of Associate Vice President, Health Programs, will evaluate AFHCAN in three areas: 1) the impacts of the AFHCAN telemedicine project from a rural provider perspective, 2) the impacts of the AFHCAN telemedicine project from a technological perspective, and 3) the impacts of the AFHCAN telemedicine project from a business perspective. A final consolidated report will be produced in printed form and made available on the Internet. A public forum will be held for presentations of findings and for discussion of issues that face rural health providers. This evaluation process is expected to be completed by Fall/Winter of 2003.

# AFHCAN continued...

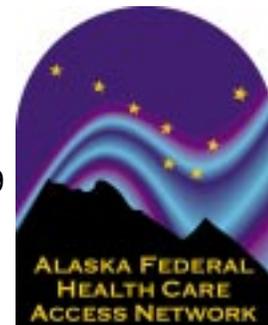
## ***Transition Planning/Sustainability of AFHCAN Telehealth Systems***

As part of planning for sustainability for AFHCAN, the Executive Committee of the Partnership recommended a 2-year transition planning timeline to develop a comprehensive sustainability plan. The 2-year transition timeline is from 10/1/02 – 9/30/04. Transition activities planned, in general, include designing a solution that will allow for secure expansion of the AFHCAN network; continuing to explore joint project/partnership/business models; ongoing program development, i.e., dermatology, home health, dental, and integration of Partnership technologies.

*Reimbursement for store-and-forward telehealth is a critical element of the long-term sustainability plan for telehealth.* To that end, Congress passed legislation last year authorizing **Medicare Part B** professional fee reimbursement for certain telehealth services for Alaska and Hawaii. The Alaska Division of Medical Assistance (DMA), Alaska Department of Health and Human Services (**Alaska Medicaid**) is currently developing regulations for Medicaid reimbursement. Successful implementation of reimbursement for store-and-forward for all payers will be a priority for transition planning.

For more information, contact the AFHCAN Project Office at:

4201 Tudor Centre Drive, Suite 310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-2260; Fax: (907) 729-2269  
Email: [afhcan@afhcan.org](mailto:afhcan@afhcan.org)  
Website: <http://www.afhcan.org>



# Alaska Department of Corrections

Currently the Department of Corrections (DOC) utilizes two psychiatrists and one psychiatric nurse practitioner to provide weekly telepsychiatry services to facilities in Seward, Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Juneau, Kenai and Bethel. The POTS VTC is now available in Nome, Bethel, and Kenai, and it is expected to have sufficient bandwidth to Kenai to utilize the Polycoms system at 128k by July 2002. DOC sees about 25-30 patients per week.

DOC experience with 128k IP VTC with the Polycoms has been very positive in comparison to POTS VTC. It is much more natural and quite close to an in-person examination. It can be turned up to 384k when there is a need to evaluate a movement disorder, or to eliminate lip sync delay. DOC does not have guaranteed bandwidth, as bandwidth is currently shared with the State's data network for telemedicine purposes.

DOC's Starview POTS equipment is being upgraded to extend the time allowed to establish a connection from 10 seconds to 60 seconds; this system will also include speakerphone function. Once this trade out is complete, DOC will be implementing a joint telepsychiatry project with the Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS) with some rural community mental health centers to enhance continuity of care for mentally ill offenders.

DOC met with Alaska Communications Systems (ACS) to discuss the IP side of the joint project so that ACS is aware of needed connectivity. ACS assures that the IP based telepsychiatry will be within a Virtual Private Network by April 2003 as required by HIPAA.

DOC is considering implementing a private network to permit IP based telepsychiatry with the DOC facility in Nome. This would be accomplished via a GCI cable modem (in Nome), connecting through the Internet to the State network. This would include a set of encrypting routers on each end.

DOC successfully connected with the Maniilaq Association for the first time in August 2002 using the Polycom system. There was a slight delay in movement; otherwise, resolution was very good, as well as the sound quality. This connection should be fully capable by the end of August.

For further information contact Dr. William Worrall, Department of Corrections  
(Phone: 907 269-7319; Email: [william\\_worrall@correct.state.ak.us](mailto:william_worrall@correct.state.ak.us)).

# Reimbursement

Representatives of the State Medicaid program and Premera, the State's largest insurance carrier, have been active participants in developing a reimbursement formula for store-and-forward telemedicine applications.

The ATAC sponsored Efficacy Trial has provided excellent field experience on which reimbursement recommendations will be made. A major finding from this experience has been the modest and appropriate use of this technology. This has allayed an initial worry that major payors would be exposed to excessive new costs. This does not seem to be the case.

With this background, the reimbursement recommendations that are being presented for public comment are inclusive. They will provide for many types of providers presenting cases to a wide variety of consultants. This list included all health care licensed providers in the state of Alaska whose services are now covered under face-to-face Medicaid services.

The plan for State Medicaid is to have reimbursements. We expect Premera to follow with a similar plan.

November elections.

For further information contact Vonne Mason, Alaska State Medicaid Director  
(Phone: 907 334-2400; Email: [vonne\\_mason@health.s](mailto:vonne_mason@health.s))



Bob Labbe, State Medicaid Director

# Telepsychiatry



Telepsychiatry applications have been one of the more surprisingly effective applications of telemedicine pioneered in this state by a very creative psychiatrist in the Department of Corrections (DOC; see their report). The infrastructure has varied from the initial successful use of video phones by the DOC to the high bandwidth sophisticated child and adolescent telepsychiatry clinic conducted by the child psychiatrist at Bartlett Memorial in Juneau to the community of Metlakatla, southwest of Ketchikan.

The child psychiatry project organized by the Gateway Mental Health Center in Ketchikan now has weekly clinics providing child and adolescent care to an isolated community at a level beyond everyone's imagination only a few years ago.

The most recent advance in telepsychiatry services is the telepsychiatry link between the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) and Maniilaq Medical Center in Kotzebue. If this is successful there will be mutual interest from several of our rural mental health centers and API for a telepsychiatry link.

For further information contact Ron Adler, Gateway Center for Human Services  
(Phone: 907 225-4135; Email: [humanservices@city.ketchikan.ak.us](mailto:humanservices@city.ketchikan.ak.us)).

# Efficacy Trial

The Telehealth Efficacy Project focus was to gather preliminary information on the “business case” behind reimbursement for telehealth applications, particularly store-and-forward. The Project was extended through September 2002 due to low numbers of telehealth encounters with the completed project data. There was also no other option for the private providers to continue utilizing the technology. Alaska Health Resources has continued to provide technological support services for participating providers.

Currently, there are 21 professional provider participants in the Project including a family nurse practitioner, family practice, orthopedics, dermatology, OB/GYN and ENT. Two additional primary care sites withdrew because it was felt that the telemedicine process requirements were too cumbersome to integrate into their practice environment currently. The numbers of encounters per primary care provider varied during their periods of participation in the project. The practitioners had 47 completed encounters. (In addition to clinical information, a completed encounter must include the survey and practice data for the study.) Of the requested consults, the three specialties most requested were orthopedic (35), ENT (27), and dermatology (19).

The mid-level’s use of the technology far exceeded the other practitioners which appeared to indicate that they had integrated its use more readily into their practice and that it was meeting their patients’ needs as well as supporting their clinical practice.

Outcomes of the completed encounters using store-and-forward application were — 55% avoided travel; consultation with a specialist confirmed the diagnosis and treatment. Of the 45% of the encounters which required patient travel, the consultant required interaction with the patient or further information for a complete diagnosis.

Preliminary findings seemed to indicate that there is a business case for the reimbursement of telemedicine. There is a high level of acceptance of the technology by patients. The biggest issue appeared to be the time and interest required to integrate the technology into the practice environment, particularly by the primary care provider.

For further information contact Gwen Obermiller, Division of Medical Assistance  
(Phone: 907 334-2400; Email: [Gwen\\_Obermiller@health.state.ak.us](mailto:Gwen_Obermiller@health.state.ak.us)).

# Clinical Access

In this past year, the State of Alaska Division of Public Health and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, on behalf of the Alaska Telehealth Advisory Council and the State Medical Association, entered into an agreement for the establishment of a clinical rapid access network using Telemedicine applications.

The interest in this project was prompted by the need for rapidly and securely contacting practicing clinicians throughout the state in the case of a public health, or more recently bio-terrorism, emergency.

The State Medical Association has taken the lead in the project with a secure server located at their corporate offices. Enrollment of physicians will begin soon. The initial effort is to connect 500 clinicians on a trial basis. Negotiations are in progress to provide for a “digital certificate” along with appropriate authentications of identity.

For further information contact Dr. Jerome List, Alaska State Medical Association (Phone: 907 261-3096; Email: [jlist@alaskaent.com](mailto:jlist@alaskaent.com)).



Scott Armstrong, Data Mercury Group, and Dr. Jerome List

(blank)

# **New Telehealth Ventures**

---



## **Section Contents**

**Network as a private utility**

**330 Clinics expansion**

**Evaluation - University of Alaska**

## Network as a private utility

A much anticipated and essential transition in telemedicine is beginning to occur. In recognition of the maturing of telemedicine in our state, several of our telecommunication companies, led by GCI, are entering the market with the necessary secure telemedicine utility links that will allow any clinical provider who is interested to establish a telemedicine program.

At its most basic level, telemedicine is an advanced communication tool and therefore an advanced utility. This is the telecommunication industry area of expertise. The industry in Alaska is preparing to offer this utility at a competitive price and include in the package the necessary technical support and training that is required to pursue telemedicine applications.

The extent that this effort is successful will determine the future of telemedicine in our state. To be sustained, telemedicine must enter the mainstream of how clinical services are provided. Once these applications are treated like fax machines, the longevity of telemedicine will be assured. Around the country there are legions of very attractive telemedicine projects that were not sustainable after the external grant funding disappeared. Our communication companies' interest and support for telemedicine is both appreciated and necessary.

For further information contact Dr. Tom Nighswander, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (Phone: 907 729-3682; Email: [tnighswa@anthc.org](mailto:tnighswa@anthc.org)).



Tom Bohn, AFHCAN Consultant, and Steve Constantine, GCI Telehealth Manager

# 330 Clinics Expansion

Increased interest and funding for our Community Health Centers have recently become available. These centers provide an essential service to some of our hard to service population groups either because of financing of care or rural location.

Mid level clinical practitioners staff many of these centers. Representatives of this group have demonstrated the most innovative use of telemedicine as compared to any clinical providers. For some it has become an essential part of their practice, increasing the quality of service and saving travel costs. This has been well demonstrated in the ATAC sponsored efficacy trial.

Funding has become available to expand the AFHCAN network to this group of clinics and will be a focus of effort for this coming year. It will require capital investment, training and support, but will be well worth the effort. Nineteen community health centers will qualify for this program.

For further information contact Dr. Tom Nighswander, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (Phone: 907 729-3682; Email: [tnighswa@anthc.org](mailto:tnighswa@anthc.org)).



Health Aide at Kiana Clinic with KTUU Health Reporter

# Statewide Evaluation University of Alaska



Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer addresses ATAC Members

Karen Perdue, the Associate Vice President for Health Programs for the University of Alaska, has been named the principal investigator for the Telemedicine evaluation project funded by the Federal Office of Telemedicine. The project received funding in October 2002 and has a statewide, multifaceted focus.

This evaluation will center on functional issues in Telemedicine, provide a status report of deployment in Alaska, and suggest further directions that this technology should take.

Specifically the evaluation goals include:

- Measuring the impact of Telemedicine on rural health systems from the perspective of the Rural Provider.
- Measuring the impact of Telemedicine on the business and policy of health care.
- Reviewing the impact of Telemedicine on statewide telecommunications infrastructure and technology support services.

In addition the project will provide funding for a Global Health Forum and Web Site on e-Health. The international forum is tentatively scheduled for October or November 2003 in Anchorage.

The evaluation will involve a number of different departments within the University of Alaska system, and will be coordinated by Karen Ward, Director for Center for Human Development, UAA.

For further information contact Karen Perdue, Health Programs, University of Alaska (Phone: 907 474-1970; Email: [Karen.perdue@alaska.edu](mailto:Karen.perdue@alaska.edu)).

(blank)

# Appendices

---



## **Section Contents**

**Appendix A - Operating Budget**

**Appendix B - ATAC Meeting Agendas**

**Appendix C - Alaska Telemedicine Contacts**

**Appendix D - ATAC Meeting Schedule**

# Appendix A

---



## Operating Budget

# Operating Budget

## Alaska Telehealth Advisory Council Financial Report FY 02 October 1, 2001 through July 31, 2002 (10-months)

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>FY 02 Budget</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Alaska Health Resources LLC, Telemedicine Efficacy	\$ 84,339.96	\$ 53,485.16
Myers and Stauffer LLC, Telehealth Reimbursement Research	\$ 10,426.00	\$ 368.00
Rapid Access to Clinicians in Alaska	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
<b>Staff (Nighswander)</b>	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 19,554.25
<b>Travel</b>	\$ 5,200.00	\$ (3,078.36)
<b>Printing/Copying/Postage</b>	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 13,850.00
<b>General Office Supplies</b>	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,880.00
<b>Training - CME</b>	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
<b>Reserve (Other)</b>	\$ 217,234.04	\$ 216,653.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 452,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 311,512.47</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Travel Program	\$ 8,278.36	
Printing/Copying/Postage	\$ 150.00	
General Office Supplies	\$ 20.00	
Misc. Program Supplies	\$ 100.00	
Training - CME	\$ -	
Equipment < \$5000	\$ -	
Dues/Subscriptions (Other)	\$ 30.00	
Markets/Catering (Other)	\$ 550.62	
<b>Service Contracts</b>		
Thomas Nighswander	\$ 60,445.75	
Alaska Health Services LLC, Telemedicine Efficacy	\$ 30,854.80	
Myers and Stauffer LLC, Telehealth Reimbursement Research	\$ 10,058.00	
Rapid Access to Clinicians in Alaska	\$ 30,000.00	
Skurlas (Other)	\$ -	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 140,487.53</b>	
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$ 311,512.47</b>	

# Appendix B

---



## Meeting Agendas

# ALASKA TELEHEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

4141 AMBASSADOR DRIVE

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

(907) 729-3682 / FAX (907) 729-1901

## AGENDA

Friday, January 18, 2002, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Alaska Family Practice Residency Program

3546 LaTouche Street (36<sup>th</sup> and LaTouche)

<p>COUNCIL MEMBERS</p> <p>Commissioner Jay Livey Co-Chair State of Alaska</p> <p>Paul Sherry, CEO Co-Chair Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium</p> <p>Douglas A. Bruce, CEO Providence Health System in Alaska</p> <p>Ron Duncan, CEO GCI</p> <p>Barbara Gruenstein, Director Consumer Services Alaska Communications Systems</p> <p>Dee Hutchison, ANMC Administrator Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium</p> <p>Jeff Jessee, Executive Director Alaska Mental Health Trust</p> <p>Mark Johnson Business/Regulatory Analyst Alaska Telephone Association (Rep.)</p> <p>Marilyn Kasmar, Executive Director Alaska Primary Care Association</p> <p>Edward H. Lamb, CEO/President Alaska Regional Hospital</p> <p>Jerome List, MD, Past President Alaska State Medical Association</p> <p>Tom Posey, President AT&amp;T Alascom</p> <p>Mike Powers, CEO Fairbanks Memorial Hospital</p> <p>Karen Perdue, Associate VP Health, University of Alaska</p> <p>Alex Spector, Director Department of Veterans Affairs</p> <p>Commissioner Nanette Thompson Regulatory Commission of Alaska</p> <p>Eric Wall, MD, Medical Director Premera Blue Cross</p> <p>Mary Weiss, RN Alaska Nurses Association (Rep.)</p> <p><b>Staff</b></p> <p>Thomas S. Nighswander, MD, Facilitator Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium</p> <p>Edward Bean, Administrative Coordinator Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium</p>	<p>9:30 Introductions and goals for meeting Jay Livey, Commissioner of DHSS Paul Sherry, CEO of ANTHC</p> <p>10:00 Strategies for connecting an "Alaska Network" University of Alaska Mike Sfraga, President's Office</p> <p>AFHCAN Alex Spector, Chair of Federal Partnership</p> <p>The View from the Hill Liz Connel, Office of Senator Ted Stevens</p> <p>11:00 Strategies: Pilot Proposals – Networking Technical Considerations Tom Bohn, Tri-Agency Liaison AFHCAN Project</p> <p>Family Practice Grand Rounds Harold Johnstone, Director Family Practice Residency Program</p> <p>Community Health Centers Chris Patricoski, Clinical Director AFHCAN Project</p> <p>Teleradiology Rebecca Grandusky, CIO Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation</p> <p>12:00 Project Updates and Lunch Medicaid Reimbursement – Store and Forward Teri Keklak, State Medicaid Program</p> <p>Telemedicine Efficacy Trial Gwen Obermiller, Project Officer</p> <p>Gateway Mental Health Telepsychiatry Ron Adler, Director</p> <p>Rapid Access Clinical Telemedicine System Dr. Jerome List, Alaska State Medical Association</p> <p>1:00 Budget Review and agenda for next three months</p> <p>1:30 Adjourn</p>
--	--

# ALASKA TELEHEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

4141 AMBASSADOR DRIVE

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

(907) 729-3682 / FAX (907) 729-1901

## AGENDA

Wednesday, May 22, 2002, 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Maniilaq Association Board Room, Kotzebue

COUNCIL MEMBERS			
Commissioner Jay Livey Co-Chair State of Alaska	9:15	Introductions and goals for meeting	Jay Livey, Commissioner Dept. of Health & Social Services
Paul Sherry, CEO Co-Chair Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	9:30	Telemedicine at Maniilaq	Eugene Smith, Director Information Technology
Kathryn Anderson, Sr. Vice-President Alaska Communications Systems Sales & Marketing	10:30	Future of AFHCAN	Alex Spector, Chair Alaska Federal Health Care Partnership
Douglas A. Bruce, CEO Providence Health System in Alaska	11:00	Statewide Evaluation Project	Karen Perdue, Vice-President Health Affairs, University of Alaska
Ron Duncan, CEO GCI	11:30	Project Report	
Dee Hutchison, ANMC Administrator Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium		Medicaid Reimbursement	Teri Keklak, Division of Medical Assistance
Jeff Jessee, Executive Director Alaska Mental Health Trust		Efficacy Trial	Gwen Obermiller, Division of Medical Assistance
Mark Johnson Business/Regulatory Analyst Alaska Telephone Association (Rep.)		Rapid Access to Clinicians	Jerome List, MD Alaska State Medical Association
Marilyn Kasmir, Executive Director Alaska Primary Care Association		Telepsychiatry	Ron Adler, Director Ketchikan Gateway Center
Edward H. Lamb, CEO/President Alaska Regional Hospital			Beth Landon, Director Alaska Center for Rural Health
Jerome List, MD, Past President Alaska State Medical Association			
VACANT AT&T Alascom			
Mike Powers, CEO Fairbanks Memorial Hospital	12:30	Working Lunch	
Karen Perdue, Associate VP Health Affairs, University of Alaska		Universal Services	Terry Baines, Telehealth Coordinator Division of Public Health
Alex Spector, Director Department of Veterans Affairs	1:00	GCI Connectivity Demonstration	Ron Duncan, CEO GCI
Commissioner Nanette Thompson Regulatory Commission of Alaska	2:00	ATAC Budget Review	Tom Nighswander, MD, ATAC Facilitator
Eric Wall, MD, Medical Director Premiera Blue Cross	2:15	Set date for next meeting	
Mary Weiss, RN Alaska Nurses Association (Rep.)	2:30	Adjourn - Village Field Trip	
Staff			
Thomas S. Nighswander, MD, Facilitator Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium			
Edward Bean, Administrative Coordinator Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium			

# ALASKA TELEHEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

4141 AMBASSADOR DRIVE

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

(907) 729-3682 / FAX (907) 729-1901

## AGENDA

Wednesday, October 4, 2002, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Inuit Building, 4141 Ambassador Drive, Conference Room 312

COUNCIL MEMBERS			
Commissioner Jay Livey Co-Chair State of Alaska	9:30	Introductions and goals	Jay Livey, ATAC Co-Chair, Commissioner Dept. of Health & Social Services
Paul Sherry, CEO Co-Chair Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium			Paul Sherry, ATAC Co-Chair, CEO Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Kathryn Anderson, Sr. Vice-President Alaska Communications Systems Sales & Marketing	9:45	The Status of Telemedicine- in the United States	Dena Puskin, Director Office for the Advancement of Telehealth
Douglas A. Bruce, CEO Providence Health System in Alaska	10:15	The Joint Commission on Accreditation- Interest in Telemedicine	Robert Wise, M.D., Vice President Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
Ron Duncan, CEO GCI	10:45	Break	
Mike Felix, President, CEO AT&T Alascom	11:00	Project Reports Telepsychiatry- Gateway Mental Health	Ron Adler, Executive Director Ketchikan Gateway Center
Dee Hutchison, ANMC Administrator Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium			Mark Erickson, Psychiatrist Alaska Psychiatric Institute
Jeff Jessee, Executive Director Alaska Mental Health Trust		API and community links	Beth Landon, Director Alaska Center for Rural Health
Mark Johnson Business/Regulatory Analyst Alaska Telephone Association (Rep.)		Status of Evaluation	Rebecca Madison, CIO Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
Marilyn Kasmir, Executive Director Alaska Primary Care Association		Statewide Telemedicine Evaluation project	Gwen Obermiller, Program Manager Division of Medical Assistance
Edward H. Lamb, CEO/President Alaska Regional Hospital		Finding from the Efficacy Trial	Tom Bunker, WAN Manager Alaska Federal Healthcare Access Network
Jerome List, MD, Past President Alaska State Medical Association		Report from the interconnectivity workgroup	Jerome List, MD, Past President Alaska State Medical Association
Mike Powers, CEO Fairbanks Memorial Hospital		Clinical Access Network	Nan Thompson, Commissioner Regulatory Commission of Alaska
Karen Perdue, Associate Vice President Health Affairs, University of Alaska	12:00	Working Lunch - RCA Update	
Alex Spector, Director Department of Veterans Affairs	12:30	Private Initiatives-Moving Telemedicine to the mainline	Tom Nighswander, MD, MPH
Commissioner Nanette Thompson Regulatory Commission of Alaska	1:00	Proposal Transitional RFP for technical & server support	Tom Nighswander, MD, MPH
Eric Wall, MD, Medical Director Premera Blue Cross	1:30	Budget Report	Tom Nighswander, MD, MPH
Mary Weiss, RN Alaska Nurses Association (Rep.)	2:00	Focus for this year	Co-chairs
Staff	2:30	Adjourn	
Thomas S. Nighswander, MD, Facilitator Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium			
Edward Bean, Administrative Coordinator Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium			

# Appendix C

---



## Alaska Telemedicine Contacts

# Alaska Contacts for Telemedicine Issues

Ron Adler, Executive Director  
Gateway Center for Human Services  
3050-3052 Fifth Avenue  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
Phone: (907) 225-4135; Fax: (907) 225-4154  
Email: [rona@city.ketchikan.ak.us](mailto:rona@city.ketchikan.ak.us)  
Sub-Committee: Telepsychiatry

Elizabeth Alstrom, Administrative Assistant  
ANMC, Administration  
4315 Diplomacy Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-1996; Fax: (907) 729-1984  
Email: [eaalstrom@anthc.org](mailto:eaalstrom@anthc.org)

Kathryn Anderson, Sr. Vice-President  
Alaska Communications Systems, Sales & Marketing  
600 Telephone Avenue, MS 65  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 297-3170; Fax: (907) 297-3052  
Email: [kathryn.anderson@acsalaska.com](mailto:kathryn.anderson@acsalaska.com)  
ATAC Member

Terry Baines, Telemedicine Coordinator  
DHSS, Division of Public Health  
P.O. Box 110616  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
Phone: (907) 465-8505; Fax: (907) 465-6861  
Email: [terry\\_baines@health.state.ak.us](mailto:terry_baines@health.state.ak.us)

Edward Bean, Administrative Coordinator  
ANTHC, Administration  
4141 Ambassador Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-1936; Fax: (907) 729-1901  
Email: [ewbean@anthc.org](mailto:ewbean@anthc.org)  
ATAC Staff

Barb Bearman, Administrative Assistant  
GCI  
2550 Denali Street, Suite 1000  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 265-5606; Fax: (907) 265-5676  
Email: [bbearman@gci.com](mailto:bbearman@gci.com)

Leslie Bennett, Behavioral Health Clinician  
Eastern Aleutian Tribes  
P.O. Box 206  
King Cove, Alaska 99612  
Phone: (907) 497-2342  
Email: [leslie.b@gci.net](mailto:leslie.b@gci.net)  
Sub-Committee: Telepsychiatry

Tony Blanford, MD  
4557 Melan Dr. South  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712  
Phone: (907) 488-9821  
Email: [tonyblanford@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyblanford@yahoo.com)  
Sub-Committee: Telepsychiatry

Tom Bohn, Tri-Agency Liaison  
ANTHC, Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network  
4201 Tudor Centre Drive, Suite 310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-2266; Fax: (907) 729-2269  
Email: [tbohn@alaska.net](mailto:tbohn@alaska.net)

Kathe Boucha, Telemedicine Director  
Providence Alaska Medical Center  
3200 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 261-4955; Fax: (907) 261-3041  
Email: [KRoberts@provak.org](mailto:KRoberts@provak.org)  
Sub-Committee: Reimbursement

Douglas Bruce, Chief Executive Officer  
Providence Health System in Alaska  
3200 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 261-3055; Fax: (907) 261-3048  
Email: [slewis@provak.org](mailto:slewis@provak.org)  
ATAC Member

Richard Burger, MD  
2009 Cowles Street  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Phone: (907) 452-6610; Fax: (907) 452-5754  
Email: [rburger@gci.net](mailto:rburger@gci.net)  
Sub-Committee: Clinical Provider

Gayle Byrne, Secretary  
DHSS, Commissioner's Office  
P.O. Box 110601  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
Phone: (907) 465-3030; Fax: (907) 465-1615  
Email: [gayle\\_byrne@health.state.ak.us](mailto:gayle_byrne@health.state.ak.us)

Candace Campbell-Rhodenizer, Executive Assistant  
Alaska Regional Hospital  
2801 DeBarr Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 264-1886; Fax: (907) 264-1143  
Email: [Candace.Rhodenizer@HCAHealthcare.com](mailto:Candace.Rhodenizer@HCAHealthcare.com)

# Alaska Contacts for Telemedicine Issues

Martin Carey, Vice-President  
GCI, Broadband Services  
2550 Denali Street, Suite 710  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 265-5459; Fax: (907) 777-6880  
Email: [mcary@gci.com](mailto:mcary@gci.com)

Pat Carr, Health Program Manager  
DHSS, Division of Public Health  
P.O. Box 110616  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
Phone: (907) 465-8618; Fax: (907) 465-6861  
Email: [pat\\_carr@health.state.ak.us](mailto:pat_carr@health.state.ak.us)

Nancy Cashen, Secretary  
DHSS, Commissioner's Office  
P.O. Box 110601  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
Phone: (907) 465-3030; Fax: (907) 465-3068  
Email: [nancy\\_cashen@health.state.ak.us](mailto:nancy_cashen@health.state.ak.us)

Carol Collins, Administrative Assistant  
Alaska Communications Systems  
510 L Street, Suite 500  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 297-3110; Fax: (907) 297-3052  
Email: [ccollins@acsalaska.com](mailto:ccollins@acsalaska.com)

Steve Constantine, Telehealth Program Manager  
GCI, Broadband Services  
2550 Denali Street, Suite 710  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 868-7044; Fax: (907) 777-6880  
Email: [sconstantine@gci.com](mailto:sconstantine@gci.com)

Craig Cott, MD, Director  
Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Primary Care Services  
4858 Kupreanof Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507  
Phone: (907) 351-0078; Fax: (907) 277-1446  
Email: [ccott@gci.net](mailto:ccott@gci.net)  
Sub-Committee: Telepsychiatry

Delisa Culpepper, Deputy Director  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1820  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 269-7965; Fax: (907) 269-7966  
Email: [dculpepper@mhtrust.org](mailto:dculpepper@mhtrust.org)

Edward Deaux, Technical Writer  
Southcentral Foundation  
P.O. Box 92379  
Anchorage, Alaska 99509  
Phone: (907) 332-5035; Fax: (907) 332-5035  
Email: [deaux@alaska.net](mailto:deaux@alaska.net)

Ronald Duncan, Chief Executive Officer  
GCI  
2550 Denali Street, Suite 1000  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 265-5606; Fax: (907) 265-5676  
Email: [rduncan@gci.com](mailto:rduncan@gci.com)  
ATAC Member

Thomas East, Chief Information Officer  
ANMC, Administration  
4315 Diplomacy Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-1986; Fax: (907) 729-1984  
Email: [tdeast@anmc.org](mailto:tdeast@anmc.org)

Vivian Echavarria, Sr. Assistant Administrator  
ANMC, Administration  
4315 Diplomacy Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-1991; Fax: (907) 729-1981  
Email: [vechavar@anmc.org](mailto:vechavar@anmc.org)

Peter Ehrnstrom, Major  
U.S. Dept of Defense, MDOF/SGOMD  
5955 Zeamer Avenue  
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506  
Phone: (907) 580-2520  
Email: [peter.ehrnstrom@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:peter.ehrnstrom@elmendorf.af.mil)  
Sub-Committee: Clinical Provider

Mark Erickson, Staff Psychiatrist  
DHSS, Alaska Psychiatric Institute  
2900 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 269-7100  
Email: [Mark\\_Erickson@health.state.ak.us](mailto:Mark_Erickson@health.state.ak.us)  
Sub-Committee: Telepsychiatry

Kathy Fanning, Chief  
Technology Management Services  
2925 DeBarr Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 257-5426; Fax: (907) 257-6793  
Email: [kathy.fanning@med.va.gov](mailto:kathy.fanning@med.va.gov)  
Sub-Committee: Technical

# Alaska Contacts for Telemedicine Issues

Mike Felix, President, Chief Executive Officer  
AT&T Alascom  
210 East Bluff Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 264-8404; Fax: (907) 264-7119  
Email: [mfelix@alascom.att.com](mailto:mfelix@alascom.att.com)  
ATAC Member

Stewart Ferguson, Ph.D., Associate Director, Chief Technology Officer  
ANTHC, Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network  
4201 Tudor Centre Drive, Suite 310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-2262; Fax: (907) 729-2269  
Email: [sferguson@afhcan.org](mailto:sferguson@afhcan.org)  
Sub-Committee: Technical

Joe Fuller, Sr. Manager  
Astra-Zeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, State Government Affairs  
8923 8th Avenue NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115  
Phone: (206) 526-5195; Fax: (206) 526-5196  
Email: [joe.fuller@astrazeneca.com](mailto:joe.fuller@astrazeneca.com)

Marianne Gilmore, Executive Administrative Assistant  
ANTHC, Administration  
4141 Ambassador Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-1918; Fax: (907) 729-1901  
Email: [mgilmore@anthc.org](mailto:mgilmore@anthc.org)

Heather Grahame, Attorney  
Dorsey & Whitney, LLP  
1031 West 4th Avenue, Suite 600  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 257-7822; Fax: (907) 276-4152  
Email: [grahame.heather@dorseylaw.com](mailto:grahame.heather@dorseylaw.com)

Rebecca Grandusky, Chief Information Officer  
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation  
P.O. Box 528  
Bethel, Alaska 99559  
Phone: (907) 543-6075; Fax: (907) 543-6006  
Email: [rebecca\\_grandusky@ykhc.org](mailto:rebecca_grandusky@ykhc.org)

Gretchen Guess, Representative  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
716 West 4th Avenue, Suite 240A  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 269-0120; Fax: (907) 269-0122  
Email: [representative\\_gretchen\\_guess@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:representative_gretchen_guess@legis.state.ak.us)

Lark Hackney, Health Program Manager  
DHSS, Division of Public Health Nursing  
3601 C Street, Suite 760  
Anchorage, Alaska 99524  
Phone: (907) 334-2280; Fax: (907) 562-6431  
Email: [lark\\_hackney@health.state.ak.us](mailto:lark_hackney@health.state.ak.us)

Anita Halterman, Regulations Manager  
DHSS, Division of Medical Assistance  
4501 Business Park Blvd., Suite 24  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 334-2431; Fax: (907) 561-1684  
Email: [Anita\\_Halterman@health.state.ak.us](mailto:Anita_Halterman@health.state.ak.us)  
Sub-Committee: Reimbursement

Mark Hamilton, President  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks  
P.O. Box 75500  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775  
Phone: (907) 474-7311; Fax: (907) 474-6342  
Email: [sypres@alaska.edu](mailto:sypres@alaska.edu)

Judy Henry, Executive Secretary  
AT&T Alascom  
210 East Bluff Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 264-7725; Fax: (907) 264-7119  
Email: [Jhenry@alascom.att.com](mailto:Jhenry@alascom.att.com)

Carl Hild, Deputy Director  
UAA, Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies  
3211 Providence Drive, Diplomacy 530  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 786-6584; Fax: (907) 786-6576  
Email: [ancmh@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:ancmh@uaa.alaska.edu)

Dee Hutchison, Administrator  
ANMC, Administration  
4315 Diplomacy Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-1997; Fax: (907) 729-1984  
Email: [dhutchison@anmc.org](mailto:dhutchison@anmc.org)  
ATAC Member

Jeff Jessee, Executive Director  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1820  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 269-7960; Fax: (907) 269-7966  
Email: [jjessee@mhtrust.org](mailto:jjessee@mhtrust.org)  
ATAC Member

# Alaska Contacts for Telemedicine Issues

Theresa John, Director  
Alaska Pacific University, Rural Alaska Native Adult Program  
4101 University Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 564-8322; Fax: (907) 564-8317  
Email: [tjohn@alaskapacific.edu](mailto:tjohn@alaskapacific.edu)

Jim Johnsen, Chief of Staff  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks  
P.O. Box 75500  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775  
Phone: (907) 474-7391; Fax: (907) 474-6342  
Email: [jim.johnsen@alaska.edu](mailto:jim.johnsen@alaska.edu)

Lynn Johnson, Major  
U.S. Department of Defense, 3rd Medical Group/SGSI  
5955 Zeamer Avenue  
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506  
Phone: (907) 580-3094; Fax: (907) 580-2435  
Email: [lynn.johnson@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:lynn.johnson@elmendorf.af.mil)  
Sub-Committee: Technical

Mark Johnson, Business/Regulatory Analyst  
United Utilities  
5450 A Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518  
Phone: (907) 273-5290; Fax: (907) 563-3185  
Email: [mjohnson@uui-alaska.com](mailto:mjohnson@uui-alaska.com)  
ATAC Member

Jim Jordan, Executive Director  
Alaska State Medical Association  
4107 Laurel Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 562-0304; Fax: (907) 561-2063  
Email: [asma@alaska.net](mailto:asma@alaska.net)

Teri Keklak, Medical Assistance Administrator  
DHSS, Division of Medical Assistance  
4501 Business Park Blvd., Suite 24  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 334-2424; Fax: (907) 561-1684  
Email: [tkeklak@health.state.ak.us](mailto:tkeklak@health.state.ak.us)  
Sub-Committee: Reimbursement

Lori Kenyon, Staff Advisor  
Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West 8th Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 276-6222; Fax: (907) 276-0160  
Email: [lorraine\\_kenyon@rca.state.ak.us](mailto:lorraine_kenyon@rca.state.ak.us)

Rand Kerr, Chief Operating Officer  
Alaska Regional Hospital  
2801 DeBarr Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99514  
Phone: (907) 264-1330; Fax: (907) 264-1143  
Email: [rand.kerr@hcahealthcare.com](mailto:rand.kerr@hcahealthcare.com)

Debbie Kiley, NP, Partner  
Alaska Health Resources, LLC  
3340 Providence Drive, Suite 357  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 261-3096; Fax: (907) 261-3094  
Email: [dkiley@alaska.net](mailto:dkiley@alaska.net)  
Sub-Committee: Clinical Provider

Joseph Klejka, MD, Corporate Medical Director  
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation  
P.O. Box 528  
Bethel, Alaska 99559  
Phone: (907) 543-6028; Fax: (907) 543-6091  
Email: [Joe\\_Klejka@ykhc.org](mailto:Joe_Klejka@ykhc.org)  
Sub-Committee: Clinical Provider

Doug LaMarche, Data Network Consultant  
AT&T Alascom  
210 East Bluff Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 264-7316; Fax: (907) 276-5937  
Email: [dlamarche@alacom.att.com](mailto:dlamarche@alacom.att.com)  
Sub-Committee: Technical

Edward Lamb, CHE, President, Chief Executive Officer  
Alaska Regional Hospital  
2801 DeBarr Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 264-1754; Fax: (907) 264-1143  
Email: [edward.lamb@hcahealthcare.com](mailto:edward.lamb@hcahealthcare.com)  
ATAC Member

Beth Landon, Director  
UAA, Alaska Center for Rural Health  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 786-1989; Fax: (907) 786-6576  
Email: [anbml@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:anbml@uaa.alaska.edu)  
Sub-Committee: Telepsychiatry

Mary Langdon, M.D., Psychiatrist  
Southcentral Foundation  
4320 Diplomacy Drive, Suite 200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-2500; Fax: (907) 729-2525  
Email: [mlangdon@anmc.org](mailto:mlangdon@anmc.org)

# Alaska Contacts for Telemedicine Issues

Linda Lekness, Project Director  
ANTHC, Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network  
4201 Tudor Centre Drive, Suite 310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-2261; Fax: (907) 729-2269  
Email: [lmlekness@afhcan.org](mailto:lmlekness@afhcan.org)

Jerome List, MD, Past-President  
Alaska State Medical Association  
3340 Providence Drive, Suite 357  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 261-3096; Fax: (907) 261-3094  
Email: [jlist@alaskaent.com](mailto:jlist@alaskaent.com)  
ATAC Member

Jay Livey, Commissioner  
DHSS, Commissioner's Office  
P.O. Box 110601  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
Phone: (907) 465-3030; Fax: (907) 465-3068  
Email: [jay\\_livey@health.state.ak.us](mailto:jay_livey@health.state.ak.us)  
ATAC Member

Robert Lohr, Director  
DCED, Division of Insurance  
3601 C Street, Suite 1324  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 269-7900; Fax: (907) 269-7910  
Email: [bob\\_lohr@dced.state.ak.us](mailto:bob_lohr@dced.state.ak.us)

Al Lynch, Sales Manager  
Alaska Communications Systems  
600 Telephone Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 277-2955; Fax: (907) 277-2955  
Email: [alynch@acsalaska.com](mailto:alynch@acsalaska.com)

Vonne Mason, Medical Assistance Administrator  
DHSS, Division of Medical Assistance  
4501 Business Park Blvd., Suite 24  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 334-2427; Fax: (907) 561-1684  
Email: [Vonne\\_Mason@health.state.ak.us](mailto:Vonne_Mason@health.state.ak.us)  
Sub-Committee: Reimbursement

Wendie Murray, Administrative Assistant  
ANMC, Administration  
4315 Diplomacy Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-1993; Fax: (907) 729-1984  
Email: [wlmurray@anmc.org](mailto:wlmurray@anmc.org)

Robyn Newby, Program Assistant  
Alaska Primary Care Association, Inc.  
903 West Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 202  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 272-6226  
Email: [robyn@alaskapca.org](mailto:robyn@alaskapca.org)

Thomas Nighswander, MD, MPH, ATAC Facilitator  
ANTHC, Administration  
4141 Ambassador Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-3682; Fax: (907) 729-1901  
Email: [tnighswander@anthc.org](mailto:tnighswander@anthc.org)  
ATAC Staff

Joan Nugent, RN, MN, Development Coordinator  
Ketchikan General Hospital  
3100 Tongass Avenue  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
Phone: (907) 228-8300; Fax: (907) 247-3955  
Email: [jnugent@peacehealth.org](mailto:jnugent@peacehealth.org)

Gwen Obermiller, Medical Assistance Administrator  
DHSS, Division of Medical Assistance  
4501 Business Park Blvd., Suite 24  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 334-2423; Fax: (907) 561-1684  
Email: [gwen\\_obermiller@health.state.ak.us](mailto:gwen_obermiller@health.state.ak.us)  
Sub-Committee: Reimbursement

Chris Patricoski, Clinical Director  
ANTHC, Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network  
4201 Tudor Centre Drive, Suite 310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-2263; Fax: (907) 729-2269  
Email: [cpatricoski@afhcan.org](mailto:cpatricoski@afhcan.org)

Karen Pearson, Director  
DHSS, Division of Public Health  
P.O. Box 110610  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
Phone: (907) 465-3090; Fax: (907) 586-1877  
Email: [karen\\_pearson@health.state.ak.us](mailto:karen_pearson@health.state.ak.us)

Karen Perdue, Associate Vice-President  
Health Programs, University of Alaska  
P.O. Box 755010  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775  
Phone: (907) 474-1970; Fax: (907) 474-7570  
Email: [karen.perdue@alaska.edu](mailto:karen.perdue@alaska.edu)  
ATAC Member

# Alaska Contacts for Telemedicine Issues

Alissa Phelps, Partnership Specialist  
Alaska Primary Care Association, Inc.  
903 West Northern Lights, Blvd., Suite 202  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 272-6130; Fax: (907) 274-6131  
Email: [awp\\_1920@msn.com](mailto:awp_1920@msn.com)

Brian Phillips, Sales Manager  
Alaska Communications Systems  
8745 Glacier Highway, Suite 412  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone: (907) 463-8937; Fax: (907) 463-8998  
Email: [BPhillip@acsalaska.com](mailto:BPhillip@acsalaska.com)

Mike Powers, Chief Executive Officer  
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital  
1650 Cowles Street  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Phone: (907) 452-8181; Fax: (907) 458-5324  
Email: [mike.powers@bannerhealth.com](mailto:mike.powers@bannerhealth.com)  
ATAC Member

Jack Rhyner, President  
TelAlaska Network Services  
P.O. Box 233609  
Anchorage, Alaska 99523  
Phone: (907) 563-2119; Fax: (907) 565-5539  
Email: [j\\_rhyner@telalaska.net](mailto:j_rhyner@telalaska.net)

Jim Rowe, Executive Director  
Alaska Telephone Association  
201 East 56th, Suite 114  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518  
Phone: (907) 563-4000; Fax: (907) 562-3776  
Email: [jrowe@ptialaska.net](mailto:jrowe@ptialaska.net)

Sally Rue, Chief of Staff  
Office of Lt. Governor  
Third Floor, State Capitol, P.O. Box 110015  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
Phone: (907) 465-4081; Fax: (907) 465-5400  
Email: [sally\\_rue@gov.state.ak.us](mailto:sally_rue@gov.state.ak.us)

Tim Schuerch, Legal Counsel  
ANTHC, Administration  
4141 Ambassador Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-1908; Fax: (907) 729-1901  
Email: [taschuerch@anthc.org](mailto:taschuerch@anthc.org)  
Sub-Committee: Legal

Herbert Schwager, Ph.D., Medical Director  
Arizona Telemedicine Program-Payson  
806 South Ponderosa Street  
Payson, Arizona 85541  
Phone: (928) 474-6617; Fax: (928) 474-7059  
Email: [bhrehab@cybertrails.com](mailto:bhrehab@cybertrails.com)  
Sub-Committee: Telepsychiatry

Mariko Selle, Research Associate  
UAA, Alaska Center for Rural Health  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 786-6591; Fax: (907) 786-6576  
Email: [anms1@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:anms1@uaa.alaska.edu)

Mike Sfraga, Director of Program Development  
University of Alaska, Statewide System  
Suite 202, Butrovich Building  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775  
Phone: (907) 474-1997; Fax: (907) 474-7570  
Email: [mike.sfraga@alaska.edu](mailto:mike.sfraga@alaska.edu)

Paul Sherry, Chief Executive Officer  
ANTHC, Administration  
4141 Ambassador Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-1900; Fax: (907) 729-1901  
Email: [psherry@anthc.org](mailto:psherry@anthc.org)  
ATAC Member

Annette Siemens, FNP, CHAP Director  
Chugachmiut  
P.O. Box 2088  
Seward, Alaska 99664  
Phone: (907) 224-3076; Fax: (907) 224-5870  
Email: [annette@chugachmiut.org](mailto:annette@chugachmiut.org)  
Sub-Committee: Clinical Provider

Andrew Solli, Provider Network Executive  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska  
2550 Denali Street, Suite 600  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 677-2408; Fax: (907) 258-1619  
Email: [andrew.solli@premera.com](mailto:andrew.solli@premera.com)  
Sub-Committee: Reimbursement

Alex Spector, Director  
VA Healthcare System and Regional Office  
2925 DeBarr Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 257-5460; Fax: (907) 257-6774  
Email: [alexander.spector2@med.va.gov](mailto:alexander.spector2@med.va.gov)  
ATAC Member

# Alaska Contacts for Telemedicine Issues

Kevin Stange, MD  
Alaska Native Medical Center  
4315 Diplomacy Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 729-2701; Fax: (907) 729-2746  
Email: [kstange@anthc.org](mailto:kstange@anthc.org)

Vern Stillner, MD  
Bartlett Regional Hospital, Outpatient Services  
3260 Hospital Drive  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone: (907) 586-8498; Fax: (907) 586-8497  
Email: [vstillner@hisea.org](mailto:vstillner@hisea.org)

David Stockwell, Chief Operating Officer  
VA Healthcare System and Regional Office  
2925 DeBarr Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 257-5460; Fax: (907) 257-6774  
Email: [David.Stockwell@med.va.gov](mailto:David.Stockwell@med.va.gov)

Shane Taylor, Manager  
SAIC, Alaska Information Technology Division  
911 West 8th Avenue, Suite 401  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 272-7105; Fax: (907) 272-7243  
Email: [taylorms@saic.com](mailto:taylorms@saic.com)

Nan Thompson, Commissioner  
Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West 8th, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 276-6222; Fax: (907) 276-0160  
Email: [nan\\_thompson@rca.state.ak.us](mailto:nan_thompson@rca.state.ak.us)  
ATAC Member

Leigh Thurston, Director  
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Information Technology System  
1650 Cowles Street  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Phone: (907) 458-5465; Fax: (907) 458-5324  
Email: [leigh.thurston@bannerhealth.com](mailto:leigh.thurston@bannerhealth.com)  
Sub-Committee: Technical

Marijo Toner, Regional Affairs Coordinator  
Bartlett Regional Hospital  
3260 Hospital Drive  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone: (907) 586-8488; Fax: (907) 463-4919  
Email: [mctoner@hisea.org](mailto:mctoner@hisea.org)  
Sub-Committee: Technical, Reimbursement

Dan Toomey, Data Network Consultant  
AT&T Alascom  
210 East Bluff Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 264-7290  
Email: [dbtoomey@att.com](mailto:dbtoomey@att.com)  
Sub-Committee: Technical

Eric Wall, MD, MPH, Medical Director  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska  
2020 SW 4th, Suite 1000  
Portland, Oregon 97201  
Phone: (503) 279-5219; Fax: (503) 279-5297  
Email: [eric.wall@premera.com](mailto:eric.wall@premera.com)  
ATAC Member

Marilyn Walsh-Kasmar, RNC, MBA, Executive Director  
Alaska Primary Care Association, Inc.  
903 West Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 105  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 929-2725; Fax: (907) 929-2734  
Email: [marilyn@alaskapca.org](mailto:marilyn@alaskapca.org)  
ATAC Member

Mary Weiss, Representative  
Alaska Nurses Association  
P.O. Box 221514  
Anchorage, Alaska 99512  
Phone: (907) 729-1828  
Email: [mweiss@anmc.org](mailto:mweiss@anmc.org)  
ATAC Member

Liz Williamson, Secretary  
VA Healthcare System and Regional Office  
2925 DeBarr Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 257-5460; Fax: (907) 257-6774  
Email: [liz.williamson@med.va.gov](mailto:liz.williamson@med.va.gov)

Wandal Winn, MD  
4300 B Street, Suite 202  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 562-0794; Fax: (907) 561-4036  
Email: [wwinn@gci.net](mailto:wwinn@gci.net)  
Sub-Committee: Telepsychiatry

William Worrall, MD, Forensic Psychiatrist  
Department of Corrections  
4500 Diplomacy Drive, Suite 207  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 269-7319; Fax: (907) 269-7321  
Email: [william\\_worrall@correct.state.ak.us](mailto:william_worrall@correct.state.ak.us)  
Sub-Committee: Telepsychiatry

# Appendix D

---



## Meeting Schedule

# Meeting Schedule

## Proposed ATAC Meeting Schedule

Friday, October 4, 2002	Anchorage
Friday, February 14, 2003	Anchorage
Friday, May 20, 2003	Anchorage



ATAC Staff: Edward Bean and Dr. Tom Nighswander

(blank)



**For more information, contact:**

**ALASKA TELEHEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

4141 Ambassador Drive

Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone: (907) 729-3682

FAX: (907) 729-1901

E-mail: [tnighswander@anthc.org](mailto:tnighswander@anthc.org) or [ewbean@anthc.org](mailto:ewbean@anthc.org)