

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes  
April 2, 2020**

Lisa Murkowski, US Senator	Chase Gray, NSHC	Megan Mackiernan, NSHC
Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director, NSHC	Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Reba Lean, NSHC
Joanne Keyes, Wales	Lori Hughes, NEC	Dr. Derbyshire, Unalakleet
Charles Swanson, Koyuk	Tiffany Martinson, NEC	Senator Olson's Office
Native Village of Savoonga	City of Shishmaref	Charlie Brown, White Mountain
Jason Harrel, NSHC	Native Village of White Mountain	Carolyn O., City of Teller
Howard Weyiouanna, Shishmaref	Theodore Katcheak, Stebbins	Liz Kugzruk, Nome Children's Home
Sean Lee, NSHC	Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle, NSHC/Kawerak	Blanche Garnie, City of Teller
Alice Fitka, Stebbins	Robert Keith, Native village of Elim	Traci McGarry, Kawerak
Charlene Saclamana, Kawerak	Cherri McConnell, Tribal Affairs, Kawerak	Carol Piscoya, VP of Community Division Services, Kawerak
Andrew Norris, Kawerak	Janice Knowlton, TC for KINC, Kawerak	Charlene Isabell, TC for Teller, Kawerak
Jolene Olson, Tribal Affairs, Kawerak	Sen. Lisa Murkowski	

\*Over 125 participates called in for today's meeting.

<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION</b>
Introduction to Meeting – Angie Gorn, NSHC CEO	<p>Angie gave an introduction regarding the purpose, standing agenda, and frequency of the call. The daily call will be at 11 am Monday through Friday and will include NSHC administration and Medical Staff. The Standing Agenda includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Prayer</li> <li>2) Senator Lisa Murkowski</li> <li>3) Medical Staff Briefing</li> <li>4) NSHC Update</li> <li>5) Question's</li> </ol> <p>Note- Any questions may be sent to Reba Lean at <a href="mailto:rlean@nshcorp.org">rlean@nshcorp.org</a> anytime or text to 907-434-1927 and they will be answered during the 11:00 am call.</p>
Prayer	Prayer was given
Debrief update - Senator Lisa Murkowski	<p>Senator Lisa Murkowski gave a brief update. Some main topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The CARES act was approved and set up for researching on health care, and stabilizing economies in Alaska that would make cash directly available.</li> <li>▪ Direct payments will happen around April 17<sup>th</sup>. If you have filed taxes electronically, the funds will be more readily available. For those that did not file 2018 or 2019 taxes would have to go to the treasure department to go into a portal and give their information. The checks will be sent out after direct deposit.</li> <li>▪ Tax filings have been extended from April 15<sup>th</sup>, to July 15<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>▪ \$8 billion in tribal has been set aside from the coronavirus relief fund.</li> <li>▪ In addition there is \$1 billion has been set aside for IHS medical needs.</li> <li>▪ There is additional set aside funding for substance abuse, and mental health services for tribes.</li> <li>▪ Extended special diabetes program for Indians through November 30, 2020 which was due to expire May 22, 2020?</li> <li>▪ Additional resources for tribal domestic violence shelters, food distribution</li> </ul>

programs

Questions

- **What do you mean when you say we have additional funds from other resources?**
  - There is funding for the state and the government and we wanted to make sure that the tribes do not get short changed. With this act we are able to set money aside for the tribes. We can't let COVID-19 into our villages so we have resources.
- **Shishmaref: Will the cities be able to get any kind of assistance along with this package for water and sewer for safety within the community?**
- 8 billion tribal funds set aside going to be determined through the security of treasury and the security of the BIA to determine how those dollars will be allocated. We have argued for a base minimum to all tribes not based on population for opportunity without having to making applications. The law as its written says each fund has to be COVID-19 related and not previous budgeted before. Right now there consultation on the way the first one was today and there is another one on April 6<sup>th</sup>. There are funding in other areas and resources that we can share with the communities that are out there.
- **Stebbins wants to ensure that they are able to continue reindeer operation to feed people.**
  - Lisa will have a team member get back to them on this and when it comes to supplying food it is a nonessential business but we want to make sure though is that those who are engaged in this are practicing a protocol that they are not gathering closely with others. If we share food to the native people we have to ensure that you have that food source and that we provide for a level of health safety. I can tell you in the lower 48 they are ensuring that they are still able to harvest meat and I see no reason we would not be able to continue the work of the reindeer herder but again to continue the separation as you can. Wearing masks even if it is not a medical mask and is a cloth mask it will still offer a limit of protection which is all needs to be considered.
- **Lisa asked for the situations for Shishmaref and Stebbins water and sewer situation.**
  - Stebbins stated that they have one washeteria and one room for shower that over 600 community members are currently using.
  - Shishmaref has a washeteria that has been renovated but not completed and the community hauls water.
    - There is a fair amount of discussion on whether or not there needs to be more
    - Discussion was held about Stebbins washeteria and their concerns.
- **Would you be able to elaborate for where there are funds available for subsistence fishing? Would people whaling qualify for this funding?**
  - The fishing funding is available for those that have been affected by COVID-19. Requires a 35% revenue loss threshold or negative impacts to subsistence fisheries. This could be whales or walrus. This is different than fisheries disaster that could take a couple of years to get

	<p>relief. This is designed to go through NOAA, they are implementing a plan for these fisheries assistance funds. They are still working out the details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>If we have children under OCS and young women and men that are incarcerated that the system need to look at bring the children home and that a lot of the coastle region in Alaska are in their harvest system and that they young people are involved with this and that this should be looked into.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lisa has an opportunity with members of the state administration and she will share what was raised.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>There was mentioned on funding for domestic abuse and sexual assault shelters does that include children’s home under state custody?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It should, but Lisa will double check.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Is it going to be necessary to file 2019 taxes for the distribution payment?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1<sup>st</sup> payment will be around the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. \$1,200 per adult, \$500 per child. Payment will be based on current filing. For those that did not file, you may be required to submit information to a portal to ensure they have the correct information to send the check.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Where could we get more information on this?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.lisa.murkowski.gov">www.lisa.murkowski.gov</a> where much of this information is laid out.</li> <li>▪ IRS as well</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Lisa gave the following in her ending remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thanked everyone for letting her attend</li> <li>▪ Urges everyone to stay safe</li> <li>▪ There’s a national short of masks and to save them for our health care providers and in substitute wear cloth masks</li> <li>▪ People that are more vulnerable should consider wearing the cloth mask when out</li> <li>▪ They will continue to working on sustainable water in the villages</li> <li>▪ Delegation is working together every day and use them as a resource</li> <li>▪ If you make cloth masks with beautiful kuspuk cloths to send her pictures</li> </ul>
<p>Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director</p>	<p>Dr. Mark Peterson gave a briefing and also went over the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 18 tests that have been done at NSHC, 14 are negative and 4 are pending</li> <li>- ANMC did not have any COVID-19 patient in the hospital as of last night, 5 patients that tested positive were isolated at home, 9 are under investigation, and they have 6,000 test kits</li> <li>- We are continuing our preparation for when we get the virus</li> <li>- If you have cloth mask available to use, you can wear them, especially if you are high risk and we want to make sure our health care providers have the appropriate surgical masks available</li> <li>- Angie did put together an letter for employers to use for employees on when it is okay for them to return back to work and Reba will get that out once complete.</li> </ul>
<p>Update – Angie Gorn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NSHC put together infection control barrier kits for the post office. Angie wanted to thank Chase Gray, Mike Kruse, and their team for putting them together. They are sending it directly to the NSHC maintenance workers in each</li> </ul>

	<p>village or working with the post office in the communities that do not have maintenance workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Megan also mentioned that if you have a request for cloth face mask in your community and you need fabric you can reach out to Reba because NSHC has fabric available. Also there is a facebook post on how to make the mask on the Norton Sound facebook page and also a how to video.</li> </ul>
<p>Questions – everyone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>With Diomedes’s office being closed to the public and with the public going to the office to get help with public assistance and they do not have a liaison anymore. Is there a toll free number for them to call the state for assistances?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Donna will provide the 1-800#</li> <li>▪ Tiffany with NEC stated that if there are any NEC tribal members that they can call the main line for assistance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Concern and discussion was held about Stebbins water and sewer.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Concern was brought up about Teller’s water and sewer.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Do you need to be trained to use ventilators? What is the cost for one?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Yes needs to be in hospital unit, or medivac plane.</li> <li>▪ It is a complicated piece of equipment.</li> <li>▪ Very expensive cost of equipment</li> <li>▪ Wanted to reassure that 80% of the patients that get COVID-19 are good and don’t need to be hospitalized and don’t need to use a ventilator.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>When the patients go to Nome and Anchorage, before they go back home to the village will NSHC be making sure they quarantine?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can contact Amy Hollis for the region. She also works with the City of Nome.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Comment was made about Ravn flights suspending instate flights and also what a village store is currently doing to help with the village communities.</b></li> <li>○ <b>If Ravn is suspending flights how will the elders get their social securities and the community will get their mail?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understanding is that the mail and bypass mail will go to another airline carrier.</li> <li>▪ NSHC will reach out to Bering Air to see what their plan is to help out with Ravn suspending their flights.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>How well is each village doing with quarantine?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NSHC is working with Kawerak on isolation and quarantine</li> <li>▪ Reba will create education on being quarantine</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Comment was made that Ravn will be suspending their flights throughout the state which will include suspending mail service.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Did the airlines that handle cargo change their handling and safety procedures?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Will continue to try and contact Alaska Airlines and Bering Air to find out.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Would like for Dr. Peterson to go over PPE for village communities.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If there is a case that happens in the village we are very likely going to be able to manage it with the provider or health aide there in the community. Public health and NSHC will both be involved. If we get</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>more cases or someone gets ill we will be sending people out. It will be on a case by case and level of case. We will work with the villages on every case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If there is a case in your village and that person needs to quarantine NSHC will be helping and the people with the case will not need gowns and PPE and if they are quarantine in another location NSHC will clean the place when they are done being quarantine. We have a good amount of PPE right now. We will not require for the village communities to come up with gowns, masks, and cleaning supplies for the facilities. NSHC will have it for the communities.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>If you have someone who has the virus what is the treatment? Also how do we know if someone is a carrier?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is no treatment but can use Tylenol for fever and let it run its course.</li> <li>▪ If someone gets the virus they would possibly not show symptoms right away and will show symptoms 5-14 days later. We are hoping that when it starts warming up the virus may die.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Should we continue our practices for the next six months? How long do you think we should be under these conditions?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some practices that we are doing now we should do forever, washing hands, if you are sick stay home, if you have a cough wear a mask.</li> <li>▪ For travel bans, staying home we should probably do for the next 60 days.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Is there a form for people that are returning back from Anchorage need to complete?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Yes there is a form that needs to be completed and returned back to the City for them to option a permit. The permit is located on the city website and Amy Hollis is able to help patients with this. They will need it to enter and leave Nome.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>If we want to hunt can we do that?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People can be in the outdoors. If you are by yourself or not in a large gathering and keeping your social distance you can be outdoors. Just make sure to keep your distance and don't hunt with people that are sick.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Is there statistic's posted somewhere for Alaska specifically?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can go to the state of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services website.</li> <li>▪ Reba will also share information on NSHC website.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Ending remarks – Angie</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Angie thanked everyone for attending and said that we will have another speaker from ANTHC on Friday</li> </ul>