

December 2013



# Prince of Wales HEALTH NETWORK

COLLABORATING TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE  
ON PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND

*In the past six months, we've continued to make great strides toward improving the health and health care for residents of Prince of Wales Island.*

The Prince of Wales Health Network — a collaborative effort between Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) Alicia Roberts Medical Center, State of Alaska Craig Public Health Center, Community Connections, Alaska Island Community Services (AICS) and PeaceHealth Medical Group Prince of Wales — has played an active role in numerous health and wellness related events on the Island.

**In May**, more than 350 runners and walkers participated in the annual POW International Marathon. **In June**, 350 kids and adults took part in the National Get Outdoors Kids Fishing Derby. **In August**, members of the POW Health Network participated in the Coffman Cove *By The Sea* arts festival, providing the more than 800 attendees with information about various health and wellness topics. **In October**, we launched the Waterfront Wellness Chats, presenting a six-week wellness series, *Living Well Alaska*, Tuesday evenings in Craig. **In November**, 165 people participated in the Veteran's Day Celebration and 45 veterans got signed up with the Veteran's Administration. In addition, 4000 copies of the Health Care Resource Guide were handed out and more than 2000 Youth Activity Guides were given to families, encouraging them to get active with their kids.



## POW Health Network Looks at Funding for Future



The mission of Prince of Wales Health Network is to build a strong, sustainable network of healthcare organizations collaborating to improve the quality and access to healthcare for all island residents. Since its inception five years ago, we've managed to accomplish a lot — improving vaccination rates by 13 percent in nine months; creating the Behavior Health Coalition to address mental health and substance abuse issues; increasing the number of visiting specialists who regularly see patients at clinics around the Island; and providing outreach and education opportunities.

Thus far, funding has been provided in large part through a grant from the Health Resources Administration—which runs out in May 2014. To ensure long-term sustainability, the POW Health Network is now exploring various funding options with its partners and through ongoing community support.



Coffman Cove Clinic's Grand Opening with CEO Mark Walker on right.

## Did you know?

*The POW Health Network is often used for leverage for grant applications — providing letter of support and other proof of collaboration requirements for many agencies on the Island.*

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS** has joined the Health Network. Welcome to the table Abbie Blackshire and Bess Clark. We all look forward to working with you!

## Enhancing Behavioral Health

We're experiencing enhanced Behavioral Health services on the Island by increasing the capacity of providers and the community! SEARHC has added more Behavioral Health clinicians and support staff. Deniese Weyhmilller and Beverly Rivard join Pete Ryan to round out the BH team at SEARHC. SEARHC and the Division of BH also made some changes to improve Title 47 transports. Telemedicine is also improving access to BH services.



Elizabeth Brummett  
AKCIS Behavioral Health

## Other Happenings. . .

**Meeting Monthly:** A number of providers from partnering agencies, as well as pharmacy and dentistry, meet to discuss Chronic Pain Management and Immunizations.

**Increasing Visiting Clinics:** PeaceHealth added psychiatry and telemedicine with eight specialists (psychiatry, orthopedics, colonoscopy and optometry) visiting with an average of 15 patients per day each month. The \$250 per specialist visit for travel has an excellent ROI. Most patients would pay about \$1000 traveling to get healthcare off Island.

**Providing CMEs:** for providers and BH clinicians including: telemedicine, SEREMs symposium, veteran's telemedicine, veteran's PTSD, batteries trainings, chronic pain management, and Living Well Alaska.



## Steering Committee Members

Joyce Moore, *Alicia Roberts*  
Clinic Administrator

Cindy Baldwin-Kitka, *SEARHC*  
Behavioral Health Director

Janice Sheufelt, MD, *SEARHC*  
Medical Director

Mark Walker, *AICS*  
Executive Director

Bess Clark, *Community Connections*  
Executive Director

Abbie Blackshire, *Community*  
Connections Program Director

Peter Rice, MD, *PeaceHealth*  
Medical Director

Michele Budd, *PeaceHealth VP*  
Ambulatory Services

Colleen Watson, RN, *Craig Public*  
Health Center

Special thanks to  
Jon Wunrow for  
writing the next



HRSA grant request for POW  
Health Network this year.

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## NETWORK SUCCESSSES



→ In 2013, the Network helped form a branch of POW Lions Club.

→ The Behavioral Health Coalition helped launched the Green Dot Initiative. Currently five trainings have been held on POW.

→ Devra Milam, Alaska Legal Services, joined us for the Veteran's Outreach in November, helping a number of our veterans by providing them with resources and options.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Congratulations to Kasaan on their new Health Clinic building as well as to Coffman Cove who recently opened their new Clinic.*

the **save**  
**DATE**

**2014 Health Fair**  
Saturday, April 5, 2014  
Craig High School

*The Prince of Wales Health Network is currently funded by a federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Office of Rural Health Policy.*

## Prince of Wales Health Network

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