

# The Alaska Tribal Health System and Behavioral Health

April Kyle, President and CEO



*Alaska Native  
People Shaping  
Health Care*

# Overview

- Alaska Tribal Health System
- Southcentral Foundation (SCF)
- Behavioral Health Issues important to tribal health

# Alaska Tribal Health System History 1953-1997

- Alaska Native Hospital built in 1953
- Built to care for Alaska Native people suffering from tuberculosis, a huge epidemic in rural Alaska at the time
- Formerly operated by IHS



1953



1997

# Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act 1975

## Summary of Congressional Findings:

- Prolonged federal domination of Indian Health Service programs has:
  - Served to retard rather than enhance progress of Indian people and their communities
  - Denied an effective voice in the planning and implementation of programs that respond to the true needs of the people

*“From the time of European occupation and colonization through the 20th century, policies and practices of the United States caused and/or contributed to the severe health conditions of Indians.”*

## Government recognized that:

If the people receiving the health services are involved in the decision-making processes — better yet, if they own their own health care — programs and services have a potential for enhancement and the people and their health statistics will improve



# Self Determination

The right of indigenous people to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

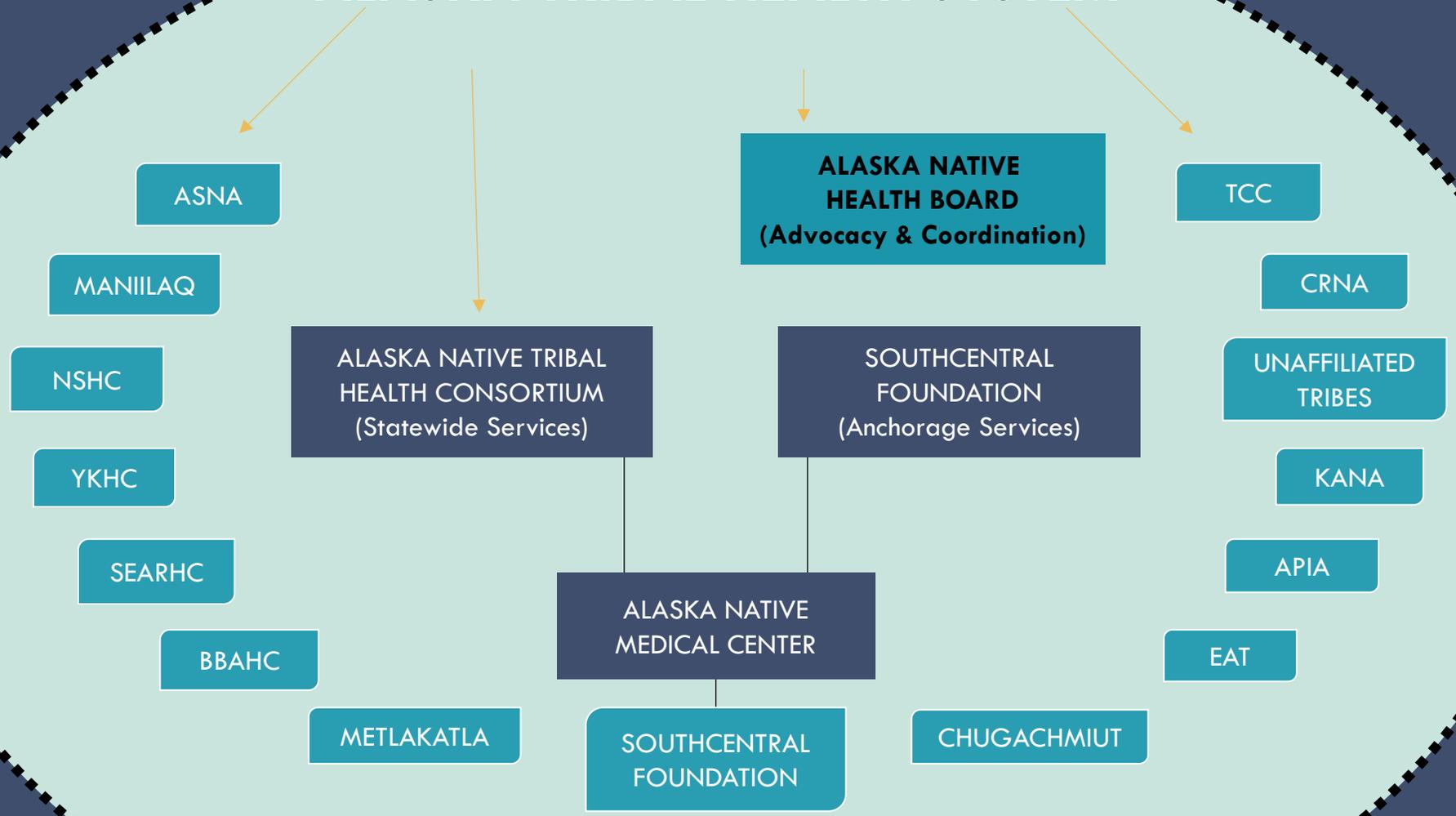




# Contracting and Compacting

- Contracting is the first step in Tribes exercising self-determination in healthcare by taking on limited contracts to provide specific services for a specific dollar amount.
- Compacting is the ability of Indian Tribes to have autonomy and to assume the responsibility for programs and services administered to them on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior through contractual agreements.

# ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SYSTEM



Regional and Local Health Providers

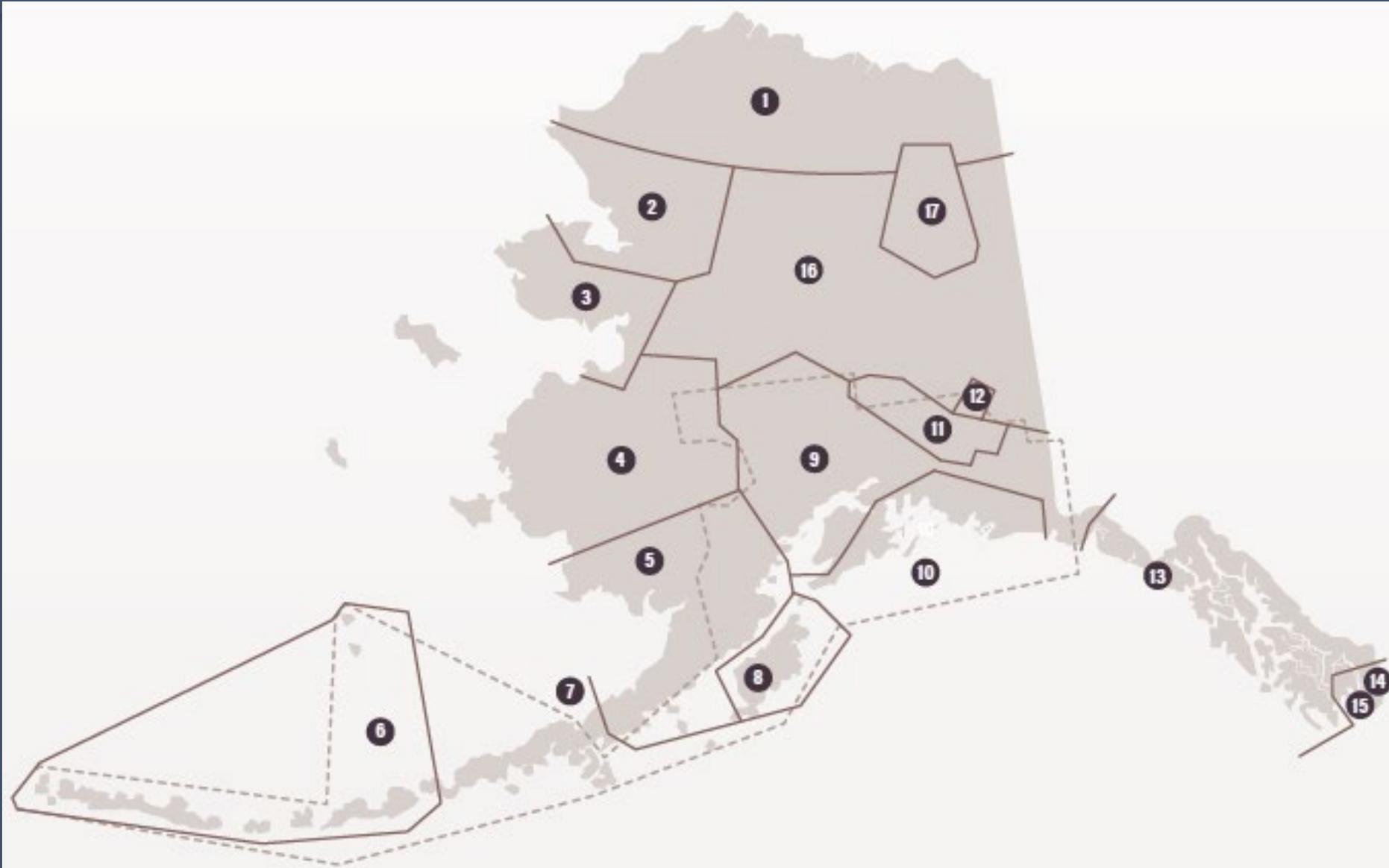
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

# Alaska Tribal Health Compact Co-Signers

<b>Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (1999)</b>	<b>Kenaitze Indian Tribe (2006)</b>	<b>Native Village of Tanana (2022)</b>
<b>Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (1995)</b>	<b>Ketchikan Indian Corporation (1998)</b>	<b>Norton Sound Health Corporation (1995)</b>
<b>Arctic Slope Native Association, Ltd. (1998)</b>	<b>Knik Tribal Council (2009)</b>	<b>Seldovia Village Tribe (1995)</b>
<b>Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (1995)</b>	<b>Kodiak Area Native Association (1995)</b>	<b>Southcentral Foundation (1995)</b>
<b>Chickaloon Native Village (2011)</b>	<b>Maniilaq Association (1995)</b>	<b>SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (1995)</b>
<b>Chugachmiut (1995)</b>	<b>Metlakatla Indian Community (1997)</b>	<b>Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. (1995)</b>
<b>Copper Rive Native Association (1995)</b>	<b>Mount Sanford Tribal Consortium (2000)</b>	<b>Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (2003)</b>
<b>Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (2000)</b>	<b>Native Village of Eklutna (1995)</b>	<b>Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (1995)</b>
<b>Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc. (1997)</b>	<b>Native Village of Eyak (2011)</b>	

# Regional Tribal Health Locations

1. Arctic Slope Native Association
2. Maniilaq Association
3. Norton Sound Health Corporation
4. Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
5. Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
6. Aleutian Pribilof Island Association
7. Eastern Aleutian Tribes
8. Kodiak Area Native Association
9. Southcentral Foundation (dotted line)
10. Chugachmiut
11. Copper River Native Association
12. Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium
13. SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium
14. Ketchikan Indian Community
15. Metlakatla Indian Community
16. Tanana Chiefs Conference
17. Council of Athabascan Tribal Government





ALASKA NATIVE  
MEDICAL CENTER

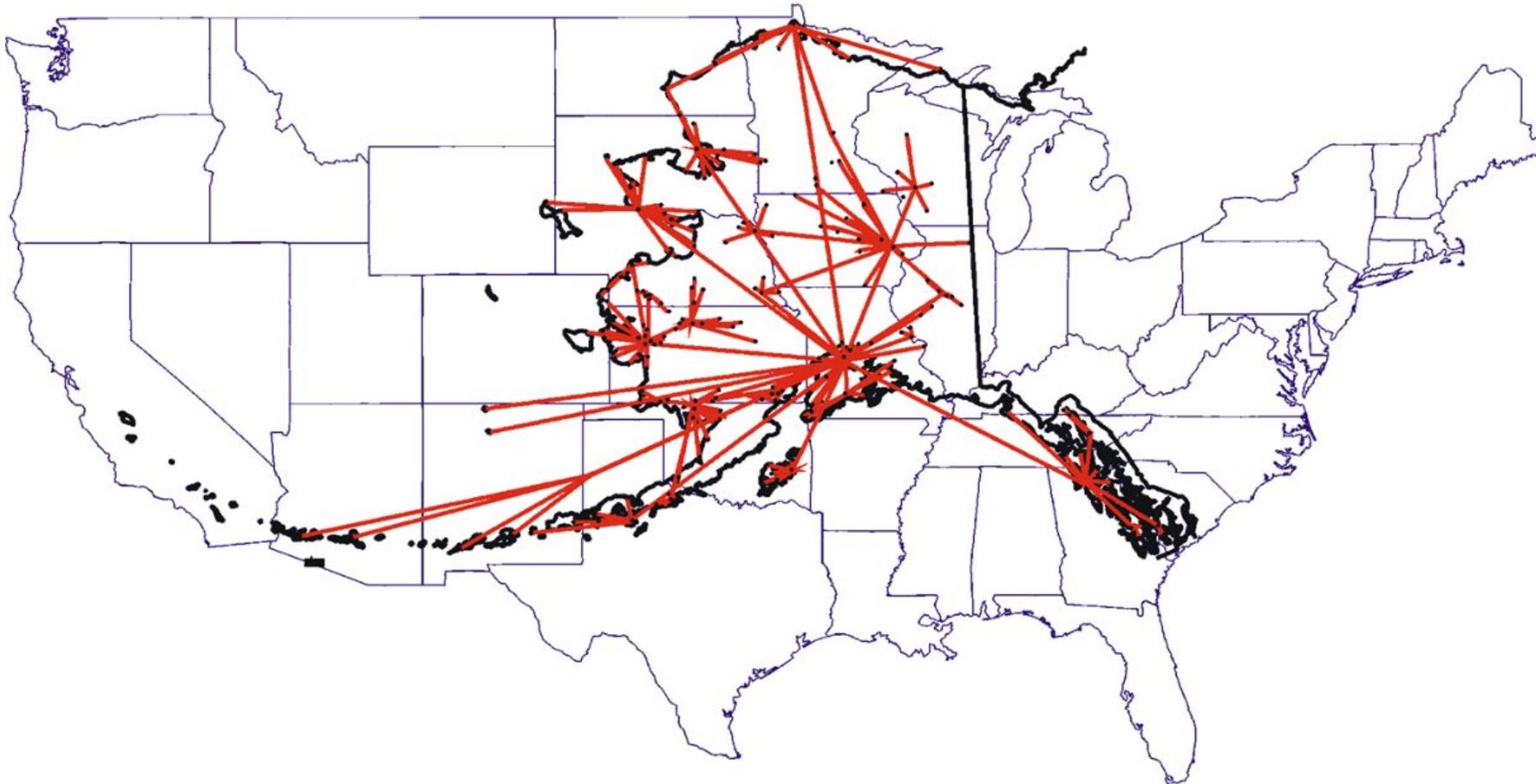


Co-managed by the Alaska Native Tribal Health  
Consortium and Southcentral Foundation

# ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SYSTEM

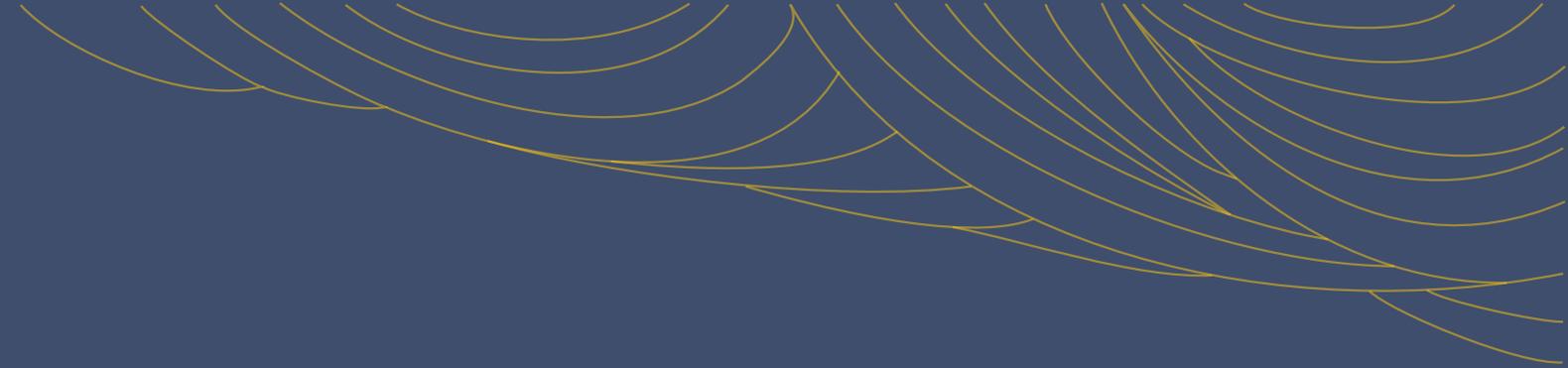
## Referral Pattern and Telehealth Network

Same Scale Comparison - Alaska Area to Lower 48 States



# ATHS Strengths

- Working as one – keeping the connection, unity, pride, collaboration, community, “together we are stronger”
- Honors Tribal Sovereignty and Tribal Self-Determination
- Clear common vision and values, dream big
- Clear roles and accountability
- Set up strong technical support, use of committees to tackle hard issues
- Communication and strong advocacy role by bringing key political stakeholders to the table



**Pause for Questions**

# Healthcare Service Levels Community Health Aides/Practitioners

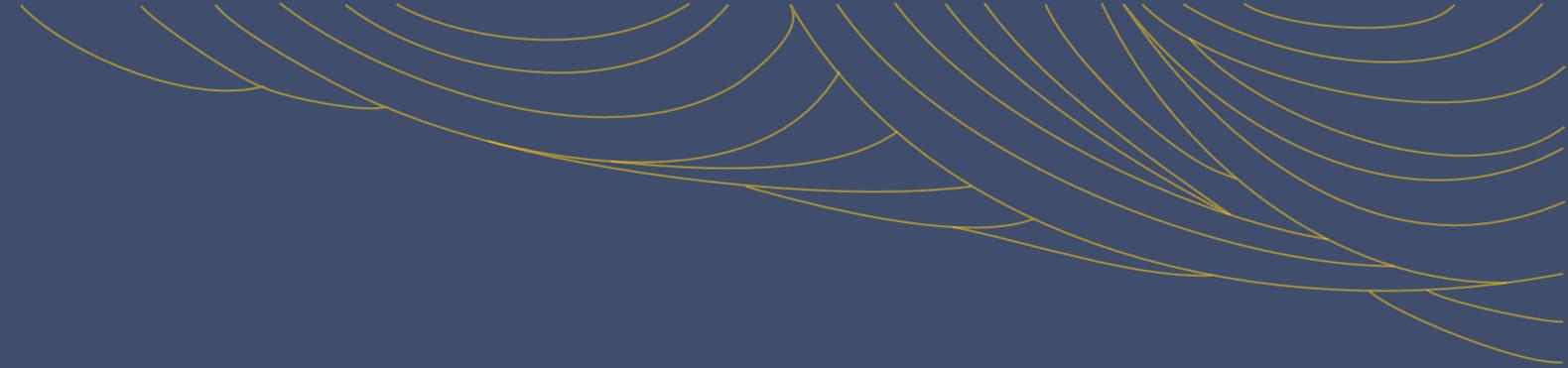
## Alaska Health Aide Programs

- Community Health Aide/Practitioner – CHA/P
- Behavioral Health Aide/Practitioner – BHA/P
- Dental Health Aide/Therapist – DHA/T



# Tribal Behavioral Health Directors

- Committee of the Alaska Native Health Board
- Behavioral health leaders from across the Tribal Health System
- Collaboration to learn, plan and advocate together



**Pause for Questions**

# Southcentral Foundation

An example of  
one part of the  
tribal health  
system



# Alaska Tribal Health System

## Facts

- 229 Federally Recognized Tribes (Villages)
- Over 60 Villages in the Southcentral/Anchorage Service Unit
- Alaska Native Health Board: Statewide health advocate voice
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium: Statewide specialty and tertiary health care services  
Regionals seated on board as governance



## Regional Native Corporations and Health Centers

- Arctic Slope Regional Corp. Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital
- NANA Regional Corp. Manillaq Health Center
- Bering Straits Native Corp. Norton Sound Regional Hospital
- Doyon Ltd Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center
- Calista Corp. Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital
- CIRI Southcentral Foundation
- Sealaska Corp. SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium
- Ahtna Inc. Native Village of Tazlina Clinic
- The Aleut Corp. Oonalaska Wellness Center
- Bristol Bay Native Corp. Kakanak Hospital
- Koniag Inc. Kodiak Area Native Association Medical Clinic
- Chugach Alaska Corp. Dena'ina Wellness Center

## Key

- ★ Southcentral Foundation Clinics
- Southcentral Foundation/Anchorage Service Unit
- Regional Health Hub

none



# Vision

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A Native Community that enjoys physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness.

# Mission

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Working together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services.

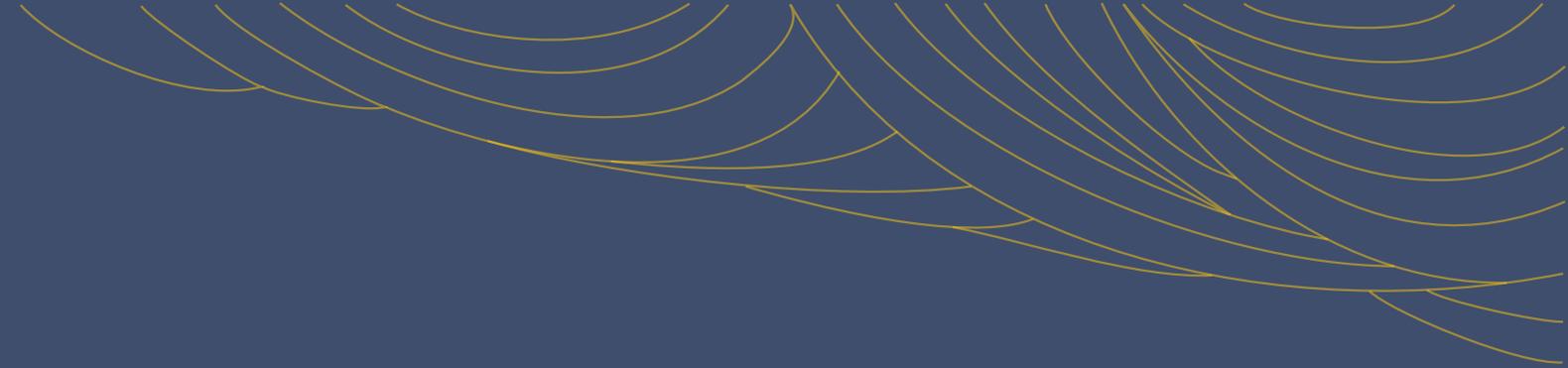
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# Customer-Ownership

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**We Asked the Customer-Owner  
We Asked the Employees**

# Community – Top Needs

1993

- Domestic Violence
- Child Abuse
- Child Neglect
- Behavioral Health
- Addictions

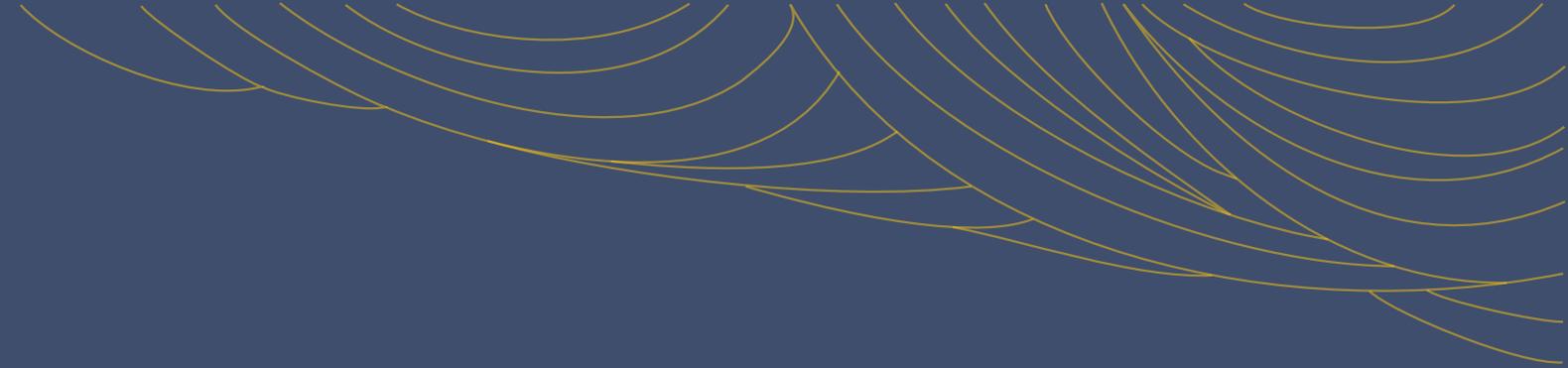


2018

- Alcohol, Drug & Tobacco
- Oral Health
- Behavioral Health
- Food, Nutrition, and Obesity
- Cardiovascular Health and Heart Disease



**We Changed Everything**



**Medical Culture Replaced by  
Relationship, Shared Responsibility,  
Customer-Ownership, Story, &  
Complex Adaptive System**



**Colorectal  
Cancer Screener**

**Coverage  
NP/PA**

**Integrated  
Pharmacist**

**Behavioral Health  
Consultant**

**Dietician**

**Community  
Resource  
Specialist**

**Certified  
Medical  
Assistant**

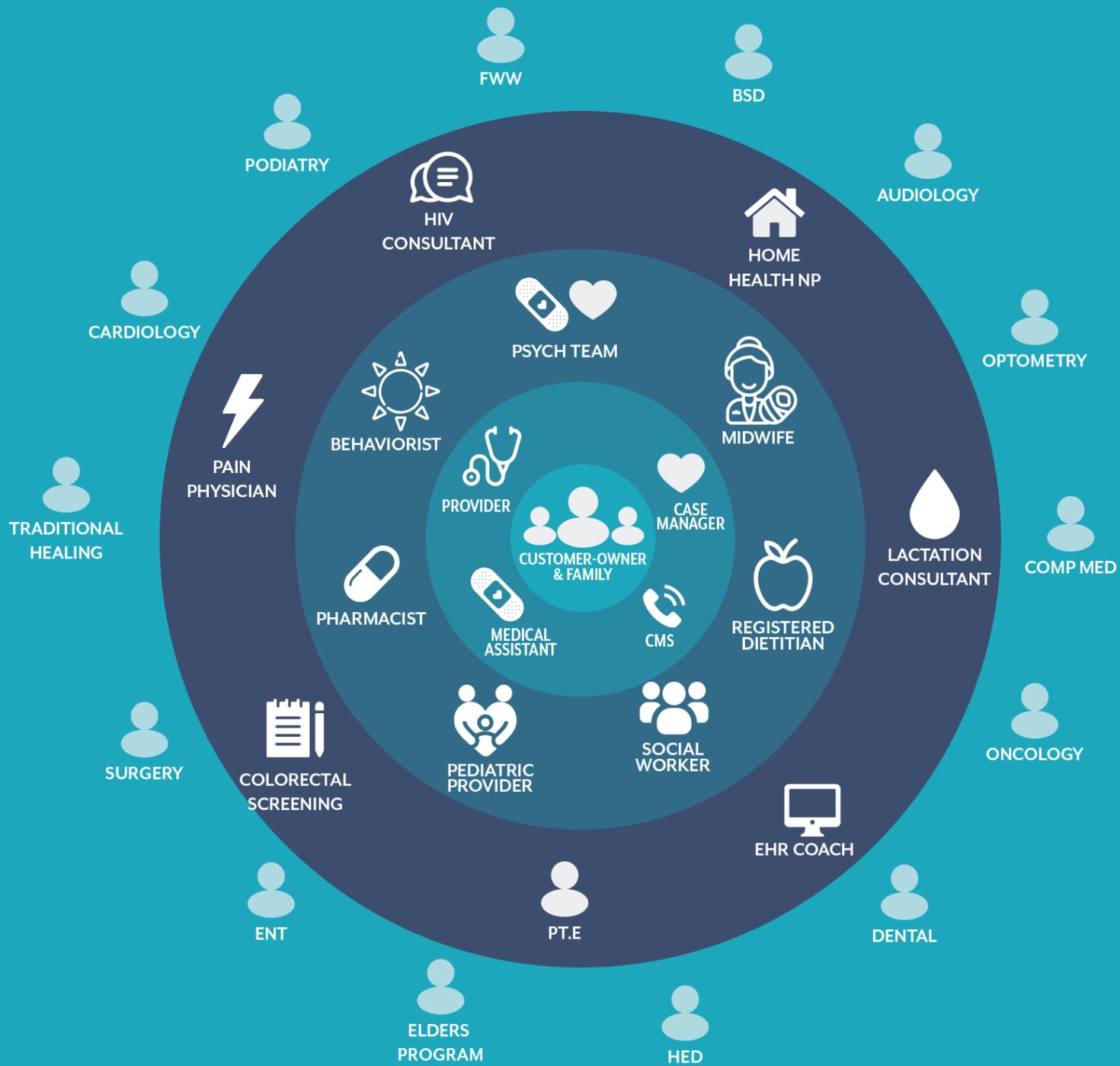
**Certified Nurse  
Midwife**

**Primary Care  
Provider**

**RN Case  
Manager**

**Case  
Management  
Support**

# Primary Care Teams



# What is Behavioral Health Integration?



# Integration Across SCF

Clinic	Number of Behavioral Health Consultants
Primary Care Clinics-Anchorage, AK	16
Primary Care Clinic-Mat-Su Valley - Wasilla	6
Primary Care Clinic-Pediatrics	3
Specialty Sites/Clinics (Detox, Dental, OB, etc)	11
Hospital	4
Rural Community Health Centers (CHC)	5



# Behavioral Health Services

- 638 employees
- 20+ programs

# Continuum of Behavioral Health Care

## Substance Use Treatment

- Dena A Coy
- Four Directions Anchorage
- Four Directions Valley
- SCF Detox Program

## Youth

- TRAILS
- The Pathway Home

## Adult Intensive Services

- Quyana Clubhouse
- Intensive Case Management

## Integrated Services

- BHC's
- Primary Care Behavioral Health

## Crisis / Supportive

- Behavioral Urgent Response Team

## Rural

- Behavioral Health Aides
- Community Health Centers

## Outpatient Behavioral Health Services

- Behavioral Health Fireweed
- Adult Outpatient - 999
- Child and Family Development Services
- Children and Family Services 2
- VNPCC Behavioral Health



# Outpatient Behavioral Health Services

- Walk-in/Brief Intervention Services
- Individual Therapy
- Psychiatric Evaluations and Medication Management
- TRAILS (Teens Responsibly Accepting Individual Life Skills)

# Learning Circles

- Collaboration between Family Wellness Warriors and Behavioral Services Division
- Based on our value of sharing story and listening to others share theirs
- Supports population-based approach for service
- Promotes a supportive community of peers through mutual respect and information sharing



# Rural Behavioral Health

- Partner with tribes
- Flexible model
- Use of telehealth
- Growing community providers

# Residential Substance Use Disorder Services

- Detox Services
- Dena A Coy Residential Treatment



# Outpatient Substance Use Treatment



- Four Directions Anchorage
- Four Directions Valley
- Rural Clinical Team



# Supporting Adults with Severe & Persistent Mental Illness

- Intensive Case Management
- Qu yana Clubhouse



# Behavioral Health in the Hospital

- Behavioral Urgent Response Team
- Crisis, consult and brief interventions

# Yeshjesh T'uh (I Am Safe Place)



# Quyana Clubhouse + ICM



# Valley Native Primary Care Center



Questions?



**Qaġaasakung**

Aleut

**Quyanaa**

Alutiiq

**AwA'ahdah**

Eyak

**Mahsi'Gwich'in**

Athabascan

**Igamsiqanaghalek**

Siberian Yupik

**Háw'aa**

Haida

**Quyana**

Yup'ik

**T'oyaxsm**

Tsimshian

**Gunalchéesh**

Tlingit

**Tsin'aen**

Ahtna Athabascan

**Quyanaq**

Inupiaq

**Chin'an**

Dena'ina Athabascan

Thank you!

