

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
May 6, 2020**

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Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Megan MacKiernan, NSHC	Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle
Kristen Timbers, NSHC	Cameron Piscoya, NSHC	Sean Lee, NSHC
Rachel Lee, NSHC	Joleen Oleson, Kawerak	Andrew Norris, Kawerak
Cherri McConnel, Kawerak	Joanne Keyes, Native Village of Wales	Karlene
Charles Swanson, Native Village of Koyuk	Charlie Brown, Golovin	Katie Hannon, NSHC
Jessica Ivanoff, NSHC	Lori Hughes, NEC	Dorothy Barr, Native Village of WMO
Barb Gray, Native Village of Council	Toby, Golovin	Amy Hollis, NSHC
Tracy McGarry, Kawerak	Jason Harrell, NSHC	Robert Tokienna Jr., Wales
Opik Ahkinga, City of Diomedea	Mary David, Kawerak	Charlie Brown, WMO
Charlene Saclamana, Kawerak	Karla Nayokpuk, City of Shishmaref	Deborah, Wales

*Over 40 people attended today's meeting.

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) Updates 4) 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"> - Alaska: 1 new cases from ANMC in the last 24 hours in the whole state, 371 cases, 277 recovered but possibly more now, less than 100 active cases - We expect there to be a handful cases every week and we are watching while we open up and we are all watching it - Can't expect it to go to 0 and stay at 0 but single digits are good - ANMC: 13 outpatient, 0 inpatient - NSHC: 1,006 individual test completed which represents 10% of the region , reason we went up is because half of our villages are starting their big push for testing, 166 pending and almost all at ANMC lab, 1 positive, 1 recovered - When you see the testing on the situation report those are individual test because some people have tested more than once and the test number is more than 1,006 - isolation is for those who are ill and think or know you have the virus you need to be within your own bedroom and bathroom - Quarantine is for those who are well different levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those exposed to someone with COVID, not sick, high risk at developing symptoms; those need to be in the house for 14 days looking for symptoms and should be really inside, limit movement, and is really a high level of quarantine. • Another quarantine example is someone living in Anchorage, haven't

left the state, they may have had a tests for COVID-19 a couple weeks ago because they work somewhere they are required to have that and they come to Nome to do some work here. They will have to do 14. days of quarantine because that is our current policy in the City. Their risk is really not that high, the risk is really not that high, in Dr. Peterson’s opinion someone like that who is doing 14 days of quarantine should spend 90% of their time in their house but if they were to outside for a walk at the beach with no one else, not coming into contact with anybody, wearing a mask thinks that is a reasonable thing to do to get a little bit of fresh air during those 14 days who is at a lower risk.

- Deanna Stang: The State of Alaska quarantine requirement is if you are traveling from outside of Alaska or the lower 48 you come in and are required to fill out the travel declaration form and can do that online or at the airport when you arrive and are asking for the individual to do quarantine at the hotel or home for the 14 days and you can go outside to take a walk or to take your dog for a walk or to get fresh air as long as you are not in a public space. We do not want individuals to feel to coupe up while they are on quarantine and we want people to get a mental break to get fresh air and it’s good for their health. It is defiantly appropriate underneath the travel quarantine underneath the state mandate that you can go outside for a walk, you can take your dog for a walk as long as you are not in a public location.
- If someone in quarantine here in Nome that is part of the City requirement or State requirement and they are on the beach walking by themselves that is an okay for them to be doing. You don’t stop at the store on the way there or touch other things that people might touch in public. You just go to the beach walk, walk your dog, and go back to your place of quarantine.
- Glen City Manager: As to the quarantine requirement for the city, we are encouraging people to stay in their home because what is happening is that someone see’s that person goes out of their house we are getting telephone calls. We are also tracking people to see if they’re home and if there not why are they not home. Not disagreeing with getting fresh air but people are looking at it “well they could walk around their neighborhood”. We have talked to folks that have been going outside. Unfortunately some people are mocking the quarantine and what is being allowed. We have taken a pretty tough line on this was to stop the spread eventually coming up through Anchorage or coming up through the lower 48 because the governor’s administrative perspective what is an essential employee too. Were just encouraging essential people to go to their work place, go home, have food delivered and for those who are none essential to try and comply and stay home because we don’t want neighbors calling on other neighbors and that’s part of the challenge.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When people are seeing quarantine people out and about that is raising concern and distress. • Suggestion was made that if people can go out late in the evening when no one is out and about and can keep a little hidden about it and don't flaunt it about by any means. If you need fresh air get fresh air but be discrete about it. <p>- Some of the villages their travel bans are expiring about now and Norton Sound has sent a letter out encouraging the extension of those. Heard that Brevig, Elim, and Teller that their travel bans have expired. It would be nice to hear from those three communities and what their plans are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teller has another travel ban that just wasn't signed and it included Brevig and Teller. They need another meeting for the leadership working group. • Dr. Peterson offered help to Teller if they need it.
<p>Survey – Megan MacKiernan</p>	<p>Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 187 completed survey's - Winner: Insulated Coffee Mug- Poppy Tansey – Golovin - 1 survey per person - Easiest way to do that is to text COVID to 833-321-0166 - The survey questions will come to your phone - Disclaimer: standard text rates will apply - If you do not have a phone paper surveys are available
<p>Norton Sound Update – Angie Gorn</p>	<p>NSHC Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some questions that came to Norton Sound: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can Norton Sound provide masks at Bering Air for passengers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes we will work with Bering Air to provide cloth masks as well other masks for passengers. ○ Will patients be charged for bills related to COVID-19? Please explain any charge for non-tribal members and patients who may not have insurance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There will be no balance bill for COVID-19 testing. Effective January 18th, 2020 there was a bill called the Families First Coronavirus Act and that requires group health plans, health insurance carriers, to cover COVID-19 testing without imposing any cost sharing. So that means there would not be any deductibles or copays or coinsurance. Also doesn't require any prior authorization or medical management requirements. Norton Sound will bill the patients insurance for the test but there will not be a bill or out of pocket payment charge to the patient. If someone does not have health insurance there will be no charge. ○ Are patients required to wear masks while in the Norton Sound Health Corporation facilities whether it is in the Nome or the villages? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes. Anyone in the health care facility whether you are a patient or employee will be required to wear a mask. If you are

coming to the facility to bring your own and put it on that's fine. For patients who do not have a mask we will provide them at the entry ways.

○ **Somebody reached out and said that they have read an article about the Alaska Hospitals Suffering Catastrophic Loses and the question was what does this mean for Norton Sound Health Corporation?**

- Norton Sound like other Alaska hospitals and health care systems has experienced significant decline in just general outpatient inquires for all of our services. Do want to give a shout out to our villages because fortunately for us patient's visit in the villages has not decreased as much as our other services. You are probably aware we have been promoting telemedicine and we have been promoting behavioral health visits by phone or by telehealth and those have been great ways to continue with health care services. Additionally our long term care facility, Quyanna Care Center, has not seen a decrease and our inpatient unit has been ramping back up to normal level. So all of that helps Norton Sound sustain our health care system. As a result our March operating income for 2020 was strong and remained above budget. We do expect our April, May, and June financial results to most likely come in below budget. We have other health care systems receive some off setting federal stimulus funds which do help and they must be used specifically to respond to COVID-19 pandemic.

- Do want to say that our region has been fortunate. We have only experienced the one positive COVID case to date and really pleased with our proactive response to managing the pandemic with the help of all of you, the medical staff, all of our providers, our health aides, all of our support staff, lab, everyone has really risen to this extraordinary challenge and because of Norton Sounds continue financial strength we've also been able to offer our employees generous COVID leave options during this time to help them get through and manage and has been very difficult for everyone. Again we are very appreciative for the collaboration with all of you, the villages, the City of Nome, and were pleased to say we remain strong clinically and financially and are here to meet the health care and the needs of the regions that we serve.
- Norton Sound is still working to coordinate a focus or special call on fishing and we will announce that separately and make sure it is identify as a call to discuss the upcoming fishing season and everything else that we talked about. We will reach out to NSEDC to help participate in that discussion.
- There have been a few separate calls with communities on projects Norton Sound that are upcoming and ongoing but we will have more of a region wide call related to construction.

Billboard update:

- We did call the vendor and as mentioned these billboards are under production and they will most likely be done by Friday or Saturday of this week and then

	<p>they will be shipped to the region and it is our goal to have these installed late next week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will work with each community to get approval on where you would like to put your billboards. <p>Cleaning Supplies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleaning supplies – sent first email out with assessment form - We’ve sent reminders everyday - Only received 4 assessments - We need to get these completed so we know what each community needs - Large cleaning supply order put in at the end of last month and they are starting to trickle in - Have not received hand sanitizer and trash bags at the moment - We’re ordering additional buckets, spray bottles, and bleach containers for the sanitizing solution operation that we discussed with the operators - Stebbins requested a hand washing station that has a foot pump, faucet, and basin and they decided to use some of their NSEDC funds for this. This order is about 3 weeks out. - Working on best distribution for tribal members in the Nome area that need cleaning supplies. More will come on this.
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If on quarantine are you able to take your dog out on a walk? Some clarity would be good. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If you are the sole care giver for your dog, you have to take your pet out for a walk. But at the same time judgement needs to be exercise about if someone is approaching you because they see your pet you need to move out of the way or if you could walk your pet around your property at your resident because pets can catch COVID-19 from you too. We need to remember that and be cautions around your pet. We just don’t want people running around the community saying I’m in quarantine but I can go places because I am now being allowed. You are either supposed to be in quarantine or not. It all comes down to exercising good judgement and if you got to walk your dog you got to walk your dog. ▪ Wouldn’t want to ask someone else to walk the dog and would prefer it to be someone in our household. Relying on good judgement and continuing to social distance and have the dog on the leash will happen safely. ○ After people recover from COVID could they have any long term symptoms? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The vast people who have it have a mild illness and they do not need to be in the hospital, get better, and go about their business. There is a small number of patients who are hospitalized, those recover, do well, and have no side effects. However, those could have some long term side effects but could small percentage. Just like influenza most recover. It’s a very small number that could have long term complication. They could be lung complication or other issues but would be a very small number.

- **Yesterday we received Norton Sounds recommendation to extend the travel restriction until August 1st. What is the region's feel about this? There are some concerns that since we don't have any cases in the region, would it be possible to allow region wide travel once we get approval from the leadership? A lot of it is based on subsistence reasons.**
 - Dr. Peterson: There is a mandate that talks about intra state travel between communities in Alaska. That mandate says that travel between communities should only occur for significant critical infrastructure personal that need to move within the state. That mandate is still in place. There is a new mandate about opening up things and opening up travel and that allows for automobile travel between communities if you can get on the highway and supposed to do all the social distancing. We are still in this zone where the state is recommending that there not be free travel between communities in Alaska by air. Was on a call today with the state with Dr. Zink, and Dr. Kulka asked a specific question about travel between communities within the state. Dr. Zink stated that they are looking at that and new information will be coming out in regards to that. Response is we are all in the same boat in having this loosen up a bit but we want to be safe. Norton Sound is going to wait for the state to make a statement about that and make recommendations and follow their guidance. We are thinking long term and requesting 90 day extension but we will be re-evaluating the situation often. We really want to wait 2 weeks to see what the opening of the state will do. Thinking we need to be a month behind what we're seeing elsewhere in the State and on the road system. Do think this can happen but should wait until June 1st and re-evaluate. The only way the virus can get in is really through travel and that is the one restriction that needs to stay the most intense for as long as it can.
 - Glenn: One thing that has been learned is how complicated travel is in this region. We have basically wanting to work with the tribal communities on terms on how the village members want to come to Nome or people to travel out of Nome to the villages. whatever their guidelines have been we have been trying to work with the leadership there. Remember we do have people leaving the prison and heading back to the villages, we have medical travel from the villages from Nome and into Anchorage, we have emergency services people coming from Anchorage or even the lower 48 and we have had a lot of conversations with those folks as they are traveling out to the villages and to where they may be needed to provide services and in terms of the proper or lack of interaction with the residence to protect everybody. You would be amazed at the number of people coming from the lower 48 who provide emergency services of some sort in the City of Nome or eventually out in the villages. It's a very complicated issue and I wish there was simple solution to the issue of trying to lift some bans but we will work with the communities to do what they want to do. If anyone has any question they can call Glenn at 304-1907.
 - Dr. Peterson: Within the next month there should be more clarity on

this situation.

- **If we had travel between the villages, can have a quarantine that is shorter in region like seven day quarantine and 14 day quarantine out of region?**
 - The only good quarantine is the 14 day quarantine. If you are going to do quarantine it means that you are concerned of the virus getting to the village and should really do a 14 day quarantine. Norton Sound would never recommend anything that would go against the State or CDC guidance. If there is something that goes above the CDC guidance we could work with you.
- **We have to think regionally with construction season that is about to begin and understanding that Nome has a 14 day quarantine for those traveling from outside the region. Maybe should have a separate teleconference and how the villages could address opening up when they have possible construction workers go into their villages.**
 - Norton Sound may need to present ideals on constructions coming into the region and could discuss with Kawerak and possibly meet on that.
 - MAS: In conversations with communities and entities there's a project ongoing we reminded those working in our region that there are travel bans in the communities that they will have to work with for projects to move forward. We have encouraged that the project manager share their plans with the community so everybody feels comfortable with it. Do know that ANTHC has created a policy for summer construction and Mike Cruse and NSHC have been thinking about address some of these issues with the communities. Do think it will be good to call because there are so many questions and making sure our communities are comfortable with the plans and those engineers and construction workers understand them and there are ways that we have contact will be helpful.
- **What stories are you looking for on the videos?**
 - We are looking stories of daily life so things like hauling water, the situation people have what they go through on a daily basis that make life a little different than those places that have running water.
 - MAS: The themes we recommended were hauling water, storage water, handing washing basins, bathing, washing clothes, bathroom continue, housing condition, and if you would like to share a vision for your community, whatever you think. It does involve interview questions.
- **Do you think photos with captions?**
 - MAS: Yes if you can send photos that would be great and could put some request in.
- **Discussion was held about the OEH Meeting from last Friday.**
- **How can the tribe spend the donation that was received by NSHC?**
 - NSHC did ask for feedback so that we can share ideal. We did receive a few. Some tribes have actually shared stipends to those who make mask. Purchase fabric for masks, cleaning supplies. Those funds are available to be used at your discretion.
 - Camping, hunting supplies for community members, food, were some ideals passed around and discussed.

- **With the fabric would NSHC be able to send thread?**
 - Yes we have thread and material. Just send requests to Reba at rlean@nshcorp.org
- **Discussion was held on sewer and water**
- **How long do you think it will be before Norton Sound starts up specialty clinic?**
 - We will keep it going for May and June and will be telehealth. We expected by later June or July for people to come to Nome and have those up and going.