

**2011-03 Reimbursement for Community Health Aides, Behavioral Health Aides,
and Dental Health Aide Therapists
APCA Resolution for ALPHA**

WHEREAS Community Health Centers (CHCs) and other safety net providers offer access to quality, cost-effective primary care including basic medical, behavioral and dental services to Alaska’s most vulnerable and medically underserved populations; and

WHEREAS in Alaska in 2008, 12.1% of the state’s population (83,198) resided in a Health Professional Shortage Area, and 8.1% of the state’s population (55,788) resided in a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area;¹ and

WHEREAS Alaska is experiencing a severe workforce shortage of primary care, behavioral health and dental providers; and

WHEREAS Alaska’s CHCs and other safety net providers have limited staffing options and some CHCs employ Community Health Aides (CHAs), Behavioral Health Aides (BHAs), and Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHATs) as they are readily available in rural safety net settings compared to other primary care providers, despite the fact that private insurers do not recognize these provider types for reimbursement of services; and

WHEREAS Medicaid in Alaska recognizes CHAs, BHAs and DHATs for reimbursement of services, setting a precedent and standard that private insurers should use as a model for establishing similar coverage guidelines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Public Health Association supports a policy modification requiring Medicare and private insurers operating in Alaska to provide reimbursement for services performed by all Health Aide types in all rural safety net settings in order to improve access to health care services, improve health outcomes, and enhance the quality of life for Alaskans.

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

SIGNED BY

Sandra Woods
Board President, Alaska Public Health Association

¹ Kaiser State Health Facts, Henry Kaiser Family Foundation, www.statehealthfacts.org, September 2008, posting accessed June 24, 2009.