

2024 ALPHA Health Summit

Event Schedule

Mon, Jan 29, 2024

12:00 PM

The Arts of Traditional Healing Pre-Conference Workshop Begins - Lunch

🕒 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, Jan 29

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

Lunch will be provided. Lunch is Chicken Piccata - Pan seared chicken with mushrooms, capers, lemon with a white wine cream sauce, served with sundried tomato and herb risotto, and a medley of fresh vegetables.

Please contact christy@logisticsllc.com if you need another option for your meal.

1:00 PM

Workshop Opening

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:10 PM, Jan 29

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

1:10 PM

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

🕒 1:10 PM - 1:20 PM, Jan 29

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

1:20 PM

Grounding into Presence with Storytelling, Breathwork, and Intention

🕒 1:20 PM - 1:30 PM, Jan 29

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

1:30 PM

Presentation on Traditional Healing: Past, Present, & Future

🕒 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM, Jan 29

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

2:30 PM

Break

🕒 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM, Jan 29

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

2:45 PM

Embodied Movement

🕒 2:45 PM - 3:00 PM, Jan 29

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

3:00 PM

Values Reflection

🕒 3:00 PM - 3:20 PM, Jan 29

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

3:20 PM

Sensory Experience and Sharing Circle

🕒 3:20 PM - 3:45 PM, Jan 29

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

3:45 PM

Closing Words

🕒 3:45 PM - 3:55 PM, Jan 29

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

3:55 PM

Workshop Closing

🕒 3:55 PM - 4:00 PM, Jan 29

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

Tue, Jan 30, 2024

7:30 AM

Registration

🕒 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM, Jan 30

📍 3rd Floor Lobby

8:30 AM

Welcome

🕒 8:30 AM - 8:45 AM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

8:45 AM

Public Health Workforce and Value of Public Health

🕒 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

Brian C. Castrucci, DrPH, is an epidemiologist, public health practitioner, and fierce advocate for the public's health. Joining the de Beaumont Foundation in 2012 as its third employee, Dr. Castrucci assumed the role of president and chief executive officer in 2018. With the help of a strong team, Dr. Castrucci has built the Foundation into a leading voice in health philanthropy and public health practice. Prior to joining the de Beaumont Foundation, Dr. Castrucci worked for a decade as an applied epidemiologist and held leadership positions at the Georgia Department of Health, Texas Department of State Health Services, and Philadelphia Department of Health. Dr. Castrucci is a highly sought-after expert in public health systems and infrastructure, contributing his insights through interviews and editorials in publications such as *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, the *Associated Press*, and *Politico*. He also has made appearances on major news networks including *CNN*, *MSNBC*, *NPR*, *BBC*, *Fox News*, and several local television affiliates. He has authored over 90 peer-reviewed publications cited nearly 4,000 times and co-edited eight books.

🗣️ Speaker



Brian Castrucci

President and CEO
De Beaumont Foundation - Bethesda, MD

9:45 AM

Break - Please feel free to visit the Exhibitors in the lobby

🕒 9:45 AM - 10:00 AM, Jan 30

📍 3rd Floor Lobby

10:00 AM

Listening to Alaska Project

🕒 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

While Alaska's medical community sees a wide variety of patient trauma related to violence, historically, sexual assault victims have been the only group of patients to receive time-limited medical forensic evaluation. To promote patient equity and better meet the training needs of all Alaska's health care professionals (e.g., EMS, health aides, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physicians), a comprehensive generalist forensic training program was recently developed and tested. This training, the Alaska Comprehensive Forensic Training Academy (ACFTA) aims to meet the needs of Alaska's broad health care professionals to learn effective trauma informed care and provide forensic medical care to all victims of violence across the lifespan. This presentation will seek interact with public health professionals to share the importance of promoting equity of care for all victims of violence, promote awareness of ACFTA's comprehensive forensic training for all levels of health care professionals, and obtain public health professionals' input to enhance currently available training.

🗨️ Speakers



Angelia Trujillo, DNP, MSN, RN, WHNP-BC

Professor
University of Alaska Anchorage, School of Nursing



Kathi Trawver

Exploring COVID-19 misinformation on Alaska-based social media

🕒 10:00 AM - 10:20 AM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

The COVID-19 pandemic ushered in an influx of misinformation and false narratives, triggering an infodemic of unparalleled magnitude. Natural language processing is emerging as a novel method of gaining insight into infodemics, particularly when working with large datasets where traditional qualitative methods can be resource intensive. In this study, we explore COVID-19 misinformation on Alaska-based social media using a topic modeling technique called Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA).

🗨️ Speaker



Emily Maxwell

Health Communications Specialist II
Goldbelt, Incorporated

Testing for Microplastics in Alaska

🕒 10:00 AM - 10:20 AM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

Awareness of microplastic proliferation has become higher over the past several years. Most of the research, however, is conducted in the middle regions of the globe and focuses on ocean water and marine fish. This presentation reports the initial findings on microplastic proliferation conducted in the Alaska Pacific University Chemistry lab on fresh water and drinking water sources in rural and urban areas in Alaska.

🗨️ Speaker



Dee Barker

Associate Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Sciences
Alaska Pacific University

10:25 AM

Improving Vaccine Communication to Increase Coverage Rates

🕒 10:25 AM - 10:45 AM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

During the COVID-19 pandemic, childhood vaccination coverage rates in Alaska declined and have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. The Alaska Immunization Program has undertaken a number of efforts to rebuild trust in public health through increasing education and awareness efforts related to immunizations and addressing vaccine hesitancy. Through these efforts and countless conversations between medical providers and patients, vaccination rates have improved for infants and kindergarten-aged children over the past year.

🗣️ Speaker



Sarah Aho
DOH

Food sovereignty in the Chugach Region

🕒 10:25 AM - 10:45 AM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

Food security and food sovereignty are topics of importance in Alaska, though not clearly defined or measured across the state. This presentation will highlight a food sovereignty questionnaire that was conducted in the Chugach region of Alaska by the Chugach Regional Resource Commission. The intended audience of this presentation are public health professionals across the state who are interested in learning about or better supporting food security and food sovereignty across the state. They will play an active part by exploring opportunities for collaboration and next steps.

🗣️ Speakers



Amanda Walch
University of Alaska



Joseph Nyholm

10:45 AM

Break - Please feel free to visit the Exhibitors in the lobby

🕒 10:45 AM - 11:00 AM, Jan 30

📍 3rd Floor Lobby

11:00 AM

Extending the Lifeline: Innovation, Health Equity and Sexual Health

🕒 11:00 AM - 11:40 AM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

Alaska leads the nation in chlamydia rates per capita and ranks in the top 4 states for gonorrhea cases. Positivity rates for syphilis and congenital syphilis are increasing to a concerning level, inspiring the state's Chief Medical Officer to send Alaska's providers a special notification about testing and treatment for syphilis and sexual transmitted infections (STI) in general. For 40 years, Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic (KBFPC), a State of Alaska Title X sub-recipient, has been supporting low- and no-cost access to reproductive and sexual health on the Southern Kenai Peninsula in collaboration with a diverse collection of partners including Homer Public Health. Pop-Up Clinics at Megan's Place in Homer, the Kenai Public Health Center, regional festivals, and community events bring STI services to priority populations where they are needed most. Health Summit attendees will be guided through the project to date with the perspective of both KBFPC and Kenai Public Health; including the successes, challenges, and key takeaways that can be applied in the communities they serve.

Speakers



Claudia Haines

CEO
Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic



Christine Kilby, MSN, MPH, NP-C, APRN

Protective Childhood Experiences Spotlight

 11:00 AM - 11:20 AM, Jan 30

 Tikahtnu E&F

Alaskan public health organizations have amassed a wealth of information concerning Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Now, the focus shifts to a crucial aspect: understanding the interplay between ACEs and Protective Childhood Experiences (PCEs) to decipher how they either alleviate, or exacerbate, the risk of adult health outcomes and behaviors. The recently conducted Overcoming ACEs with Resilience Survey (OARS) took a comprehensive approach, measuring PCEs at various socio-ecological levels alongside ACEs, and adult health outcomes and behaviors. This presentation will offer an overview of the OARS project, present findings that delve into how PCEs, both individually and collectively, shape health outcomes within the context of ACEs and the surrounding environment.

Speaker



Riley Fitting

Injury Prevention Epidemiologist
Alaska Department of Health

One Health applications in Public Health

 11:00 AM - 11:20 AM, Jan 30

 Tikahtnu C&D

One Health is an interdisciplinary, cross cultural approach to problems that focus on the interdependence of human, animal, and environmental health. We will discuss how One Health is applied to research, education, and outreach opportunities with public health implications. This presentation is aimed at a wide audience to include tribal health, public health professionals, veterinarians, medical professionals, youth, academics, and community members.

🗣️ Speakers



Arleigh Reynolds, DVM, PhD, DACVIM

Director
UAF Center For One Health Research



Alisa Alexander

Deputy Director, Center for One Health Research
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

11:25 AM

Enhancing Maternal Health and Child Health Through Asking About Alcohol Use

🕒 11:25 AM - 11:45 AM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

Despite more than fifty years of research linking alcohol-exposed pregnancies with birth defects, alcohol use during pregnancy continues to be a major public health problem and cause of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs). As members of the largest group of licensed health professionals in the U.S., nurse practitioners (NPs), certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), and nurses are ideally positioned to identify and educate clients towards the prevention and reduction of FASDs and other health issues associated with excessive alcohol use. However, research suggests there are gaps in nursing education and practice guidelines related to the prevention of FASDs. This session describes the results of a 2023 survey conducted by the CDC-funded Women's Health Nurses and Midwives Collaboration for Alcohol-Free Pregnancy (WHNMCAP), a partnership among the University of Alaska Anchorage's Center for Behavioral Health Research and Services and national nursing professional organizations.

🗣️ Speakers



Hannah Rebadulla

Graduate Research Assistant
University of Alaska Anchorage Center for Behavioral Research and Services



Alexandra Edwards

Senior Research Professional
University of Alaska Anchorage, Center for Behavioral Health Research & Services

Developing a historical air quality dataset in Alaska for health assessments

🕒 11:25 AM - 11:45 AM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

Particulate matter $<2.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (PM_{2.5}) is an EPA-regulated air pollutant due to its health impacts. Although the number of Alaska communities hosting lower-cost air quality monitors is increasing, most have no historical air quality information, limiting epidemiologic investigations of PM_{2.5} exposure. The increasing severity and frequency of wildfires in the state contributes a new seasonal source of PM_{2.5}. Researchers at the University of Alaska Anchorage and Fairbanks are building a public historical wildfire smoke PM_{2.5} dataset for the state of Alaska.

🗣️ Speaker



Nelsha Athauda

Research Professional
UAA Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies

11:45 AM

Lunch and Awards Ceremony

🕒 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

Box lunches can be picked up in the Exhibitor Area in the 3rd floor lobby area.

1:00 PM

Poster Sessions and Networking

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM, Jan 30

📍 3rd Floor Lobby

Healthy Alaskans 2030

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:20 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

Healthy Alaskans 2030 (HA2030) is the State Health Improvement Plan for Alaska that contains the most important health topics that Alaska as a state must improve upon. The HA2030 Plan is organized into 30 Health Objectives, each with a target that must be reached by the year 2030. Each year, scorecards are published that show progress made towards each of the Healthy Alaskans targets. This session will present: a brief overview of the newly published scorecard; a walk through of the HA2030 website to show where the scorecards and other data are located; a panel of Healthy Alaskans Team members that will speak about the ways in they utilize HA2030 data and align with HA2030 goals; attendee interaction in the form of an exercise by which they will document on a form how their work or organization aligns with or potentially may align with HA2030; and a question and answer session with attendees.

🗣️ Speakers



Lisa McGuire

Organizational Improvement Manager
State of Alaska Division of Public Health



Marcia Howell

Executive director
Center for safe alaskans

My Best Alaska Life

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:20 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

Alaskan youth lead the nation in gonorrhea and chlamydia infection rates. Contraceptives are inconsistently used, with 46% of youth not using condoms during their last sexual intercourse and 15% not using any pregnancy prevention method. Alaskan youth also experience disproportionately high rates of suicidality and hopelessness, and poor mental health is related to high risk sexual behaviors. The My Best Alaskan Life (MBAL) digital tool is a preventive approach to support young adult health practices, designed by and for Alaskan youth. This presentation will explore benefits of using the RLP in supporting youth sexual and mental health decision making. We will also provide an overview of MBAL's culturally-specific modules and evidence-supported materials. Finally, we will offer insights on effective community and youth engagement in co-designing interventions, presenting strategies that researchers can use in their own co-developed youth-driven preventive interventions.

📣 Speakers



Lauren Lessard

Assistant Professor
Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies



Alex Mahanna

Graduate Research Assistant
University of Alaska Anchorage

5 Minute Lighting Talks

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:47 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

1. Becoming Human: Finding Our Humanity as Helpers Once Again
2. Ethics and Equity: the next 50 years
3. Alaska Mortality Analysis by Industry Occupation
4. Program improves diet & BMI for older adults
5. Incarceration, Reentry, and Public Health in Alaska
6. Improving Health for Queer Alaskans Through Existing Research & Recommendations
7. Alaska Division of Public Health Data Hub
8. Cash Transfers and Traumatic Injuries: Evidence from Alaska

8 Subsessions

● **Becoming Human: Finding Our Humanity as Helpers Once Again**

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:05 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● **Ethics and Equity: the next 50 years**

🕒 1:06 PM - 1:11 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● **Alaska Mortality Analysis by Industry and Occupation**

🕒 1:12 PM - 1:17 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● **Program improves diet & BMI for older adults**

🕒 1:18 PM - 1:23 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● **Incarceration, Reentry, and Public Health in Alaska**

🕒 1:24 PM - 1:29 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● **Improving Health for Queer Alaskans Through Existing Research & Recommendations**

🕒 1:30 PM - 1:35 PM, Jan 30

● **Alaska Division of Public Health Data Hub**

🕒 1:36 PM - 1:41 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● **Cash Transfers and Traumatic Injuries: Evidence from Alaska**

🕒 1:42 PM - 1:47 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

1:25 PM

Measuring Change for Anti-Racist Programs

🕒 1:25 PM - 1:45 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

In 2011, the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice launched the first-of-its-kind Public Health Management Certificate (PHMC) program. The curriculum emphasized core management functions and was designed specifically for governmental public health professionals to develop concrete skills in managing people and teams, money, and information to improve their programs. This presentation will share highlights from the program's journey of conducting an anti-racism audit and implementing an initial round of changes, as well as share the audit tool and other resources that were developed throughout the process. Session participants will have the opportunity to explore these resources and consider how they could be used in their own projects and programs.

🗣️ Speakers



Barbara Rose
Training & Outreach Manager
Northwest Center for Public Health Practice



Christine Ector
Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

I Want the Kit': Improving access to STI testing within Alaska

🕒 1:25 PM - 1:45 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

Alaskans are disproportionately affected by higher rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), when compared to the rest of the nation. Limited access to testing, prevention options and follow up care or treatment are a few of the challenges that contribute to higher rates of HIV and STIs across the state. 'I Want the Kit' (IWTK) is a program that provides free testing options for STIs and follow up linkage to care. IWTK has been operating in partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) to provide this program to Alaskans statewide for free. Historically, IWTK testing options have been for two STIs, including Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. Upcoming changes to the IWTK program will allow for expanded testing options, including: HIV, Hepatitis B and C, as well as Syphilis. Public health staff, outreach workers, non-profit staff, clinical staff and others who are interested in improving access to care for rural and Alaska Native populations and/or who are interested in sexual health and wellness may benefit from this session and hands-on tools.

🗣️ Speakers



Josephine Edwards
HIV/STD Prevention Program Coordinator
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium



Hannah Gumlickpuk
hegumlickpuk@anthc.org
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

1:45 PM

Break - Please feel free to visit the Exhibitors in the lobby

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:00 PM, Jan 30

📍 3rd Floor Lobby

2:00 PM

Climate Change

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

🗣️ Speaker



Jackie Qataliña Schaeffer
ANTHC, Climate Initiatives

3:00 PM

Closing

🕒 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM, Jan 30

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

Wed, Jan 31, 2024

8:00 AM

Registration

🕒 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM, Jan 31

📍 3rd Floor Lobby

8:30 AM

Welcome

🕒 8:30 AM - 8:45 AM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

8:45 AM

Lessons of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign for public health

🕒 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

👤 **Speaker**



Alfredo Morabia

AJPH

9:45 AM

Break - Please feel free to visit the Exhibitors in the lobby

🕒 9:45 AM - 10:00 AM, Jan 31

📍 3rd Floor Lobby

10:00 AM

Assessing Self-Reported Cannabis Use Patterns Across the State

🕒 10:00 AM - 10:20 AM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

Prenatal cannabis exposure has been associated with brain development in children, including attention, social and behavioral problems. In the U.S. recreational cannabis use is currently legal in 23 states, resulting in its increased availability, and acceptability throughout the country. This study examines substance use patterns in patients who accessed wellness services from a regional affiliate of Planned Parenthood operating in 3 states where recreational cannabis is currently legal (Alaska, Idaho, Washington) and 2 states where it is illegal (Indiana and Kentucky). This information is relevant to healthcare professionals, including clinicians, administrators, support staff, policy-makers, and researchers.

👤 **Speakers**



Carrie Whitmore

Associate Professor
Center for Behavioral Health and Research Services



Faith Green

Research Associate III
University of Alaska Anchorage

Maternal Factors Shaping Pediatric Immunizations Milestones in Alaska

🕒 10:00 AM - 10:20 AM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

Children's vaccination rates in Alaska have declined in recent years. The Alaska Department of Health has a duty to identify gaps in coverage and take action to prevent disease and improve health. We explored factors associated with completing vaccination series among Alaskan children whose mothers participated in the Alaska Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System survey (PRAMS).

🗣 Speaker



Richard Trantow

CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow
State of Alaska

Alaska Blanket Exercise: Increasing Generational Wellness for AN/AI Peoples

🕒 10:00 AM - 10:40 AM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

Research in the areas of historical and complex trauma provides substantial evidence of the adverse health impacts Alaska Native/American Indian (AN/AI) people have experienced as a result of colonization. Health disparities show that AN/AI individuals are at higher risk for experiencing physical and mental health problems, substance use problems, trauma, and violence. Alarming, there is evidence suggesting that healthcare systems and professionals can unknowingly perpetuate racial stereotypes that further increase the risk of health complications and harm among AN/AI patients. A program developed to undo the impacts of colonization and promote healing for AN/AI people is the Alaska Blanket Exercise (ABE). The ABE is an experiential history lesson that tells the story of Alaska Native Peoples. Through an Indigenous storywork approach, the ABE fosters truth, understanding, and reconciliation among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and promotes healing from the impacts of historical trauma.

🗣 Speakers



Jonathan Guerrero

Clinical-Community Psychology Practicum Student
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium



Pamela Bjelland

Student - UAA Masters of Social Work
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

10:25 AM

Local Engagement for Health Equity in Alaska

🕒 10:25 AM - 10:45 AM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted health disparities and inequities in the United States. Responding to this, the US Department of Health and Human Services allocated a \$2.25 billion grant nationwide. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services received \$36,041,076, part of which formed the foundation for Healthy & Equitable Communities (HEC) team. Since establishing, the HEC team has had staff in Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, the Mat Su Valley, and Nome. Empowering individuals familiar with their community's needs not only breaks down barriers but also addresses health inequities and nurtures lasting relationships.

🗣️ Speakers



Alyssa McKenzie

Healthy & Equitable Communities Program Coordinator
Alaska Department of Health



Shawn House

Acting Team Manager - Program Coordinator
State of Alaska - Healthy & Equitable Communities

The Alaska maternal & Child Health Indicators Data Hub: Dashboard, Maps & More

🕒 10:25 AM - 10:45 AM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

The Alaska Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Indicators Data Hub goes beyond just numbers providing a comprehensive view of the health landscape for mothers and children in Alaska. It features eight key MCH indicator reports for Alaska, from preterm births to infant mortality. Each report is paired with interactive dashboards offering in-depth insights across demographics like age, race, ethnicity, Medicaid enrollment, and geographic regions. Launched in 2022 and updated annually, this resource serves as a repository of current health statuses and improvement initiatives. This presentation will spotlight available MCH data resources for Alaska, review the practical uses of indicators, showcase efficient navigation within the Data Hub, and decode dashboard organization.

🗣️ Speaker



Kaerin Stephens

Research Analyst 3
State of Alaska

11:00 AM

Don't Shoot Our Wounded: Destigmatizing Opioid Education

🕒 11:00 AM - 11:40 AM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

Substance use disorders are the most widely stigmatized public health issue. Addiction is viewed more negatively than mental illness and stigma remains the biggest barrier to addiction treatment. Stigma permeates across systems holding to the myth that treatment is not possible resulting in experiences of pain, blame, shame and hopelessness. During this presentation, we continue our work in changing the narrative of addiction, review the manifestation of social stigma, and the intersectionality of substance use with other lived experiences. Attendees will be invited to put on a Microsoft HoloLens to demo an Augmented Reality (AR) app called Opioids and the Brain that teaches the user about how opioids affect the neurophysiology of the brain. Developed by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium at the Alaska Native EpiCenter, Opioids and the Brain has been used as a patient education tool that utilizes holograms to spatially show why abstinence from substances fails due to the changes in our brain structures and functions.

🗨️ Speakers



Amber Frasure

Research Assistant
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium



Mallika Kolachala

Public Health Program Specialist II
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Public Health Communications in HIV Prevention and Care Services in Alaska

🕒 11:00 AM - 11:20 AM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

For more than a decade, the Alaska Department of Health (DOH) has utilized numerous campaigns to raise awareness about HIV prevention in Alaska. Promotional materials have primarily been printed (e.g., posters, fliers, and condom sleeves) and were rarely amplified on digital platforms. Messaging focused on condom use, testing, and conversations between sexual partners, with content directed to specific sub-populations. In 2018, Alaska DOH introduced an HIV Materials Review Board, in which community members and health and communication experts review campaign materials prior to distribution. Since 2022, campaign materials specifically address gaps in HIV awareness, knowledge, and prevention services, and direct consumers to information and community resources. During a 2023 cluster response, Alaska utilized new avenues for campaign promotion and evaluation, and gathered valuable insight into messaging gaps.

🗨️ Speakers



Sarah Brewster

HIV Surveillance Coordinator
Alaska Department of Health



Taylor Holsinger, Holsinger, MPH

HIV Prevention Coordinator
Alaska Department of Health

Public Health Modernization: Leveraging Data Across Alaska's Diverse Communities

🕒 11:00 AM - 11:20 AM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

In the country's largest state, health agencies, organizations and providers face unique challenges to improving the health and wellbeing of a culturally diverse and economically burdened population. Alaskan healthcare providers serve over 700,000 residents across nearly 670,000 miles, while facing a multitude of unique and extensive barriers. Central to overcoming these challenges is utilizing modern data approaches to provide the most efficient and effective healthcare possible, to as many people as possible. In this presentation, representatives from the State of Alaska and Alaska's state designated HIE, healthEconnect Alaska, will discuss the successes and opportunities in Alaska's current health information and data exchange environment. They'll highlight the current landscape of HIEs and frameworks for modern data practices and uses, including real-world examples from across the nation and the state.

🗨️ **Speakers**



Kendra Sticka

Executive Director
healthEconnect Alaska



Jason Ball

11:25 AM

Alaska's Fresh Start Campaign: Improving enrollment in public health programs

🕒 11:25 AM - 11:45 AM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahntnu C&D

More than 2,000 adults enrolled in existing programs to prevent and manage chronic diseases during a one-year period following the launch of Alaska's Fresh Start campaign.

The campaign focused on reaching adults in the state with lower incomes and those living in hard-to-reach communities. While most Alaskans have these conditions, focus groups showed that many adults didn't know about the department's existing free programs to lose weight, lower blood sugar and blood pressure, and stop smoking or vaping. Communication and evaluation plans ensured that the campaign reached the intended audience and led to change. The communication plan used multiple channels (videos, online and social media, print and more) to drive interested Alaskans to one centralized website that hosted all existing programs, making them easy to find and enroll: freshstart.alaska.gov. This session focuses on the needed steps to run an evidence-based campaign that addresses a health problem, prioritizes an audience, and measures improved outcomes.

🗨️ **Speakers**



Ann Potempa

Health Program Manager 3 - Public Health Communications
Alaska Department of Health, Division of Public Health, Section of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion



Ashley Minaei

SOA DOH DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGER
STATE OF ALASKA, DOH

Innovative Pathways in Behavioral Health: Integrating National Trends and Alaska

🕒 11:25 AM - 11:45 AM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahntnu E&F

This presentation provides an exploration into the evolving landscape of behavioral health, focusing on national technological and care model trends as well as a local focus on the distinctive challenges and solutions available in Alaska. Dimagi, with its expertise in digital behavioral health solutions, and the Alaska Behavioral Health Association (ABHA) with its pioneering BIRCH model, collaborate to propose innovative strategies for improving behavioral health care in Alaska and beyond.

Alaska's Behavioral Health Landscape (ABHA):

The Alaska Behavioral Health Association (ABHA) provides an in-depth overview of Alaska's behavioral health landscape, highlighting unique challenges and opportunities inherent to the state's diverse and geographically dispersed population. High rates of suicide, limited access to care, and systemic barriers in establishing robust behavioral health systems challenge care delivery. ABHA is responding to these challenges with their Behavioral Health Investment for Resilient Community Health (BIRCH) model, a proposal for multimillion-dollar infusion to close the gap in provider reimbursement, a drive towards establishing behavioral health as primary healthcare, a push for school based Medicaid reform, and a concerted effort to streamline access to care.

National Trends and Tech Innovation (Dimagi):

Complementing the Alaskan perspective, Dimagi provides insights into national trends that are shaping the future of behavioral health care. Dimagi will explore the expanding role of telehealth and virtual care models, the evolving regulatory landscape post the Federal Public Health Emergency and the rise of digital tools in addressing mental health and substance abuse, with a special focus on Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) and its evolving dynamics. Lastly, Dimagi will address the innovations in care coordination, underscoring the pivotal role of bridging the gap between physical and mental health care.

Together this session is set to offer a holistic overview of the behavioral health landscape, melding ABHA's deep-rooted understanding of Alaska's unique challenges with a national perspective and insights about what's to come.

Speakers



Lilian Olson

Senior Director of Strategy, US
Dimagi



John Solomon

11:45 AM

Lunch and Awards Ceremony

 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM, Jan 31

 Tikahtnu A&B

Box lunches will can be picked up in the Exhibitor area in the 3rd Floor Lobby area.

1:00 PM

Community Led Empowers

 1:00 PM - 1:20 PM, Jan 31

 Tikahtnu A&B

The mission of the Healthy & Equitable Communities (HEC) Team is to "partner with Alaska communities to improve conditions that support health and well-being, especially for community members who face significant barriers to better health." The Division of Public Health is working with all communities to identify and implement health improvements that communities believe will improve over all health and well being. This presentation will describe the community led strategies used by the HEC Team to fund local initiatives that improve community health. It will include descriptions of the wide variety of projects, and testimonials from funding recipients.

🔊 Speakers



Shawn House

Acting Team Manager - Program Coordinator
State of Alaska - Healthy & Equitable Communities



Addy Peters, MA

Community Engagement Coordinator
Dept of Health, Healthy & Equitable Communities

Older adult health in Alaska

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:20 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

Older adults often face barriers to obtaining recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables and physical activity. Understanding current dietary and physical activity patterns, as well as factors that predict intake and physical activity, is important to identify barriers to health and provide effective health education interventions. This cross-sectional study included a multicultural convenience sample of 58 older adults (aged 55+ years) living in independent senior housing in urban Southcentral Alaska taking part in a health education intervention. This work offers some recommendations for future health promotion activities among older adults in the urban Circumpolar North.

🔊 Speakers



Alex Mahanna

Graduate Research Assistant
University of Alaska Anchorage



Britteny Howell

Associate Professor
University of Alaska Anchorage

5 Minute Lighting Talks

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:47 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

1. Advocate and inform about Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Systems in Alaska
2. Mini-PASS water and sanitation intervention during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. SHARP: Strengthening Healthcare Access Recruitment Program
4. The Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies at UAA: A community resource
5. CACHE: Clearinghouse for Alaska's Continuing Health Education
6. PHNs in the COVID-19 Response: Roles, Skills and Training Needs
7. Workforce Competencies and training needs to address health Inequities
8. Harnessing the Power of PARTNERSHIPS

8 Subsessions

● Advocate and inform about Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Systems in Alaska

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:05 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● Mini-PASS water and sanitation intervention during the COVID-19 pandemic

🕒 1:06 PM - 1:11 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● SHARP: Strengthening Healthcare Access Recruitment Program

🕒 1:12 PM - 1:17 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● The Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies at UAA: A community resource

🕒 1:18 PM - 1:23 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● CACHE: Clearinghouse for Alaska's Continuing Health Education

🕒 1:24 PM - 1:29 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● PHNs in the COVID-19 Response: Roles, Skills and Training Needs

🕒 1:30 PM - 1:35 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● Workforce Competencies and training needs to address health inequities

🕒 1:36 PM - 1:41 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

● Harnessing the Power of PARTNERSHIPS

🕒 1:42 PM - 1:47 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

1:25 PM

Social and geographic disparities in adverse birth outcomes in Alaska: 2000-2020

🕒 1:25 PM - 1:45 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

Approximately 10% of U.S. births are preterm (<37 weeks), posing health risks for infants. We assessed preterm birth (PTB) trends in Alaska between 2000-2020. Using vital statistics records, we describe the distribution of PTB among live, singleton births by borough/census area, assessed risk factors, explored race/ethnicity disparities, and assessed potential impacts associated with lack of access to a hospital birth facility.

🗣️ Speakers



Micah Hahn

Associate Professor of Environmental Health
Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies, University of Alaska-Anchorage



Theresa Vertigan

Research Associate
University of Alaska Anchorage

Adapting a colorectal cancer text message intervention for Alaska Native Men

🕒 1:25 PM - 1:45 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

In 2013, SCF developed and tested a text messaging intervention to promote colorectal cancer (CRC) screening among Alaska Native / American Indian (ANAI) people. It sent up to 3 culturally-tailored text messages at 1-month intervals. The randomized controlled trial (RCT) involved 2,386 customer-owners aged 40-75. The text messages led to a 50% increase in CRC screening among female participants, but it had no effect among male participants. This result is significant because ANAI men in Alaska experience the most profound CRC disparities of any US racial or ethnic group. In this current study, Phase I culturally adapted a new text-messaging intervention specifically targeting ANAI men, and Phase II will implement it in a new RCT among male SCF customer-owners aged 40-75. Phase I was completed in Spring 2023, and Phase II will be complete around Fall 2023.

🗣️ **Speakers**



Kyle Wark, MA

Researcher
Southcentral foundation



Todd Takeno

Researcher
Southcentral Foundation

2:00 PM

Plenary Speaker - Dr. Lyons

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

🗣️ **Speaker**



Varleisha Lyons

VP, DEJAB, AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
AOTA

3:00 PM

Closing

🕒 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

3:30 PM

ALPHA Member Business Meeting

🕒 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM, Jan 31

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

Thu, Feb 01, 2024

8:00 AM

Registration

🕒 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM, Feb 1

📍 3rd Floor Lobby

8:30 AM

Welcome

🕒 8:30 AM - 8:45 AM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

8:45 AM

Fireside Chat with Dr. Raj Panjabi

🕒 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

👤 Speaker



Raj Panjabi

Associate Physician
Brigham & Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School

9:45 AM

Break - Please feel free to visit the Exhibitors in the lobby

🕒 9:45 AM - 10:00 AM, Feb 1

📍 3rd Floor Lobby

10:00 AM

Home for Good Anchorage - expanding permanent supportive housing

🕒 10:00 AM - 10:20 AM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

Pay for Success is an outcome-based financing model that appeals to a wide range of community stakeholders. This panel discussion will highlight lessons from Home for Good Anchorage, the first Pay for Success project in Alaska, and consider how Pay for Success influences the delivery and effectiveness of Housing First projects. Intended audience is anyone that works in a system that interacts with individuals experiencing homelessness, or has projects that could benefit from outcome-based contracts.

👤 Speakers



Sam Longacre

Housing Director
United Way of Anchorage



Sandy Mixayphon-Celario

Home for Good Operations Manager
United Way of Anchorage



Amy Christopher

SCF

TB Track - When the Past Converges with the Present

🕒 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

A look at the history and current epidemiology of tuberculosis in Alaska.

👤 Speaker



Michelle Rothoff

State of Alaska Division of Public Health Section of Epidemiology

Harnessing High Tech: Using healthcare data for public health

🕒 10:00 AM - 10:40 AM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

In today's data modernization-focused world, the boundaries between public health data and healthcare data are becoming increasingly blurred. This presentation will cover 2 datasets that originate from Electronic Medical Record data and can be valuable to public health.

We will begin with an introduction to the Alaska Native Epidemiology Center and the Alaska Tribal Health System – so listeners can understand who we are and who we serve. Then, we will provide an overview of syndromic surveillance. While conventional public health datasets typically exhibit a year-long reporting lag, syndromic surveillance offers near real-time data, enabling the immediate assessment of community prevalence across various public health factors. This system allows for the monitoring of syndromes such as respiratory illnesses, disaster-related encounters, injury-related visits, behavioral health-related encounters, and more.

Lastly, we will cover social determinants of health (SDOH) “Z Codes”, which are a subset of ICD-10-CM codes that are used to report factors that influence a patient's health status or their reason for seeking care. They typically refer to the social, economic, and environmental determinants known to affect health and contribute to health inequalities.

🗣️ Speakers



Toni Clark
Public Health Specialist
ANTHC



Lowrie Ward
Senior Epidemiologist
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Native Epidemiology Center

10:25 AM

Better health via lived experience: People with disabilities in public health

🕒 10:25 AM - 10:45 AM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

In recent years, there has been increased awareness that many of the programs implemented to address the needs of underserved communities do not include their voices and perspectives. Increasing underrepresented populations such as people with disabilities in the health and public health workforce should therefore be considered a key part of the efforts to increase diversity and community engagement. This presentation will provide the preliminary findings of a needs assessment currently being undertaken to help determine what works and does not work to help people with disabilities succeed in health and health-related education programs that lead to employment in public health-related positions.

🗨 Speakers



Alexandra Edwards

Senior Research Professional
University of Alaska Anchorage, Center for Behavioral Health Research & Services



Sondra LeClair

Community Services Director
University of Alaska Anchorage

10:45 AM

Break - Please feel free to visit the Exhibitors in the lobby

🕒 10:45 AM - 11:00 AM, Feb 1

📍 3rd Floor Lobby

11:00 AM

8 Keys for Adults with FASD

🕒 11:00 AM - 11:40 AM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

It is estimated that approximately 1 in 15 Alaskans are impacted by fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), therefore it is a guarantee that everyone within public health systems of care will be interacting with adults impacted by prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE). Many individuals with prenatal alcohol exposure may not be identified as being impacted nor have a diagnosis, hence the hidden disability is often missed and unaccommodated leading to negative consequences. This presentation will explore the barriers to identification and diagnoses, the importance and power of obtaining a diagnosis, as well as examine how to provide accommodations for those impacted. There will be a short examination of the common brain-based symptoms that would indicate that someone may be impacted and benefit from accommodations. Participants will leave with practical skills to apply when working with those impacted by prenatal alcohol exposure.

🗨 Speakers



Gina Schumaker

UAA CHD



Tami Eller

Anonymous Reporting for Sexual Assault

🕒 11:00 AM - 11:20 AM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

Recent data from the 2020 Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS) indicates that 3.4% of Alaska women 18 and over experienced sexual violence in the past year and 40.5% have experienced sexual violence during their lifetime. In Alaska there are three options for victims of sexual assault—report the crime to law enforcement, not report it, or anonymously report. For those victims who are unsure if they want to report their case to the criminal justice system immediately, they have the option to make an anonymous report. Anonymous reporting empowers victims to be in control of how their assault is handled, if and when a criminal report is made and how they want to proceed forward. This option provides an excellent example of the critical intersection between public health and public safety.

🗣️ Speakers



Angela Ellis, MSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P
Medical-Forensic Expert
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



Katie Tepas

TB Track - TB or Not TB, is it Active is the question

🕒 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

A review of LTBI versus Active TB

🗣️ Speaker



Chanda Hesson
State of Alaska Epidemiology

11:25 AM

Congenital Syphilis in Alaska

🕒 11:25 AM - 11:45 AM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

Congenital syphilis (CS) is a serious illness caused by syphilis infection during pregnancy that can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, neurological problems, and infant death. CS is preventable with adequate screening and treatment during pregnancy. In Alaska, congenital syphilis (CS) cases have increased from an average <1 case reported per year during 2012–2019 to an average >8 cases reported per year during 2020–2022. The Alaska Section of Epidemiology analyzed 2020–2022 case data to identify factors contributing to CS and developed Alaska-specific mitigation strategies. DPH launched a public awareness campaign to promote symptom recognition and testing, and to prompt treatment of syphilis among sexually active Alaskans. DPH is partnering with healthcare and community organizations to expand syphilis testing and treatment availability, low-barrier prenatal care, and medication-assisted treatment during pregnancy.

🗣️ Speaker



Elizabeth Ohlsen
AK DPH staff physician

11:45 AM

Lunch

🕒 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM, Feb 1

1:00 PM

UAA Seawolf Food Pantry: Implementation of a Student-Centered Supermarket Model

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:20 PM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

Adequate access to nutritious food is vital for health, as food insecurity is associated with multiple adverse health outcomes. Notably, college students are particularly vulnerable, with food insecurity rates higher than the national average. Furthermore, students enrolled at least half-time do not qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program unless they meet specific exemption criteria, which excludes many individuals. Clearly, food insecurity among students is a public health concern. Therefore, this presentation describes the implementation of the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Seawolf Food Pantry, which utilizes a student-centered supermarket model to address food insecurity among students at UAA.

🗣️ Speakers



Rei Shimizu

Assistant Professor
University of Alaska Anchorage



Amanda Walch

University of Alaska

Academic/Community Partnerships to Address AK's PH Workforce Needs: Project PACE

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:20 PM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

In rural and remote communities in Alaska, there are well-documented healthcare workforce shortages resulting in reduced access to health services (Healthy Alaskans 2030). Project PACE (Public Health Accessibility, Certification, and Expansion) was developed by the Division of Population Health Sciences (DPHS), Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (BSHS) Program and the MPH Program at the University of Alaska Anchorage. As part of Project PACE's work, DPHS conducted a Health Program Needs Assessment in 2022 to identify the public health education needs of health and social service organizations across the state. This presentation will highlight findings from the needs assessment, the challenges, lessons learned, and future directions to address public health workforce needs in Alaska.

🗣️ Speakers



Kristin Stoepler

Health Sciences Program Chair & Asst. Professor
UAA Division of Population Health Sciences



Virginia "Jenny" Miller, DrPH, MS, MPH

Professor
Division of Population Health Sciences, College of Health, University of Alaska Anchorage

TB Track - A Tale of TB

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu E&F

Overcoming the barriers in one case with active TB.

🗣️ Speaker



Jennifer Bergen

Public Health Nurse 4
State of Alaska Public Health Nursing

1:25 PM

Impact of ASD's Wellness Initiative on Student Physical Activity and Nutrition

🕒 1:25 PM - 1:45 PM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

In 2018-2019, 37% of Anchorage School District students were categorized as overweight or obese. We will share information through a didactic presentation about a study evaluating the impact of the Anchorage School District's (ASD) Wellness Initiative. In elementary school's, ASD piloted 20 minutes of seated lunch time and additional physical activity opportunities including a longer recess (30 minutes) and teacher-implemented movement breaks for a total of 54 minutes of physical activity during the school day. The amount of time students spent in sedentary activity was significantly lower in intervention schools compared to control schools. The ASD wellness initiative has significantly and positively impacted students' behavior, and this initiative is a positive step towards reducing the prevalence of obesity in children in Anchorage.

🗣️ Speakers



Katie Cueva

Affiliate Faculty
University of Alaska Anchorage



Rebecca Van Wyck

Research Professional II
University of Alaska Anchorage

Integrating Tobacco Cessation into Behavioral Health

🕒 1:25 PM - 1:45 PM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu C&D

People with behavioral health conditions are targets of aggressive commercial tobacco marketing. These individuals smoke about 40% of cigarettes sold in the US but only make up 25% of the population. 1 in 4 Alaskans report having a mental health condition and smoking cessation has been linked with improved mental health including reduced depression, anxiety, and stress, and enhanced mood and quality of life. The State of Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control Program and American Lung Association are working towards reducing these disparities through partnerships and collaboration with Mental Health, Substance Use Clinics, and Health Care Settings to provide education, trainings, and technical assistance including tobacco free policies. Individuals working with Behavioral Health and Health Care Settings will have the opportunity to hear from a licensed expert working with military, veterans, and the homeless population in substance use treatment and integrating tobacco cessation.

Speakers



Lori Price

Public Health Specialist | Health Equity, Cessation, & Nicotine Addiction and Behavioral Health
State of Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control Program



Jennifer Chikoyak

Senior Manager Health Promotion
American Lung Association

2:00 PM

Plenary Speaker Panel

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu A&B

3:00 PM

Closing

🕒 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM, Feb 1

📍 Tikahtnu A&B