

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
May 27, 2020**

Angie Gorn, CEO, NSHC	Reba Lean, NSHC	Mark Peterson, MD, Medical Director, NSHC
Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Megan MacKiernan, NSHC	Cameron Piscoya, NSHC
Kristen Timbers, NSHC	Carol Charles, NSHC	Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle
Opik Ahkinga, Diomede	Joleen Oleson, Kawerak	Joann Keyes, Wales
Dorothy Barr, Native Village of White Mountain	Dan Harrelson, White Mountain	Janis Ivanoff, NSEDC
Tyler Rhode, NSEDC	Fred Katchatag, NSEDC	Amy Hollis, NSHC

*Over 40 participants attended today's meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION
Introduction to Meeting – Angie Gorn, NSHC CEO	<p>Angie gave the following introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you are calling in for the first time or if you have been calling in just a remind to please keep your phone on mute - Today we had planned to have a discussion on fisheries - Agenda today will be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Blessing 2) Medical Staff Briefing 3) NSEDC 4) Comments and Questions <p>Reminder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At 1:00 pm today there is a food security teleconference that is hosted by Kawerak so we do want to end timely so folks can get off this call and join the 1:00 pm call with Kawerak <p>Note- Any questions may be sent to Reba Lean at rlean@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. Mark Peterson, NSHC Medical Director	<p>Dr. Peterson gave medical staff update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a lot of change in the last 24 hours • Alaska: two new resident cases in Alaska, one in Sitka, one in Anchorage, 411 cumulative cases, still a really good number where we are at, 362 recovered, 39 active cases, 10 deaths, no additional deaths • Two seafood workers again that have tested positive, that is 12 seafood workers that have tested positive; Those are caught in quarantine • ANMC: 1 inpatient, 19 total cumulative patients • NSHC: 2,024 individuals, done almost 4,000 test total with all the employee testing the number jumped up, 3 total positive, 1 from April that is recovered, 2 active • We did test a large number of employees and tested several more to complete the whole Nome Norton Sound employees which tested negative and was about 450 employees
NSEDC – Janis Ivanoff, CEO and Tyler Rhode, Chief Operating Officer, Fred Katchatag, Chairman	<p>Janis gave the following introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In preparation for today's discussion, Angie gave us three questions regarding our plans for this fishing season. The following questions are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What is NSEDC's plan to ensure fisherman traveling from Nome to other

- villagers will follow the travel mandates of other communities?
- 2) Since a lot of COVID-19 cases in the lower 48 and workers traveling to Alaska related to food processing plans. Does NSEDC plan to include testing of any workers this summer before starting employment?
 - 3) What other prevention measures does NSEDC have in place to protect your workforce and community?

Tyler went over the following NSEDC Plan pertaining to the questions above:

- We developed a plan to address how we are going to approach this season, not only for our fisheries but also for our field crews for the research division, and even our office protocols and that is available on our website under the publication tabs, so that is available for everyone to see
- **To address the first question about how we are handling fisherman that may be traveling to other villages or other communities:**
 - A recurring thing with all of our plans is that we are in a lot better position than other parts of the state and that our fisherman and our employees are all based out of the communities that they live in. So really even in a normal year there is pretty minimal traveling between communities or from outside the region for our fishery boats, fisherman, and employees. That’s an area to start from in mitigating the spread of illness or people moving about. As far as fishermen go again largely people will be fishing out of their communities. We are not having a commercial crab fishery this year. That was a fishery that involved a little more movement of people and without that fishery taking place we will see less movement of that fleet. For the people that do move there are some salmon fishermen who will travel to other communities. We’ll be suggesting or offering guidance that they need to check with that community. We have already seen an example with the herring fishery. We had a short herring fishery that has already concluded over the weekend. There were some fishermen from Shaktoolik who came to Unalakleet because that was the only place we were purchasing herring and they had asked us what they needed to do and we referred them to the Unalakleet travel committee and they camped out outside of Unalakleet and delivered to the dock and didn’t come ashore. That’s the template of how it will work if people are to move about. Our guidance is that they need to check with the community in which they would be coming too. By in large we envision the fishermen fishing from home.
 - There is state guidance under mandate 17 that fisherman have to comply with. Largely our fisherman will have to adhere to the appendix 3 I believe, which refers if fisherman are fishing from skiff and really largely those mandates contemplate fisherman from coming outside the state or outside the region. Again that is not the case. Never the less we are going to ensure those fishermen are provided that information and outreach material that they need to comply with those mandates. We need to have acknowledgement forms from them that they understand the mandate and that they are going to comply before we buy fish from

them. So we will be requiring before we purchase fish from them. Additional we will make them aware of our community and work force protection plan which I referenced earlier which is available on our website. We will be ensuring that fisherman can see that and are familiar with what we are requiring.

- Specifically for fisherman and the general public as we are limiting access to all of our facilities this season and limiting that to just essential employees that need to work there. Fisherman will have, in Unalakleet and in Nome, specific shacks that they can come and process their fish in but they are not going to be allowed in the plants or the facilities as they have in the pass just to reduce the intermingling of people at our facilities.
- That is largely what we have to note on our interaction with fisherman.
- Regarding question number two regarding what we're doing with our testing in regards to our plan.
 - So far we are testing and insuring that we have negative test for our vessel crew. That is the one segment of our work force that will be on the move. Right now we have three crew members to our south anchorage that are in 14 day quarantine in Nome. They were tested in Anchorage and received negative test before coming to the region. We were planning to use the airport testing when they came through into Nome but they arrived on Monday when that wasn't available and we just put them directly into their 14 day quarantine and we will test them again at the end of that quarantine before putting them on that vessel. Those are the only three people for our vessel that is coming outside of the Norton Sound community. The rest of our vessel crew will be tested prior to being placed on their boats. Once they are on the boats they will essential be isolated at that point. We will not have our vessel crew getting off in any communities outside of Nome or Unalakleet where they will only be going to their crew quarters that we set up for them. So they are not going be heading to the grocery store, they are not going to be walking around town. They are going to either be on their boat or going to be in our set up quarters for them.
 - We would like to if it's possible test the rest of our workforce and if the capacity is there and if that's something we can work with Norton Sound on, that is something we are interested in doing to give ourselves a piece of mind. It's going to be really important for our fisheries that were able to continue processing. A tide in in testing prior to employment is important if we can do so. We are going to be conducting daily screening for everyone coming to work at our facilities. Be that in office, field camp, processing plant, on a vessel, we have screening and taking temperatures as part of our protocol and then a response plan if anything is flagged from that screening.
 - As far as our work force that the plans we have are protocols put in place in that plan as far as keeping people separated as much as possible, we plan on grouping employees into groups so there's not

intermingling of employees or as little as possible so people are working with the same people as much as possible. Practicing social distancing in the work place and in place we can't well have increased PPE as well as any sort of barriers we can put on the fish processing line.

- Another element of our plan with the work force is to limit travel as much as possible too. As I mentioned earlier we are going to be hiring within the communities; We are not operating our community hire program as in past years where we would bring people from other regional communities into Nome or Unalakleet to have them work in our plants just to reduce the amount of people traveling between communities. We are not going to operate that this year and just count on those local workforces for our staffing. Likewise with our buying stations in the other salmon fishing communities. If we have to have anyone go to fix equipment or go get something set up our plan is to get them in and out as quickly as possible, have them only go to their work site, ensure we check in with the community before they go, have them face mask and other PPE when they do, charter flights if necessary. All elements just to try and keep our movement between communities as absolutely minimal as possible.
- Question number three was other prevention measures that we have to protect our workforce and other communities.
 - Kind of went through a number of those already.
 - Submitted plan to the State of Alaska and it's largely been approved and accepted. There were a couple little tweaks needed to make as far as a couple small elements but otherwise that has been submitted and is largely good with the state.
 - We have established a position at each of our plants in Unalakleet and in Nome as safety coordinator who's specifically just going to be ensuring our protection plan and protocol and procedures are in place, that we have the appropriate PPE, that were doing all that we need to as far as documentations and following up.
 - We do have a floating processor coming up again to assist with our operations as we have in past years. As in those years the plan with that processor it's a fully contained operation those for that vessel, do not get off those vessels, they don't come ashore, our personal doesn't get aboard the vessel, they have their own contagiously plan for medical issues, they have a contract with telehealth provider to give them any guidance for any issues that come up on the vessel and in a case that someone actually did need further care that they do have a contract and a plan in place with a flight service to have them flown out of the region and down to believe Anchorage or beyond for any further care that would be needed.
- That is kind of the broad picture and some of the details that we wanted to share
- We really appreciate the opportunity to share what our plans are with everyone

	<p>Angie to NSEDC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As far as work force testing, happy to hear that NSEDC is open and supportive of that - Norton Sound can definitely help with that - NSHC can go to the work site if easier for NSEDC employees or they can go to the tent anytime <p>Dr. Peterson gave Abbott ID update for Unalakleet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Unalakleet we have dental health aides that work there and for dental patient we like to test those patients before they get dental work because dentist and dental technicians use equipment that can aerosolize the virus and we like to test all the dental patients who are going to undergo the higher risk procedures and we have that going on in Savoonga and Unalakleet - We have Abbott ID Now going out to Unalakleet and the dental staff is getting trained on that now and should be up and running fairly soon in the next couple of weeks - Once that is there and available it will be available for anyone that needs testing locally - We won't every test to be done on the quick test but any testing that needs to be done right away and have to get results right away we will have done on that unit - Savoonga will be getting one as well
<p>Survey</p>	<p>Reba announced the following winners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Darlene Katchatag is our winner for an insulated mug today
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o When our folks are going to be working on various fish lines in the plants are they going to have enough distance between themselves for safety? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TR: For the most part yes. We have asked both plants to look at their set ups and redesign their lines where possible to allow for separation and that includes fish cutting tables. If we could have people spaced so they are not facing each other directly and get that separation. In Nome without a crab season we are able to utilize more of the space and set up more tables and more space for those who will be cutting fish in the plant. If we can't get that spacing we are looking at plexiglass barriers in between people. We are going to get as much separation as possible and where we can't we have large number of face shields that we will require in additional to face mask to give another layer. It's going to be a challenge but we are doing everything that we can to try and litigate that. o Participate from Savoonga stated that they are going to have a big competition with Nome fisherman this year because they have bigger boats and the quota is going to go out there pretty fast. How can they increase their distance from 5, 10 miles to 25 miles so that they don't crash their halibut like they did the crab? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TR: That might be something we need to address with Savoonga fisherman on another call but I will say to address it really quick is that the NSEDC board meet this week and determined supported

management plan that is going to reserve a percentage of the quota just for Savoonga. That is being addressed in one way with the reservation of quota that's specifically for Savoonga. Again that's something that we are going to be reaching out to Savoonga fisherman that we can meet specific on that fishery.

- **Will they have a fish buyer in Golovin?**
 - TR: NSEDC plans are to have all of our buying stations as we have had in past seasons. We'll have our land base stations in Golovin, Elim, Koyuk, and Shaktoolik as we've had in the past. We'll look at having a tender available in Norton Bay too as we've had in the past. At this point our plan is, with added protection of course, but to have our operations functioning more or less as normal we've plan to have all locations previously just with some more protection in place and trying to keep our employees and fisherman with as much distance as possible.
- **Will fisher buys have to have something to and fisherman?**
 - TR: The fisherman where our protocols interact with fisherman is essential that we are keeping fisherman out of our facilities as much as we can. If fisherman need ice, or items from us we are requesting that they call us in advance and that we arrange for them to pick up gear, bait, or items like that. As well as fish ticketing we are having fisherman doing that in a specific location. I know that it is going to be a departure on how we normal operate but we need to ask and make sure fisherman are not coming into our fish plants, into our buying station, connex or any other buildings there. It's really to protect the fisherman, it's to protect our employees, and to protect or season. If we have an issue where we have people getting sick and have to shut down a plant or take tender vessels offline it's really going to be everybody that hurts because we're not going to be able to service the fisherman and fishery's to our full extent. People's health is primary but also its preserving that opportunity for that fishery too. It's important on so many levels that people understand that if we are asking employees to wear face mask that they do that, if we are asking fisherman to please not come in the connex or the break room that it's really to make sure we continue buying your fish and keeping everyone health.
- **Is NSEDC testing the cannery workers before season or right now?**
 - TR: That is our plan and it sounds like we will be able to work with Norton Sound on testing that is going to work for us. If the capacity is there we would like to do it.
- **Suggestion was made to NSEDC about punch tickets.**
- **Is it possible to get a false positive and why would somebody get a false positive?**
 - Dr. P: What we can tell you is that a false positive test on any of the equipment that is out there to test for COVID-19 is very rare. Any positive test we have to assume is true positive. Why might be falsely positive? There are a number of different facts that can cause a false positive. There's not a common reason for a positive to be a false

positive. It would not have to do with antibodies build up or anything like that. False positives are very rare and any positives that we get we are going to assume that it's a true positive. Remember that even if you tested the patient again a day or two after and they were negative you still have to assume that initial positive was true positive because a person body changes day to day and maybe their positive and they are negative a day or two later. We will assume every positive is a true positive in that case. Causes for positive for a false positive. It's probably more likely not processing the sample correctly or cross contaminating the sample or something like that. That would be likely cause for false positives. Those are really rare.

- **MM: We did send in request to the state and federal government for assistance in helping us get some supply. I have gotten reached out to by a few local business and travel communities in assistance in locating supplies for businesses. Keep those reach out coming if they have questions.**
- **How are other village communities dealing with enforcing quarantine?**
 - Diomede gave their example on how they are trying to enforce in their community.
- **Are patients supposed to quarantine in Nome when coming from Anchorage?**
 - Dr. P: Every village has their travel requirements and the City of Nome has their travel requirements. Right now the City of Nome says that if someone has been in Anchorage and is coming to Nome they have to quarantine for 14 days or quarantine for 7 days with testing on both ends. That's the City of Nome's requirement. Each village also has requirements that might be the same or something more than that so you have to look at which village it is and look at their requirements. If somebody is coming from Anchorage to the village and the village is their final destination, if the village allows it, they can travel through Nome to the village and do their quarantine in the village. If the village is their final destination and the village is okay with their doing their final quarantine there than that's okay to do. They will either quarantine in Nome, quarantine in the village, or some villages will have you quarantine in Nome and the village.
- **Between traveling from Gambell and Savoonga do they still need to fill out the travel permit?**
 - Dr. P: There is no state or region permit between Savoonga and Gambell. Would need to see what Savoonga and Gambell requirements are.
 - AH: Understanding is that patient from Anchorage are to quarantine in Nome before they go to Savoonga. We have had cases where they have been approved to travel on through and we have received that permission directly from the village of Savoonga otherwise we stop them here. We will continue to do so and keep our eye out for those patients coming through. Really appreciate Savoonga working with us with those patients. Do have a question the Gambell to Savoonga travel and the only information that was given on that is that if patients are

	<p>travel to Savoonga for dental purposes is that Savoonga prefers that they stay in their quarantine housing rather than family members in Savoonga but have not been told that they have to fill out any particular permit or that they need to quarantine specifically if they go to Gambell. Any update that you all have we would love to have so that we can continue to abide by.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dr. P: Savoonga is meeting tonight on their travel bans and will try and call in to their call and will mention the concern but it is ultimately their decision.○ Discussion was held on quarantining in the villages and suggestions were made.
--	---