

RurALCAP's ACTION REPORTS

RurALCAP



Partners for Progress
with Alaska's Communities

The weekly newsletter of the NON-PROFIT, PRIVATE CORPORATION
which serves rural Alaska in the battle against poverty in our state.

An information and education function of Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.



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Head Start children in Kwethluk are fascinated by the movie projector being operated by Larry Brayton, RurALCAP executive director. Brayton visited Kwethluk in Mid-January and used the Head Start Center to show filmstrips on reindeer herding he had taken in Lapland two months ago. Kwethluk, about 20 miles upriver from Bethel, has traditionally been a reindeer-herding area.

RurALCAP Studies Decentralization

With the ultimate goal of providing regional autonomy by 1970, Rural Alaska Community Action Program's planning committee has recommended that RurALCAP begin decentralization of responsibilities and authority in budgets and programs immediately.

The planning committee and the RurALCAP task force have estimated it will take about one year to train the regional boards and directors in the necessary skills for planning and administering their own budgets and programs.

In order to assume the responsibilities of administration for RurALCAP programs in their own areas, the 10 local advisory boards and development corporations set up by RurALCAP last year will all have to be legally incorporated.

Five of the boards are either already incorporated or are in the process of being incorporated. Alaska Legal Services, a delegate agency of RurALCAP, is now working on getting all the boards legally incorporated.

The planning committee has said the boards and regional directors will need training in how to prepare budgets, policy making, developing priorities, job functions and responsibilities of office staff, mechanics of meetings, planning and project development, and hiring and terminating personnel.

The committee has also recommended that a Regional Directors' Association be formed to permit directors to coordinate and to learn from each other's activities.

The regional centers would be asked to submit monthly budget reports for specific, funded programs and for center operations.

The planning committee has recommended that travel for area community developers and regional directors be left

Seventh Alcoholic Center Established

The effort to educate Alaskans on the danger, problems and remedies of alcoholism took another step forward last week with the establishment in Kodiak of RurALCAP's seventh alcoholic information center.

Mrs. Betty McCallum, in charge of RurALCAP's alcoholic information program, spent several days in Kodiak meeting with leading officials and making public appearances to speak on the program.

Mrs. McCallum said literature racks were set up in the RurALCAP Kodiak Regional Action Center and would be available to the public there in the future. Kelly Simeonoff, the new director of the center, will be in charge of the information program in Kodiak.

In getting the program off to an

active start, Mrs. McCallum met with and explained the program to John Mason, Kodiak district court judge; LaVon Chorba, district welfare representative; Ingobeorg Nylund, Public Health nurse; Dr. Bob Johnson, who has been instrumental in the mental health program in Kodiak; Larry Craig, chairman of the Council on Alcoholism; and Lola Harvey, reporter for the Kodiak Mirror Newspaper.

Just last month, Mrs. McCallum also established information centers in Fort Yukon and Kotzebue.

At Fort Yukon, an information center was set up in the RurALCAP Regional Action Center, where Center Director Donald Peter is supervisor, and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings were reactivated in the town. Mrs. McCallum spent two days

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RurALCAP Plans for Regional Autonomy

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to the discretion of regional directors, with the responsibility of seeing that such travel is not abused also going to the regional directors.

A pilot program allowing the center directors such authority is scheduled to be implemented in the Bethel and Fort Yukon areas during February and March, according to Frank Peterson, RurALCAP outreach coordinator.

He said the directors will decide who will travel and when, with travel in accordance to budget limitations.

Peterson also said the Alaska Area Training Committee of the Western Community Action Training, Inc., (WCATI) is considering ways to meet the training needs of the local boards and directors.

WCATI has allocated a \$32,000 training grant for the Alaska community action agencies this year and the committee must decide how best to use that grant. The committee met in Anchorage

Jan. 21-22 and set up a permanent training committee and elected permanent officers. The group outlined training needs of the people, but did not adopt a definite proposal for meeting those needs.

Frank Peterson, who had served as chairman of the interim training committee, was elected permanent chairman at the Jan. 21 meeting. Roy Ewan of Gakona and Mrs. Jewell Mason of Anchorage were elected vice chairman and secretary, respectively.

Feb. 21 has been set for the next meeting of the committee to decide on a training plan. Chuck Harrison, who last year spent several weeks evaluating the training needs in rural Alaska as a consultant with the Northwest Center for Community Action Training, is expected to attend the Anchorage meeting to present several training plans for consideration.

Health Service Begins Classes

The Alaska Area Native Health Service has initiated twelve instruction courses for 115 Aides in Alaska's villages.

The first classes began in Bethel January 13 and were completed there January 24. All of the twelve courses were scheduled between January and May 29.

Donovan C. Shook, Chief, Office of Training Services for the Alaska Area, reports that more than \$22,000 has already gone out to some of its aides in the special PHS payment arrangement which began for services given in October. The Public Health Service has been working on a plan to eventually pay all of its Health Aides.

Mrs. R. Elaine Arrington, a public health nurse, has been employed as the second instructor for the Alaska Native Community Health Program (ANCHAT). She will assume her official duties in mid-January, according to Shook. Mrs. Arrington will join Mrs. Eva Boyce, coordinator and instructor for the ANCHAT Program for the past year.

The group's instruction will be monitored by Mrs. Arrington before the undertaking of subsequent courses in Bethel, Kakanak, and Kotzebue. Mrs. Boyce, meanwhile, will teach courses in Tanana and Anchorage during the same period.

In order to be paid, aides must indicate in writing their willingness to serve under the direction of a Health professional, be designated by their village council or other official group, and have their status as having been on duty verified by the Service Unit Director in the region in which their community is located.

Seventh Alcoholic Center Established

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talking to school children about the problem of alcoholism while she was in Fort Yukon.

In Kotzebue, literature on alcoholism was dispersed at both the Public Health Service Hospital and the RurALCAP regional center.

RurALCAP has established other alcoholic information centers in the Nome, Juneau and Bethel RurALCAP Regional Action Centers, as well as in the Anchorage Welcome Center.



The trouble with this fruitless hunting is that it leaves a guy with too much time to think. Now if I were in Washington. . .

OEO Summarizes Rights of Poor

The Office of Economic Opportunity has released the following summary on rights of the poor in the community action program. OEO's complete policy on participation of the poor is outlined in OEO Instruction 6005-1.

Poor people in the community action program have a right to:

1. Organize themselves into workable and responsible neighborhood or target area groups to take action on problems and issues of poverty that concern them and to be given help (technical assistance, training, staff assistance and funds where possible) by the community action agency to strengthen their ability to act effectively to erase poverty.
2. Take part in major policy decisions regarding the planning and operation of the community action agency and its delegate agencies through their democratically - selected representatives on the Board.
3. Be fully informed about the policies and operations of all community action agency and delegate agency programs.
4. Expect the community action agency to provide a forum in which they can make their views known to the community on the poverty problems of the community as they see them and can propose solutions to clear up those problems.
5. Attend and take part in all public board and public policy making committee meetings of the community action agency, its delegate agencies, and neighborhood or target area councils.
6. Be assured that the community action agency is providing job and career development opportunities for poor people through the community action agency and its delegate agencies.
7. Suggest needed programs which should be considered for funds from the community action agency, the Office of Economic Opportunity, and other local, State or Federal sources of funds. (Funding proposals should be submitted through the community action agency.)
8. Obtain OEO Instructions, guidance, and program handbooks that have



Walter Sellens, BIA supervisor for the housing project in Lower Kalskag, is shown here inside one of the new houses he finished himself with his young friend, Miss Dora, niece of the local supervisor, Sinka Williams. Local residents in the village completed 17 log houses last month. The homes were built during the process of moving the village back from the Kuskokwim River. The project was sponsored and funded by BIA. Operation Mainstream sponsored by RurALCAP, assisted by providing \$17,000 for training men in construction of homes.

9. been distributed to the community action agencies and have an opportunity to comment on OEO draft instructions sent to community action agencies for opinions. (These comments should be attached to any response made by the community action agency to the Office of Economic Opportunity.)
9. Expect the community action agency to work for involvement of the poor in the planning and the conduct of other local public and private agencies or organizations serving the poor community.
10. Petition for representation if they feel their organizations are not adequately represented on the community action agency board and be heard in a public hearing to be held by the community action agency after it has received the petition.
11. Express themselves, either as individuals or groups, directly to the Office of Economic Opportunity Regional Offices and Headquarters if they have complaints about the operation of OEO-funded programs.

Representatives of the poor have the right to:

1. Raise to the attention of the com-

munity through the forum provided by the community action agency the problems and issues of poverty which must be faced.

2. Participate fully in the activities of the community action agency board.
3. Be fully informed and provided with the necessary tools, including training, technical and staff assistance, to permit them to participate fully in the activities of the community action agency board.
4. Be assured that community action agency board and committee meetings are run under open democratic procedures, that meetings are held at a time and place convenient to the representatives of the poor.

Representatives of the poor have an obligation to:

Represent the views of their constituency (those they were selected to represent) in the meetings of the community action agency and its delegate agencies, report back to their neighborhood or target area fully about the meetings and the progress of the community action agency, and discuss with their constituency the issues which will come before the next board meeting to get their directions and contributions.

Regional Boards Schedule Meetings

- Feb. 7 - 8 Copper Valley - Prince William Sound Development Board meets in Copper Center.
- Feb. 13-14 Kikiktugruk Regional Development Board meets in Kotzebue.
- Feb. 17-18 Kodiak Regional Development Corp. Board meets in Kodiak. (revised from Feb. 10 - 11)
- Feb. 18-19 RurALCAP Board of Directors meets in Kodiak.
- Feb. 27-28 Upper Yukon Development Corp. Regional Board meets in Ft. Yukon.
- March 4 an evaluation seminar on the Bethel prefabricated housing project has been called by the Alaska State Housing Authority for March 4 in Bethel. All interested persons and agencies are invited to participate.
- March 6-7 Bering Strait Inupiat Board and Norton Sound Regional Board will meet in Nome. The earlier meeting scheduled for Jan. 18-19 in Teller was cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

RurALCAP's ACTION REPORTS welcomes news items and reports on Community problems, special projects and progress in all parts of rural Alaska where the war against poverty is being waged. Community workers are urged to send reports on any items of interest to this paper at the address listed below.



Mrs. Mike (Patty) Hammersmith, secretary in RurALCAP's main office, gets a close look at fur items made by the skin sewing class at the RurALCAP regional action center in Nome. The products - - hats, parkas, slipper, mukluks, mittens and dolls - - were on their way to the Alyeska Ski Resort near Anchorage for display and sale. Almost 30 persons are participating in the Nome skin-sewing project now.

Kodiak Child Care Center Evaluated

The Kodiak Child Day-Care Center, open since Sept. 2, is now in its fourth month of providing day care at a reduced rate for children of low-income parents!

Mrs. Rose Ann Goodman, director of the RurALCAP-sponsored center, estimates the monetary value of care provided free of charge or at a reduced charge has amounted to \$324 during October, November and December.

Mrs. Betty McCallum, who formerly worked for the state licensing foster homes and is now a social worker for RurALCAP, visited the center recently and said she was impressed both with the administration of the center and its

equipment.

The children seemed to be "used to being well disciplined and this discipline was combined in a wholesome manner with love and freedom and movement," Mrs. McCallum said.

She also said she was impressed by the variety of toys at the center. The center has scooters, rocking toys, a reading circle with books and quiet toys, and a kitchen with sink, cabinets, stove and dishes all scaled down to a child's size.

Mrs. Goodman has arranged a sliding pay scale so that a mother can pay as little as \$1 per day for the care of her children depending upon her salary.

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