

NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA INDIAN HEALTH BOARD
Celebrating 32 years of leadership for the Pacific Northwest Tribes

NPAIHB Alumni Association Newsletter-Online

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2004

Welcome to the NPAIHB Alumni Association Newsletter-Online, Fall 04 edition. The newsletter will be published quarterly and feature an article about former NPAIHB employees, their families, and NPAIHB news. It is the goal of NPAIHB to provide a friendly forum for former employees to share, have fun and stay in tune with the Board's happenings.

NPAIHB Mission Statement

“To assist Northwest tribes to improve the health status and quality of life of member tribes and Indian people in their delivery of culturally appropriate and holistic health care.”

Inside This Issue:

- From the desk of Ed Fox, NPAIHB Executive Director
- Honoring Donna Starr
- What's new in the educational arena
- Movin' on
- Babies and more





From the desk of Ed Fox, Executive Director, NPAIHB

July Board Meeting

We had an excellent attendance at our July Board meeting at the Red Lion Hotel in Port Angeles, Washington. The Makah Tribe provided delegates a full day of activities, including a tour of their wonderful museum, free time to explore the reservation in its stunningly beautiful setting, and a wonderful cultural evening of food, song, and dance. Delegates learned much about the Makah culture through all these activities. The interpretations of the 'family songs' were very informative and reminded us of the great oral traditions of our tribes. Jim Roberts and I were honored to receive our Makah names; I am now 'silver salmon' (coho, or Tsooit and Jim is King Salmon). The Port Gamble S'Klallam tribe also assisted in the meeting by providing presentations from their very innovative drug court collaboration with the local county officials. With the beautiful sunny skies and the hospitality of the two tribes and the local county officials, we felt very welcome and comfortable for our summer meeting where many of us felt as though it were a relaxing working vacation. Linda Holt was elected Vice Chair in Bob Brisbois' absence. Since Bob's election defeat, we incorrectly assumed that he was no longer our Spokane Tribe delegate, but we learned in September that the tribe has reaffirmed their selection of Bob as their delegate. Thank you Spokane tribe for sharing Bob with the Board. He brings great knowledge, hard work, and fierce advocacy to our fight to improve Indian health status and respect for our tribes.

Tribal Technical Advisory Group:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Tribal Technical Advisory Group continues to meet in very active teleconferences. The first task of this group is to guide the implementation of the Medicare Modernization Act. The most important role of all remains separate from and outside the scope of duties of the TTAG: advocating for policies such as the establishment of Indian health as an entitlement, which, once established, will be administered by CMS.

State meetings:

The American Indian Health Commission in Washington state continues to have well-attended and productive meetings. At the March 5th. Meeting, Jim gave his usual update of the health issues being tracked by the Board. The AIHC also has a very active workgroup looking at the development of a Benefits Package, and I attended their last meeting at the Puyallup Tribe. Jim has been very active in Idaho working with many new tribal representatives at that state's meetings. Oregon, more so than the other two states, continues to reduce programs, and we utilize the state meetings to make our view known.

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From the desk of Ed Fox, Executive Director, NPAIHB

NPAIHB Personnel:

This quarter saw some changes in personnel: Liling Sherry has returned to the Board as the director of the Cancer Control Project; Mylen Shenker has resigned as the Board's Finance Officer; and the Board has hired Chris Sanford as the Network Administrator, formerly held by Brian Moss who moved with his family to Nebraska (to be near his wife's family.) The Board is also hiring a Human Resources Director this fall. This position promises to raise the level of support for professional and organizational development at the Board and ensures personnel practices meet Board, state, and federal guidelines.

Lobbying Activities:

Finally, I want to thank all the tribes who sent in donations to our lobbying fund-in a year with such dismal results for the Indian Health Service Budget and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. It is always hard to say where we would be if we did not go to Washington DC to lobby, but I truly believe that the work of the Board still earns the respect of the Administration, Congress, tribes and tribal organizations nationwide. I know it is hard to tell when we are lobbying and when we are simply serving on workgroups, but I am very clear in the division of these activities so we follow all federal lobbying restrictions on the use of federal funds.

What's New

Donna Starr

Ms. Donna Starr, former NPAIHB delegate is currently completing her Bachelor of Arts Degree through the tribal college at Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA. Ms. Starr's educational endeavors and dreams were interrupted by other demands on her life, including serving as an NPAIHB Delegate for 25 years, tribal health director, and an advocate for preserving the Muckelshoot tribal language and culture. "I've always hoped to go away to college," she said. "Now I'm in college with my own flesh and blood. ... I see the young people at Muckelshoot going a lot further in their lives."

WAY TO GO DONNA



Movin' On...

Ms. Crystal Denny
Makah/Neah Bay

Crystal has decided to return home to Neah Bay after serving for several years as Project Assistant for the Western Tribal Diabetes Project (WTDP). Crystal will be contracting with ATNI on several projects.

Good luck Crystal. NPAIHB will miss you and your wonderful personality. Keep studying...

Lynn Delorme

Lynn Delorme, Women's Health Promotion Program Coordinator and Research Specialist has accepted a full-time position as Grant Writer for the Native American Rehabilitation Association Inc. Lynn is working hard to ensure a smooth transition for the new prospective part-time NPAIHB employee who will hold the positions of: Women's Health Promotion Program Coordinator and the Research Specialist. "I have been employed at NPAIHB for nine years (not consecutive) and will miss everyone at NPAIHB. However, I am only moving to 1776 SW Madison, Portland, OR 97205 and can be reached from phone (503) 224-1044".

We are glad you will be close by...

What's Going On

Kelly Gonzales-Allen

Ms. Kelly Gonzales-Allen, former WTDP Director, will begin her second year of graduate school...working toward a PhD in Public Health. Ms. Gonzales, a recipient of a research grant from the National Institutes of Health, NIDDK branch, and the National Cancer Institute is spending the summer on her dissertation research project. Through this NIH grant, Kelly is partnering with the Native American Diabetes Program at the University of New Mexico---they wrote the Strong in Body and Spirit diabetes prevention curriculum. Formative data collections began earlier this summer at two Northwest Tribes...trying to identify social, cultural, and environmental factors that influence diabetes self-management in Native women with type 2 diabetes, ages 18 – 44

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years, with data to be completed by mid-August. In addition to this busy and important research project, Kelly also co-taught a diabetes course at the Summer Research Training Institutes for AI/AN Professionals...sponsored by OHSU, IHS, and NPAIHB. AND, together with husband Chris (took ten weeks off this summer-part of the Family Leave Act) spent tons of time with Wren, swimming, walking, singing, and playing.

Sharon Fleming

Your editor is having a nice summer staying busy and working in the garden. I took the summer off from Humboldt State University, but enrolled in one fall class-online. I am hoping to complete certificates in Indian Education and Health & Human Services next semester-online. The good news is that most of these classes will transfer to a master's degree.



(Photo by Crystal Gust)

Kerri, Rachel, & Sharon

The four of us attending the "Taking Control of Your Diabetes" Conference, August 28, 2004, held in Santa Rosa, CA. It was loads of fun visiting with Kerri, Rachel, Crystal, CAO-IHS, DM Coordinators, and others. Thanks Kerri...

Welcome Back

Don Head

Don Head has returned to NPAIHB, having accepted a position as Project Specialist for the WTDP. Don will be providing RPMS technical assistance to the Pacific Northwest tribes with their diabetes package.

Happy Birthday

Wren Gonzales-Allen



Happy belated 1st birthday, (August 17th) to Wren Gonzales-Allen, daughter of former WTDP Director, Kelly Gonzales-Allen and Chris Allen.

New Look

NPAIHB is planning a new look for the Alumni Association Newsletter-Online. We are going to follow NPAIHB's new online format and hope you are going to like next issue's New Look.

Did you enjoy reading this newsletter? Do you have any comments or suggestions? Do you know someone who would like to be added to our alumni association? Please contact Sharon Fleming at: choctaw@neteze.com

THANKS