

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
April 23, 2020**

Angie Gorn, CEO, NSHC	Reba Lean, NSHC	Mark Peterson, MD, Medical Director, NSHC
Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Megan MacKiernan, NSHC	Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle
Charles Swanson, Koyuk	Cameron Piscoya, NSHC	Jolene Oleson, Kawerak
Dorothy Barr, Native Village of White Mountain	Jason Harrel, NSHC	Lori Hughes, NEC
Charlie Brown, Golovin	Tony Haugen, Native Village of Unalakleet	Liz Johnson, Village of Solomon
Roy Ashenfelter, Kawerak	Opik Ahkinga, City of Diomede	Frances Ozenna, Native Village of Diomede
Andrew Norris, Kawerak	Toby, Golovin	Traci McGarry, Kawerak
Preston Rookok, Savoonga	Darlene Katachatag	Marie Katcheak, Stebbins
Cora, City of Teller	Carolyn O. City of Teller	Barb Gray, Council
John Waghiyi, Savoonga	Tiffany Martinson, NEC	

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION
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) Medical Staff Briefing 3) Cleaning Supplies and NSHC plan 4) Medical Staff plan for the villages 5) Isolation facilities 6) Quarantine in the villages 7) Comments and 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
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Peterson, Medical Director	<p>Dr. Peterson gave updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Things are looking good - Alaska: 2 new cases in the last 24 hours, total 337, 209 recovered, 128 active cases in whole state - ANMC: open testing to all employees, 0 inpatient, 11 outpatient, 1 additional case from the last week - Region: Good number of test yesterday and have opened it up to our employees, 0 new cases, if someone is no symptomatic but would like to get tested you can in Nome, all staff is aware, hoping next week will have heat and light in the tent outside - Dr. Peterson called Gambell and Savoonga clinic and there are 20 kits each for whaling hunters in each clinic. Call the clinic’s today to get them done today. - 1000 test kits did not come in today but hopefully today
Cleaning Supplies - Angie	Cleaning Supplies and what NSHC plan is:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norton Sounds plan is to use items that were purchasing cleaning items, and other supplies, to 1) to keep as a stock pile here but yesterday we also determined that we are going to put together care packages for the households. - What items we have ordered and know are coming: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer, 10,000 bottles have been ordered (for homes that have requested hand sanitizer will receive from this order. 5 communities that are unserved should have received hand sanitizer for your household. That was our first priority and my understand is that those have been received.) • 1,000 hand washing stations (picture is in hand out of hand washing. These will go to the homes unserved in our region. It is a 5 gallon bucket with a spigot.) • Trash bags, 2,000 rolls with 50 bags in each roll are on their way • We were able to buy chlorine bleach powder from NJUS here in town. NSHC will be working with all of our partners on the local level in our villages to send that out so that bleach can be mixed locally in a safe way. We have a process for that and that is coming very soon to your communities • Today we are placing orders and have found sources that can supply us with large volumes. We are placing orders for laundry detergent, pine sol, gloves, dish soap, hand soap, and garbage. These are the items that will be put in the care package. The goal would be to send the care package to our households. Again we will have a stock pile here in Nome then we can send items from that stock pile to supplement items that the grocery store can't get and they need to clean so then we will be able to send out a bottle. Maybe folks in Nome aren't able to buy something locally so again we will have that stock pile and people will continue to contact Reba if there's something that is in need. • At this point in time we do not see any concerns in ordering these items. We did follow up and can provide more updates and timelines.
<p>Medical Staff's plan for in the villages– Dr. Lemaire</p>	<p>Medical Staff's plan for in the villages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will be offering more testing in the villages - What we do know about combating pandemic is that the way we stop them or close spread is testing widely and separating those who are sick or test positive. That is what our approach is based on - If we find cases in your village, our first thing that we will do is the doctor or the provider who order the testing gets the positive result will contact the patient and let them know they have a positive, and they will chat with the patient and ask how they are feeling, what symptoms they have, and that will help us decided what the next step will be - When that call is done the public health nurse will have already received the notification as well and will be contacting that patient to discuss all the close contacts - Next the village response team will be activated. That means there will be a couple of different people that will be responding. A physician, likely Dr. Lemaire, will be going out to the village. They will be bringing one of the health

	<p>aide trainer, Mark Hayward, who is going to be offering more training to health aides in the village, bringing along more equipment that can help folks that are having breathing difficulties and Mark will help the health aides with that, and will be leaving the equipment in the village, it can help people with any respiratory issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rachel Lee or someone in OEH might be going to the village also depending what the need is in that village - Once a person is identified in being positive, our recommendation is that they isolate. That person has probably been in contact with all the folks in their house, and the likely hood of them being exposed to the coronavirus if very likely probably 100% - At that point we will probably offer testing to everyone in the household - In the mean time we will be asking that everyone in the home as long as the symptoms is mild to stay at home. The public nurse will help us determine how long they need to stay at home depending on the CDC criteria - If there are a lot of people at home that are low risk and everybody is feeling pretty well with mild symptoms we will probably keep everyone there - If for example there is an elder in the home who does not have the disease and someone in the home has the virus we would move the infectious person to our isolation spaces that has been identified in the village - Once identified, the health aides will be checking up on the person and anyone else who has been in close contact on a daily basis, they will be parting with the public health team who will also be checking up on everyone who has been confirmed positive - If someone gets worse and they start having complications and can't breathe or are getting sicker then we will send out our medivac team and we would bring them to Nome or to Anchorage - When someone is recovered and cleared by public health's department based on the CDC criteria they are able to return to their normal life and resume their activities by state mandates
<p>Isolation facility– Rachel Lee</p>	<p>Isolation facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once there is a positive case in a village, the Norton Sound physician will have a discussion with the patient and if it is decided that the patient needs to go to the community isolation facility that has been identified, the physician will make the phone call to the facility manager in the village that will have them open up the facility for use - To help make sure the facilities are ready for use we are sending supplies out to the villages - The supplies are: cleaning supplies, cell phone, needs list for all the facility on what other items are needed, for example coffee maker - Help with that list is very much appreciated so when we call us giving us that list is beneficial - Different villages may have different needs so someone or multiple people that are able to do the following are needed: who will be doing the trash haul for that facility, grocery shopping, hauling water, all the different needs for the people who is isolated or quarantine should be considered and a plan should be in place for how that will be managed there locally

Quarantine in the villages – Kirsten Timbers

Quarantine in the villages:

- We are working collaboratively with Rachel Lee and Amy Hollis as well as Behavioral Health, CTS’s in communities are going to be making daily phone calls to those families in quarantine and if there is a need to coordinate services in that community like groceries, trash, water
- Jackie Crisis and others on Amy’s team have been doing phone calls in those local areas

Carol Charles added the following:

- The goal behind that is that we want to make sure that when people are traveling for medical and returning back to their community, we want to make sure they are following the guidelines, and that they are staying inside for 14 days. If they do not have family members who can run errands for them, we are calling to make sure they have what they need for their home. We hope that they have family members that are able to do that for them. When we make those phone calls somebody might say they are good, it is just to assist in case those people they can turn to, to assist them.

Question and Comments

- **Will patients need any documentation to do a drive through testing?**
 - Bring what you would normally bring to a regular appointment. Recommends bringing ID and insurance card. If you are a patient with us already we should have their insurance card so ID should be good. Kind of like a quick appointment but sitting in your car.
- **What is NSHC clinic number?**
 - Nurse call line 443-6411, or PCC 443-3333, NSHC regular line 443-3311.
- **If you listen to KNOM or KICY radio you will hear a couple of languages. It would be important to get Yupik interrupter for Stebbins, Saint Michael and further on.**
- **Requested explanation of testing and not just to find out who is positive and who is not.**
 - The reason we are testing globally and trying to get 10% of patient population is a single reason. We want to see if there are any asymptomatic patients out there that are carrying the virus. We already learned that there are not a lot of symptomatic patients that are showing up getting tested and being positive right because we have had one case. So the reason we are testing globally is to see if there are people out there that have the virus that aren’t showing symptoms or showing mild symptoms and aren’t showing up. So that is the reason why we are testing. The rest of the country is a head of us. They are talking about things in the lower 48 that we are not talking about yet. We are still trying to figure out how many people have the virus here. So we are testing broadly to find out if there are more people out there than we think. The next step through broad testing that there aren’t many people with the virus than one thing that we can consider maybe a month from now would be that possibly do the antibody test. The antibody test would give us an ideal on who might be immune now to the Coronavirus, who had the virus, who had the virus; we never saw them, never tested them, never knew it, but now have recovered and now

have antibodies. That is what the lower 48 is talking about it in New York City. They are talking about antibodies because they want to start opening up and want to know who is immune. They might want to put young people back to work who don't get very sick from this and ones with antibodies. We are a little behind thankfully. Things didn't get up here until later. We are testing now to see if we have asymptomatic patients who have the virus because that will be good knowledge to have to protect the rest of the region. To isolate those people and protect and later on when we are starting to look at opening up to start doing some antibody testing.

- **One thing that would be helpful, possibly next week that you give out the results how many people were test, how many are negative, and how many are asymptomatic. That will be important for us to learn about.**
 - It's possible that we can share that. We have to do it in a confidential manner.
- **Would you be able to translate into village English from asymptomatic, and symptomatic?**
 - Symptomatic is a person who has symptoms. For example fever, cough, and stomach upset, fatigue, new onset diarrhea.
 - Asymptomatic is a person who has the virus but does not have any symptoms.
- **What about people who voluntarily consent to be administered the test? Would they fall under the asymptomatic category than?**
 - Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle made a comment yesterday that we should really talk about coronavirus testing and not worries about who got symptoms and who does not because we do not want to confuse anyone on this. Will say if you live in Savoonga come and get coronavirus testing. If you are sick call the clinic and make arrangements a head of time but come get coronavirus testing. If you want to get the testing done come in and do that. We shouldn't emphasize on who has symptoms and or lack of symptoms since we are going to be testing everybody now and would suggest what Megan suggested and that's advertise as coronavirus testing and if you want to get coronavirus testing to come in.
- **Is the flu season over?**
 - It's winding down but never over in April. Not sure if we have any out breaks in any villages.
 - We are considered to be in flu season through Mid-May.
 - If people think they might have the flu should go get tested for the virus.
- **Is public health prepared to do contact tracing?**
 - Public health does that, and NSHC as well.
 - In Bethel case, the person had a lot of close contacts.
 - Average 10-12 close contacts is what PHN is saying.
- **If someone gets tested and test positive can you know when they got the virus?**
 - Will need to look it up but when you have the illness the week or week

- after it will take a while to build the antibodies. You can't pin point on the antibody test because it takes several days to build up those antibodies.
- Two kinds of antibodies. One kind that builds quickly in 2 weeks, and there is a long term antibody. Depending on the type of test, that would be the best to see if you have a short term, or long term. It will not pin point the day but rather recent or long ago.
 - **If Nome ended up with 10 positive test tomorrow that would take a lot of time. Do we have the people available to jump right in to do that?**
 - Here we have 3 nurses and can do one case at a time. If we have more than we can do us would out reach across the state. If we had 10 cases at one time 3 cases will be done locally and the other will be out reached.
 - MAS: A few calls ago Megan M. and others might have talked about there's a capacity of staff at Norton Sound that have training or might be able to help out or step up. I know in large population there's like a percentage of people that you want to have ready but will defer to Megan or others but I know that Norton Sound has people with experience and if our community needs to step up.
 - If public health needed assistance they would reach out to us.
 - Public health is recommending keeping a daily log of people that you have been in close contact with in case.
 - **Would like clarification on immunity.**
 - It's a new virus and we do not know if people will build immunity. Time will tell and they will do testing to figure it out. Scientist are reaching.
 - **Per the news Sweden took no action. Right now they are 10 times higher in infection and deaths compared to their other Swedish nations in that area. By doing nothing they created a situation that they have had to change their process and get caught up on a proper way from the disease going further in their population.**
 - **Understanding is that we are making care packages, in the past folks were able to buy things from the hospital? Are you going to do this again?**
 - If someone needs supplies, please reach out to Reba.
 - **We saw in the news that animals were giving to other animals, also stated animals can't give to humans, but humans can give to animals. Has there been discussion in the region about pet's that are roaming around?**
 - We do know that some mammals can get it, and if they find it in fish. Dr. Peterson has not seen any policies for pets. Certainly not having your pet roam around the region is ideal since there are still rabies. Have your pet tide up and going on walk and social distancing from other people and their pets.
 - **When we get this virus, are we able to get it again?**
 - We do not have enough information on how likely we are to get it again. If it is like the flu, the flu virus changes every year then we can most likely get it again but if it is a stable virus and doesn't change we might not get it again. Could be combination in the future.

- **If someone is isolated and too sick to take care of themselves, who will take care of this person?**
 - If the person is so sick that they need someone to take care of them that would be a person that we would want to bring to Nome. We would work with the health aide to evaluate that.
- **Should make a list of volunteers of people in the communities that help the health aides.**
 - When we reached out to the organization's within the communities that was one of the things we requested, a list of isolation spaces, and a list of volunteers who may be past health aides, or those who may have a past history in health care. There is a form that you would need to fill out for volunteering if the need arises.
- **Where can we find the volunteer form at?**
 - Could get from Cam Piscoya and we can make it available to people that are interested.
- **Will there be a hand out printed for the people that are willing volunteer on PPE?**
 - The form has a lot of information that pertains to liability, being trained, and information on helping the health aide.
 - Reba will look to put it on the webpage.
- **A request was made for every health couple in every village to write to somebody and say the importance in putting safe water and sewer in every village. It is so bad that we live in this time and people are still using honey buckets and hauling water. That needs to be a big collaboration for all the villages to have water and sewer in the next 5 years.**
 - MAS: Shared that sewer has been Kawerak and Norton Sounds top tribal priority that we have been pushing with our delegation and we have already send two communications to Senator Sullivan and Senator Murkowski's office identifying our need in the Bering Straits Region is \$215,000,000.00. We are hoping congress considers its next coronavirus relief package and we know there's going to be enough on clean water and public health. We have communicated our needs to the Senator Sullivan's office and we will make sure our tribes, our leaders, our region, our community, were driving that dialog, and with exactly that purpose. That it is unacceptable that we live without access to clean water, and home water and sewer. We will continue to meet and work with each other, and work with each community because the way the system is set up, communities are competing for funding against each other and there a billion dollar need for Alaska and we are going to need to keep up and we are really thankful that NSHC just hired Sean Lee who is an engineer for sanitation systems and he's working on a process right to focus on clean water and water systems or water storage tanks, whether it's access to water distribution systems. We are thankful that we have someone on staff that will hustle those projects and hustle the funding. We are the only region that has hired an engineer so I feel like we are just getting started but it's going to take relentless advocacy and keeping law makers and officials on point.

Thank you for raising that something we need to keep working on to address.

- We need to video this stuff and put it out there to Alaska. It's not our region it's the whole state.
- MAS: I'm willing to help create a PR campaign. Maybe Reba it's something we can work on collecting videos and getting the message out. I'm willing to help staff.
- A volunteer from Teller stated that they could help any way possible especially since Teller is the only community with long roads state and city in between that are in horrible condition where they have to haul trash and honey buckets bouncing around and flopping into the roads and the energy it takes to take the trash and honey buckets to the landfill.
- MAS: If Teller wants to create the first video she can help amplify their voice.
- Stebbins has had this problem for over 30 years. Glad someone brought it up and Stebbins had phase one and phase two many years ago but then the congress ran out of money. We know funds are tight right now but this village has had the same problem as Teller.
- MAS: We can share that right now for pipe service analysisist Teller and Stebbins are being put into the competition and the competition with other regions and other communities for pipe service. We're trying to make sure that the application for pipe services has the best foot forward in competing right now. The state is looking for a \$100,000.00 subsidy right now. The state thought that sewer and water might be too expensive for the home owners so we have to really figure out ways to reduce the per month cost for home owners that way it's affordable. It's unfortunate the state has created this and it's something that we have to use our voices and this is an opportunity to change the way that water and sewer funding is allocated and something will have to keep working on.
- Thank you for bringing this up for our communities.
- Please don't forget about Shishmaref, Wales, and Diomedede.
- Let's not forget not one person, not one village. All together like one people like we are.
- We are not leaving anyone out. We have communities in this region and there all members of Norton Sound and actively involved with water and sewer. We did invite commissioner to Wales and Stebbins so they can see our communities are living in third world country. They did see firsthand what communities without water and sewer are living out of. We do have a sanitation committee and the representative is Heather Payenna. We are not going to live anybody out.
- Would like to attend meeting but don't get the message.
- MAS: Can update on Saint Michael. We did have a call yesterday with their engineers and the message we shared was it is unacceptable to not create a path way to restore running water. Sean Lee is running it now and ready thankful with the team OEH. Our operators are usually

working remotely and without assistance. We're hoping to figure out a way maybe there are other volunteer or equipment that we can go thaw out Saint Michael. I will share that it is a change that we have to press upon our engineers. I have to get them angry and that sitting and waiting for Mother Nature to thaw out or that sitting and waiting is an option. We are in the middle of a pandemic and we need to do much more. I am really thankful that we have Norton Sounds capability that know how to mobilize and so well continue to communicate but it's all hands on deck to make sure that we have every project goals to competition for funding.

- Sean Lee stated that they need to get in touch with the community this afternoon and can give an update on Saint Michael's tomorrow.

○ **How do we get funding from the state on a ballot?**

- MAS: It's the lack of priority of the State of Alaska part and they put up so many regulations that don't serve us. We have a lot of work to do.
- Maybe to speed things up have a teleconference like this daily with the communities that does not have water and sewer in their communities.
- MAS: great ideal we can get a sanitation team up and going. We should really tell our stories and there are people that can help with that.

○ **Angie wanted to thank Megan A-S. Here on the call for everything she's been doing over the past 3 plus years to support this effort. You can hear the passion in her voice and she works really hard on the state level, national level. She has a wonderful way of encouraging everyone to participate and to capture those local stores which are really important. I know our board and the Kawerak board knows how hard she is working and again just by hearing from her you can better understand in a way. I just wanted to make sure I extended that appreciate on the call. Thank you Megan. A-S.**

○ **Has anyone been in contact with the hospital in Anchorage about issuing out face masks for passengers that are flying?**

- All hospitals are supposed to be handing out face masks to their patients.
- MAS: The CEO at ANMC let his ANMC incident in command know. He double checked with his team and they are handing out mask.
- ANMC do hand out mask and they do offer rides to the airport.