

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
April 3, 2020**

Chase Gray, NSHC	Megan MacKiernan, NSHC	Angie Gorn, CEO, NSHC
Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Cameron Piscoya, NSHC	Reba Lean, NSHC
Dr. Mark, Peterson, Director of Medical Staff, NSHC	Dr. Gary Kulka, Director of PCC, NSHC	Jason Harrel
Katie Hannon	Luke Smith	Wanda B
Charles Swanson, Koyuk	Charlie Brown, Golovin	Howard Weyiouanna, Shishmaref
Cora, Teller	Charlene Saclamana, Kawerak	Cherri McConnell
Mary David, Kawerak	Carol Piscoya, Kawerak	Traci McGarry, Kawerak
Janice Knowlton, KINC	Charlene Isabell, Teller	Debra Seetot, Wales
Blanche Garnie, Teller	Carolyn O, Teller	Golovin
Tony Haugen, Native Village of Unalakleet	Nelson, BSNC	City of Savoonga
Jeannie Kost, NSHC	Opik Ahkinga, Diomede	Frances Ozenna, Diomede
Jake	James Mason, Nome Nugget	Karla Nayokpuk, Mayor of Shishmaref
Barb Gray, Native Village of Council	Marie Katcheak, Stebbins	Kimberly Gooden, BSNC
Elizabeth Rexford, AK Senator Donny Olson's Office	Jolene Olson	John Bioff, Kawerak
Liz Johnson, Village of Solomon	Kirsten Timbers & Carol Charles, NSHC	Dr. Terrence O'Malia, Assistant Medical Director, NSHC
Dr. Bob Onders, ANMC	Roald Helgesen, CEO, ANTHC	Deanna Stang, State of Alaska Public Health
Karla Homelvig, NSHC	Glenn Steckman, Manager, City of Nome	

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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"> 1) Prayer 2) ANMC Administrator and CEO – Roald Helgesen 3) Medical Staff Briefing 4) NSHC Update 5) Questions <p>Note- Any questions may be sent to Reba Lean at rean@nshcorp.org anytime or text to 907-434-1927 and they will be answered during the 11:00 am call.</p>
Prayer	Prayer was given
ANMC CEO – Roald Helgesen, Administrator and CEO for ANMC	<p>Roald Helgesen gave an update at what is happening at ANMC. Update included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No positive COVID patients at inpatient - 1 COVID patient passed away at inpatient - 11 new patients as of Friday morning that have not been confirmed if positive or negative - 169 test pending - The following beds are in the hospital:

- 37 adult
- 7 pediatrics
- 6 NICU
- 10 ICU
- Have over 3000 test and will be getting more next week
- 1700 unrestricted ventilators, 160 pediatric ventilators
- Continuing to work on getting PPE and supplies wherever and whenever possible
- Trying to pushing out specialty clinic's by virtual patient portal
- Continuing to prepare and setting up plans of other locations they can use within the hospital and making sure they have enough doctors and support staff if needed
- Continuing to work with other facilities across the state including Norton Sound Health Corporation
- As far as support for intensive care, you mentioned something about always having a team available. When do you plan to start preparing for that to get ready for this?
 - We have already begun to prepare for that already. We have already begun training and networking. One thing we are training on is the ventilators because there are different types available.
- Can you talk about testing supplies and how the criteria have changed over time?
 - Just in the recent days our doctors across the state have come together to look at the questionnaire for patients who are arriving. One of the most recent symptoms that were seeing more of have to do with gastro intestinal track which include diarrhea, vomiting, or pain.
 - Scrubs, and COVID test are all ordered and we have that, we will continue increasing more beds available, and if we are doing more test we will have better information available for our tribal leaders.
- It is taking us a week maybe even longer to try and get testing back, we are trying to get set up to be able to testing in Nome but we heard it may take a couple of months. Do you have any insights on when the equipment for testing may become available for the state, and Nome?
 - The state is advocating for more testing ability in Alaska and to get the equipment up here for our regions. It is very critical to get it her to Alaska so we can determine community spread and contain it faster.
 - If there anything needing help with, any avenue that we should be pursuing please keep us in mind for that. I assume we are all in the same boat and the longer we delay things in our region the closer we get to have the testing unit on site.
 - When the time comes we will all be moving fast and will be notifying Dr. Peterson right away when we get testing units in Alaska and will get them distributed in the fastest way possible.
- You mentioned that you have a number of beds available and potentially looking at alternative care site plans, if we had to send a patient out to Nome and your ICU beds are full and if there were open beds at the other hospitals would you

divert the patient to say to Regional or to Providence?

- Absolutely. That is how our process works right now.
- What is ANMC’s stand on the hydroxychloroquine drug?
 - COVID related information sheets were distributed at ANMC and think all of the tribal health consortium received that information and ANMC is prepared to use hydroxychloroquine in the situation most appropriate for the patients if they need it. Most studies right now are in the serve cases of COVID-19. They will continue to follow the protocol in place for this and pharmacy’s recommendation.
- What is ANMC’s guidelines or policies may be as far as people traveling whether it’s for medivac or follow ups? What is the guideline or policies for traveling? Will they keep them there?
 - They are reviewing the policies and procedures and with the new information of Ravn suspending their travel they do not want patients stuck in Anchorage away from their families. Coordinator through the local provider and ANMC provider can weigh the risk and benefit of transportation for the risk of the potential exposure to the virus vs the need for that individualized procedure. We really encourage that individual to work with the local provider and the ANMC provider to make that shared decision on whether it’s necessary or not and it will be a case by case basis.
- There are a couple of elders who travel with an escort for specialty and some have to travel every two weeks to ANMC. Would it be wise or possible for them to have a quarantine spot in Anchorage instead of them traveling back through Nome, and to their village with possible exposure since they will need to be on quarantine for 14 days when they return?
 - We are seeing what regions are capable at in their institution and will be taking on a case by case basis.
 - Dr. Peterson stated that in any situation where we can now take care of patients in Nome we will do that. There are some infusions we cannot do here because of the medication and what is require and patients should visit with their specialist at ANMC to ask about whether it is something that could be done here at Norton Sound and their provider here at Norton Sound now. If they have to still go to Anchorage we will work with them on quarantining.
- There is someone from our region that is currently in Anchorage who just has surgery and their scheduled to return back home on the 8th of April. What would be the process for the patients returning back to the village after surgery?
 - Depending on the surgery we receive instructions from Norton Sound on how they would like us to contact them in advanced so they can evaluate someone’s return. They may have multiple follow ups they may determine they remain close to a facility close to ANMC. It is all being managed on a case by case basis.
 - All cases will be on case by case basis and if it is about quarantine we will follow the villages travel ban. Just make sure the patient is visiting with us before hand to prepare.

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<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"> - 151 cases in the state, 10 new cases within the last 24 hours - No positive cases in our region - 19 tests that have been done at NSHC, 14 are negative and 5 are pending - We are continuing our preparedness and we are in a good position - Travel ban and hunkering down is working - Norton Sounds is supporting villages and Nome for using cloth mask - Don't want people taking masks from the clinic that need to be used by the health aide and midlevels
<p>NSHC Updates</p>	<p>Rachel Lee, Director of OEH did a mini briefing regarding airlines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bering Air has increased infection control practices already. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wiping down lobby and bathroom - Wiping down planes - Restricted access to cargo office, one customer at a time - People with respiratory illness are to go home - Implemented social distance ➤ Pathfinder has done the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only postal service - Restricting hanger access - Wiping helicopter ➤ Ravn Airlines is now closed ➤ Alaska Airlines Cargo we have not heard back from them <p>➤ Recommendation was made by Rachel that if you have a compromised system and get freight in to let it sit for an extra day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does Bering Air need mask for PPE? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rachel stated that they are using their normal PPE which are the gloves. ▪ Bering Air has also been given masks in case someone comes in with a cough. <p>Megan wanted to thank BSSD for the 3D printing and organizing sewers for making mask for our region.</p>
<p>Isolation and quarantine - Megan</p>	<p>Megan went over the difference between isolation and quarantine.</p>
<p>Questions – everyone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the procedure on if someone has passed away from COVID? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Megan MacKiernan has addressed a couple of times and we can make that information available possibly on the situation report. It has been posted on the Nome COVID Facebook Group but will get it posted on the Norton Sound website. ○ Is smoking a risk factor? Will I get sicker? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes. ▪ If you have a lung disease or COPD, or smoker for a long time, you are at high risk. ▪ CAMP office is still operating and if you would like to quit smoking you can contact them at 443-3365 ○ In was brought up that Teller had concerns about isolation and quarantining in

the villages and when traveling to Nome.

- In all the villages we have several medical staff that has been working with the villages to identify building in the villages to use for quarantine or isolation. If we can we would like to use the homes for quarantine. So right now homes can be used for quarantine, we are making places available in the communities, and also have the schools available if needed.
 - If you village travel restrictions allows you to go and quarantine back in your village that would be ideal. If the travel restrictions do not allow that and require 14 days in Nome then we will work with them on that and Amy Hollis is the manager for quarantine. She will help make arrangement. Norton Sound will help get them in housing.
- Does NSHC still have employees traveling in and out of Nome?
 - For Norton Sound our most vulnerable population is QCC and the villages. We have the tightest control there. For QCC and providers going to the villages we require them to quarantine in their homes 14 days before traveling up and 14 days in Nome before working in QCC or heading out to the villages.
 - NSHC is screening all employees that have traveled, contractors or vendors, and also new employees within the region to see if they have traveled before starting work.
- If Bering Air gets overwhelmed with freight can they request National Guard?
 - If we think things are stacking up and that we can do something NSHC is prepared to have conversation and do whatever we can.
- What is recommendation's for wearing masks? Does it need a filter inserted?
 - Pattern has been posted on NSHC website. Recommendation it is made out of 100% cotton and also requesting it is four layers thick. Also avoid touching the front of the mask and wash daily.
- Discussion was held about communication, internet, and phone in the villages and how they sometimes do not have internet, or service to call out and a lot of drop calls.
 - Angie will try and get a hold of TelAlaska and GCI and see if they can sit in one of the meetings.
 - Megan understands the care but this will need to go to the delegation
- Can infusions happen in Nome rather than Anchorage?
 - Dr. Peterson gave out his email and stated that they can email him the specific information and he can see what that patient is needing.
- If a village has an emergency and we need people to go to the village, how can we insure they get screened before entering the community?
 - It's hard to know if someone coming in from the outside if they have the virus. NSHC is screening their employees.
- Question was asked if the 14 day quarantine for people traveling to Nome if it is for people traveling from the village.
 - Yes all people that are traveling in and out of Nome will need a permit. Will need to follow the village travel restrictions and when coming to Nome they may only be allowed to go from the airport to their housing and to their appointment or work place. Please contact the City for

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	<p>more information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Who is keeping track of people that travel by snow machine to and from Nome?<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ No one right now.
Ending remarks – Angie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Angie stated that we will take a break for the weekend and will meet back on Monday. Have a great weekend.