

**2011-01: Health Information Technology Funding Support
APCA Proposed Resolution for ALPHA**

WHEREAS the adoption and implementation of health information technology (IT) at Community Health Centers (CHCs), Public Health Centers and other safety-net providers results in improved health services and outcomes; and

WHEREAS "The Health Resources and Services Administration [HRSA] promotes the widespread availability and use of digital networks to improve access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable;"¹ and

WHEREAS HRSA defines health IT as "the use of computer applications to record, store, protect, retrieve, and transfer clinical, administrative, and financial information electronically within health care settings. The ultimate goal of health IT is to improve the quality and efficiency of patient care;"² and

WHEREAS federal government mandates require the implementation of electronic health systems for reimbursements of health services which necessitates essential funding for electronic health systems at CHCs; and

WHEREAS health IT improves the quality of available data, the capacity to transfer and transmit data, and the security of confidential records, and health IT enables providers and clinics to share data, reports, templates and other resources and the ability to easily share more data with other partners;³ and

WHEREAS due to the isolated nature of many of Alaska's communities, access to dedicated IT staff or resources is limited and inadequate; consequently, many remote clinics and hospitals have an urgent need for stable, reliable technology with centralized staff support to assist their clinical and Practice Management (PM) operations; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska demonstrated support by appropriating \$2.5 million in 2008 for health IT infrastructure for the Alaska Community Health Integrated Network which is currently serving 6 of the 25 CHCs, but further support is necessary to fully implement quality health IT in all of Alaska's 25 CHCs and 142 delivery sites; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Legislature passed SB 133 which creates mechanism for receiving federal stimulus funding for a health information exchange for Alaskans, connecting all health care providers in the state.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Alaska Public Health Association supports continued funding and grant opportunities for the adoption and implementation of health information technology at Alaska's Community Health Centers, Public Health Centers and other safety net providers.

DONE AND DATED THE ____ DAY OF ____ IN THE YEAR 2010

SIGNED BY

Sandra Woods
Board President, Alaska Public Health Association

¹ HRSA: <http://www.hrsa.gov/healthit/>.

² HRSA: <http://healthit.ahrq.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1094&PageID=14351&cached=true&mode=2&userID=8959>.

³ APCA State Funding Request, 2009.