

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes  
May 7, 2020**

Angie Gorn, CEO, NSHC	Reba Lean, NSHC	Mark Peterson, MD, Medical Director, NSHC
Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Megan MacKiernan, NSHC	Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle
Kirsten Timbers, NSHC	Cameron Piscoya, NSHC	Howard Weyiouanna, City of Shishmaref
Liz Johnson, Village of Solomon	Joleen Oleson, Kawerak	Jason Harrell, NSHC
Charles Swanson, Native Village of Koyuk	Joanne Keyes, Native Village of Wales	Tracy McGarry, Kawerak
Charlie Brown, Golovin	Opik Ahkinga, City of Diomede	Marie Katcheak, Stebbins
Ben, Savoonga	Glenn Steckman, City of Nome	John Waghiyi, Savoonga
Crystal Toolie	Blanche Okbaok-Garnie, City of Teller	

\*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"> <li>1) Prayer</li> <li>2) Medical Staff Briefing</li> <li>3) Updates</li> <li>4) Comments and Questions</li> </ol> <p>Note- Any questions may be sent to Reba Lean at <a href="mailto:rean@nshcorp.org">rean@nshcorp.org</a> anytime or text to 907-434-1927 and they will be answered during the 11:00 am call.</p>
Prayer	Jason Harrell offered a blessing
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Peterson, Medical Director	<p><b>Dr. Peterson gave updates on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alaska: 2 new cases reported in the last 24 hours, 374 cases, 293 recovered, 73 active cases, no new deaths in the last 24 hours, bring it to 10 total death</li> <li>- 1 of the new cases was from the fishing industry in Cordova</li> <li>- There is an article and understanding is that he had asymptomatic testing and tested positive</li> <li>- A lot of fishery industries require to have a plan for people coming into the state for testing and that is what happened here</li> <li>- We have to continue testing and as we open up our region I think testing people coming into the region is important and we should develop a system of testing people coming in whether that's fishery people, people flying in, and to have a negative test upon entry would be a smart thing for us to be doing</li> <li>- ANMC: 13 outpatients, 0 inpatient</li> <li>- NSHC: Over 1,000 people have been tested, all came back negative with several pending, several are pending test (164 ANMC, 1 at State, and 1 at NSHC) 1 tested positive and 1 recovered with no active cases in our region</li> <li>- We have so much testing going on now we have to go to an automated system of tabulating that, so we have a new dashboard automating system that is tabulating our totals and on Monday we will start reporting on our Norton Sound Situation Report according to the data dashboard we have and the timeline times it a little differently than when we were doing it manually. We will start that fresh on</li> </ul>

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION**

	<p>Monday. The reporting style will be the same with total number of tested, number of negative, and positive. It will be a little of a switch but we will convert that on Monday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue social distancing, wearing mask, and washing hands</li> <li>- We want to keep this thing down and want to get this down as close to 0 active cases as possible and monitor people coming into our region</li> </ul>
<p>NSHC Proposed Travel schedule – Angie Gorn</p>	<p><b>Starting the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Audiology to go to Savoonga. Angie has written to the tribal council and the City of Savoonga. We are looking for written approval in advance before a team goes to your village and as we stated any provider and any staff that goes will be tested for COVID-19. We will have a test back that is negative or they will not travel. Before they make the airline reservation and before they head out there we want the village’s approval for that.</li> <li>- Eye Care prepared to go to White Mountain. We have received written approval from White Mountain. Thank you for that.</li> <li>- Physical Therapy would like to go to Brevig and Shishmaref</li> <li>- Angie is reaching out to tribal councils and Cities to make sure that we have that approval in advance.</li> </ul>
<p>Update on Construction Project Discussion – Angie Gorn</p>	<p><b>Update on Construction Project Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would like to thank Charlene Saclamana from Kawerak. Kawerak has been hosting weekly teleconferences and she reached out to NSHC and stated that next Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, the 10 am weekly teleconference will focus on specifically on regional construction projects. NSHC will be calling into that. We plan to have the discussion with that group at that time.</li> </ul>
<p>Survey – Reba Lean</p>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For people that got COVID testing done, they are eligible to complete a feedback survey and win prizes</li> <li>- We have received 205 responses</li> <li>- How satisfied were patients on a scale from 0-10 and the average is 8.8</li> <li>- Would patient recommend testing to others? Average is 9.3</li> <li>- Today’s winner is Austin Ahkvaluk from Diomedea he won a NSHC sweat shirt</li> </ul>
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>If a person got tested last week should they have gotten their test results?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Because we have been swamping ANMC with test kits, they have to batch the tests and we have to wait for them to come back. This is a good problem to have.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Are you seeing any other kind of sickness?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No we are not seeing anything new at this point.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Has there been a change in elective surgery and going down to Anchorage?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health mandate 15 allows for certain elective surgeries to happen that cannot wait for 8 weeks or longer. ANMC is back to doing some elective surgeries and their making arrangements and contacting patients. You have to have a COVID-19 test before the procedure and before you get sent home. That is the new thing and has been in place for a little bit here. People can be getting elective surgeries now.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>What do you mean by elective surgery?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elective is non-emergent. There are emergency surgeries and elective surgeries. So emergency surgery would be like getting your appendix</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

or gallbladder out. Elective surgery is like a hip replacement because you wore your hip out from arthritis or knee replacement because you wore your knee out. It's elective surgery because you can take your time and plan the surgery, and those kind of elective surgeries you can schedule on your own time and have opened back up. Emergency surgery was always open. Now the elective surgeries, non-emergent surgeries those are open to happen for selective patients. The surgeon has to make the decision so they are the non-emergent surgeries.

- **What steps should we take if any fishing vessels dock in Nome?**
  - There is a new mandate out if you go to the state website. Think it is mandate 17 and it talks about fishery industries and requirements. Basically the fishing industries and boats have requirements that they have to follow and it is very specific. They have to screen their personnel for COVID-19 risks, they've got to exclude people that are high risk, they have to send people for testing if they are high risk, they have to have the ability to communicate if someone gets sick on the water, if they get sick on the water there is a specific place they have the call. The rule is they go to the port and they call somebody and you do not dock without talking to someone. Basically they have guideline and requirements that they have to follow. They have to submit their plan.
  - People coming into Nome with their boats have to submit their plan to the Harbor Master before they get here on how they are going to quarantine if they come to the port of Nome. Those people are in contact with Lucas Scott who is our harbor master.
- **How many transient staff does NSHC have?**
  - The majority of our medical staff resides here are probably half and the other has to travel out. When this pandemic came, we adjusted our scheduling so that all of our staff is here essentially all the time. In that requirement, travel should not be happening. Travel is now allowed and quarantine requirements make travel difficult. If we have anybody that comes in to work here, they are required to quarantine for 14 days in Nome. We do have some mid-level providers that come out and support the health aides and work in the villages. The requirement there is that they must be in Nome for 14 days and we're also testing everybody. We now do mandatory testing for clinical staff every two weeks. We do have mid-levels that go out to the villages but they do quarantine and test. In the hospital, we are really hunkering down and everyone is really just here. If we have a provider that comes from the outside they will be in the apartment for 14 days before they go anywhere. That is true for all THO in the region. We have made adjustments on travel. In our new normal for us, we are developing a quarantine proof schedule going forward, and when people are here they are here for a much longer time.
- **The other day there was mention that our region has 5 communities that don't have water and can't recall what NSHC has in place to assist those villages that don't have running water. Other question is what can our**

**communities do to bring awareness to that or help with funding?**

- MAS: Our sanitation engineering and operation team at Norton Sound have been conduction community assessments to help with cleaning supplies and that is region wide. For our unserved communities Norton Sound has ordered handwashing buckets with specits and bleach solution. We are working with our region operators to get familiar with how the household bleach solution can be implemented for household who are storing water. They assisted the community of Stebbins with buying hand washing stations. The hand washing stations have foot pumps that they used their NSEDC funds for. The sanitation team is in the midst of updating all of the deficiencies in all of our communities. They go into any health deficiencies system and the deadline is end of April and that is making sure that engineers that serve our region communities are creating projects and identifying deficiencies and creating projects to address those deficiencies are in the system. We know in the years past our sanitation deficiencies have not be adequately identified and haven't been in the system so we want to make sure we are aware and know when it comes to large storage tanks, water treatment plant, what that status is of that infrastructure. There are multiple efforts at the sanitation engineer operation team there and combination with OEH has been working with the communities. If there are any follow up questions please feel free to give Megan a call.

- **Did we get an update from the native villages in our region about what they are supplying and getting from other sources?**

- NSHC reported yesterday that the board of directors made a small donation to every Tribe, and those funds can be used at the Tribes' discretion. Some ideas that were heard and feedback received include paying an honorarium or stipend per mask. Norton Sound has been providing fabric and supplies to help make mask. If an incentive is needed for people to make a lot of masks, some Tribes have put a system in place to pay people to make those mask for elders, and community members who cannot do so. You can also use the funds to buy more material on your own if you would like. Some Tribes have purchased some cleaning supplies. We received some feedback that there were some ideas to purchasing in home air purifiers for households, cell phones for operators, equipment for people to work from home. Again those are all ideas that the Tribe can decided how to spend them and do it in a fair way so that everyone in their community can benefit. I did see some examples on other facebook pages yesterday where they're supporting hunters. An idea came this group too yesterday where maybe you want to support gas for people to get out and go hunting because the stores might be low on meat and protein sources. That would be another idea.

- **The material that was being sent to the villages not everybody had a chance to get material to make masks. Can Golovin have another shipment sent out and?**

- Yes if anyone wants to request more material please email Reba at [rean@nshcorp.org](mailto:rean@nshcorp.org).
- MAS: King Island Native Community in Nome paid mask makers to make masks for elders and others.
- In Stebbins the church wanted to reopen so a bunch of the women got together and volunteer and design the mask and trying to get 26 masks made for the church to be able to assemble.
- **If you need more material or supplies for mask making please email Reba from [rean@nshcorp.org](mailto:rean@nshcorp.org).**
- **Comment was made that everyone should have a mask.**
- **Savoonga was discussing their elder nutritional program on opening it up for delivery system. Would there be a recommendation for tests for our employee that works on the program?**
  - Anybody that has contact with elders needs to be safe. Anyone that does that should get tested at the clinic and they can get tested as often as weekly, they should be wearing a mask when they deliver those meals, should be washing their hands before and after and keeping them really good and clean. Don't linger around the elders to long. The cooks and ones deliver should get tested. The way we do things now should be different than the way we did things in the past. We want to have contact with elders to make sure they are doing well but we want to do it in a new way now where we don't have physical contact and keep social distance.
- **Does NSHC have some PPE for those people in Savoonga making deliveries to the elders?**
  - Think if they use a mask and hand washing and keep distance and don't linger they should be okay but they should really have mask.
  - A good resource would be Pat with XYZ in Nome and they are doing delivery and would be good to ask how they are doing their elder deliveries.
- **Does anyone want to share how they might have spent their NSEDC funding or plans on how you will spend that funding?**
  - Teller has completed a budget but has not been approved. In the budget they put a portion of it for paying employees a little COVID pay, who serviced the community, 20 trash bins, burial assistance, isolation building, and each household credit of \$50 at the store.
- **The PA will be administering the test in Stebbins and will start Friday.**
  - Stebbins is kind of last on the list with the midlevel changes. Did know there was going to be a delay.
  - Community member of Stebbins is happy the PA is the only one going to do the testing.
  - VHS meet with Stebbins this morning and talked with them about the village plan. The plan for Stebbins is that they will start next week for asymptomatic and they will reach out to people.
- **OA: Diomede received Styrofoam cups, and plates from NSHC. They will be sending them back because they do not want Styrofoam because they do not want to burn Styrofoam so please make note that Diomede do not want**

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION
	Styrofoam's in supplies.