APIA held the 13th Urban Unanga̱x Culture camp June 19-24. After a two-years of cancellations due to the pandemic, 274 community members joyfully gathered at APIA’s Unangam Ulaa to celebrate the Unanga̱x culture. This number includes 162 registered participants and 65 visitors throughout the week!

We are grateful for the wonderful instructors and Elders, our culture bearers and camp staff whose dedication and hard work make the camp an awesome event!

It was an action filled week, but a strong sense of community, connection and enjoyment resonated throughout the week.

Each day during the traditional foods activities, children worked with Elders who taught them to prepare dishes which they also sampled or took home. Ernest made halibut fish pie, which was also served to camp staff for dinner. Dailey showed the kids how to make fresh salmon patties and mossberry pies. Every child made their own cute mini pie which they took home with baking instructions. Kids made and took home a jar of Teresa’s pickled fish and mixed and kneaded dough for Alaadikas or Alaadikan (alaadiks). Ronald worked with youth to prepare baked seal, seal soup, and salmon chowder. There were so many people at camp, there wasn’t enough of these delicious treats to go around! Participants included 99 children and youth (18 and under); 63 adults; 6 guest host Elders; 14 volunteers; 22 camp staff; 2 apprentices; and, 65 visitors!

Qaġaasakuq! Qaġaasakung! Qaġaalakuq!

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As summer is winding down, we hope you all enjoyed the beautiful weather and had a prosperous fishing season. We had our Fall Board meeting on August 23rd, and wanted to share some of the highlights from that meeting.

COVID & BIA ARPA Funds
We are continuing to spend down our COVID funds, focusing on those that expire soonest. We expect that most of the health related COVID funds will be used within the next six months. Many of our Tribes still have not accessed their BIA ARPA funds due to the tribe needing to submit their reporting as well as provide a budget/plan for the funds. We were pleased when it was announced that the unexpended BIA CARES funds no longer have to be returned to Treasury. These funds received under ISDEAA agreements are available until expended. They still have to be spent following the original guidelines. These funds do not have an expiration date and we will continue to hold them until we receive the necessary items from the tribes. This is great news! Please feel free to reach out to Margaret Galovin, our Self Governance Coordinator, if you need any assistance on how you can spend these funds.

Self-Governance Update A majority of our Self-Governance efforts have been to work alongside tribal administrators to set needed reports and documents in place for program compliance with funding agreements. In our ongoing quality assurance reviews of the reports and documents, we frequently find areas of the reports that need revision and amendment. We work with the tribal administrators to make the needed amendments and assist them through the process. We take the opportunity to train new staff when tribes are experiencing staff turnover, and provide technical assistance to assure needed documents and reports are submitted in a timely manner. Our Self Governance team has also been assisting tribes monitor Treasury due dates so they stay on task with required paperwork and reports. We are happy to report that Annual Funding Agreements (AFAs) were sent out in May. As always, please feel free to contact Margaret Galovin and/or Lavern Kochuten if we can provide Self-Governance assistance.

Medicated Assisted Therapy (MAT)
APIA’s Medication Assisted Treatment Program is in full swing. This last reporting period, we added another X DEA Waived provider to our MAT Team which currently consists of Lori Jackson, Medical Director/NP, Doug Finney, Integrated RN Case Manager, and now Richard Eaton, PA-C. We are happy to report that we currently and consistently have patients enrolled in the program and even those in our smaller communities are accessing these services. If you know of anyone struggling with substance misuse, please encourage them to reach out to our Clinics and have a confidential conversation with our providers. MAT is primarily used for the treatment of addiction to opioids such as heroin and prescription pain relievers that contain opiates; however, we are also able to treat alcohol misuse. The prescribed medication operates to normalize brain chemistry, block the euphoric effects of alcohol and opioids, relieve physiological cravings, and normalize body functions without the negative and euphoric effects of
the substance used. We work directly with Behavioral Health to ensure an integrated whole patient approach by offering their services to those patients. Our MAT healthcare providers are attending the 6th Annual Medications for Addiction Treatment this fall. This conference brings together local, national, and international speakers to discuss best practices in providing care to individuals who use opioids and stimulants. The topics include: Systemic solutions to opioid use, OUD treatment for pregnant and parenting individuals, Contingency management and Addressing stigma and racial disparities in care. Thank you to Jessica Mata Rukovishnikoff, our Primary Care Director, and Lori Jackson, our Medical Director, and other staff for their work on this very important program.

Qawalangin Tribal Healthcare
We are pleased to announce that on June 24th we received two resolutions from the Qawalangin Tribe authorizing APIA to move forward with the Joint Venture Construction Project (JVCP) for the replacement clinic in Unalaska and to continue providing healthcare services to the Qawalangin Tribal Members in Unalaska. We have some very exciting work ahead of us. We look forward to working with the Qawalangin Tribal President, Harriet Berikoff, the full Tribal Council and their Executive Administrative Team on these efforts. We very much appreciate them meeting with us to discuss the Unalaska Healthcare Services and sharing their concerns. We listened and will provide the Tribal Council with status updates in the coming weeks as we work with our healthcare partners to address the concerns communicated. We sent a letter thanking them kindly for graciously fitting us in their busy schedules and working directly with Jessica and Tarrissa one on one while they were in Unalaska, and for entrusting us with the care of the Qawalangin Tribal Members and people of Unalaska. Thank you to Jessica and Tarrissa on this effort, and to Mark Hamm as well to assist as we move forward to these exciting projects.

Nikolski Clinic Renovation & Ownership Transfer
We are working with Tanya Lestenkof, Administrator with the Nikolski Tribe about their intent to dedicate some of their funds for the Nikolski Clinic and CHA Housing Renovation work. We will combine these additional funds to those we received initially for the project. My team will continue to look for other funding opportunities as they did with the St. George Renovation and Atka Facility projects. The Nikolski Tribe is also working with us in transferring the ownership of the Clinic, which will allow us to enter into a 105L Lease with IHS. This will further allow us to recover the costs associated with operating the clinic. We will keep you abreast of these efforts as they move forward. Thank you to Jessica Mata Rukovishnikoff, our Primary Care Director, Mark Hamm, our CFO, as well as Margaret Galovin, our Self-Governance Coordinator, for their work on this project.

Unalaska Head Start Facility Update
Upon the installation of the Unalaska Head Start School Fire Alarm System a Fire Drill training will be conducted with our Head Start staff of Marie Schliebe, Lead teacher; Pelita Fernandez, Teacher Assistant and Daisy Peret, Teacher Assistant in attendance. Siemens Electrical, one of the sub-contractors installed the paging announcement (PA) speaker system throughout the school. The speakers were another item requiring alternative replacement from original order and delay in installing due to continued supply chain issues of back order
or not available due to manufacture backlog. The construction contractor, Wolverine, has been extremely busy in keeping up with finalizing construction specifications such as preparing and submitting application for installation of Kitchen Hood and Duct system to the State of Alaska as required by code. Temporary handrails at the exterior exit stairs were installed to meet safety code for access to the building by our staff to begin moving in while Wolverine finalized construction specifications to make up for previous construction days delayed due to weather. MaryEllen and Bonnie are arranging preparations to setup the classrooms, kitchen, etc. with assistance by our Unalaska Head Start staff. We are focused on school opening in August. Staff and parents are excited to see the new Head Start facility close to being finished! Our staff are working on ordering classroom furniture and supplies, equipping our new kitchen, ordering safety signage, creating labels for classroom supplies in both Unangam tunuu and English and preparing for the building move, which is tentatively scheduled for mid-August for a September 6 start date, if the timing works for the building completion. We continue to thank our Architect firm of LCG, Wolverine Construction, and the various sub-contractors. The guidance and assistance by Mark Hamm, CFO; MaryEllen, DFCD Director, Bonnie, Head Start Coordinator; Ken Selby, Project Consultant. And, certainly our thanks to the Qawalangin Tribe and Ounalashka Corporation. APIA is most appreciative to the HHS/Head Start Office for the financial award that has made this facility a reality.

**VPSO Program Positions** We were approached by Tyonek some time ago about having their VPSO position under our program. We moved forward with this opportunity and have now hired their VPSO. The State asked to include the new VPSO Program Training Manager position under us as well, which we have authorized and this position has also been filled. Thank you to Mike Nemeth and our VPSOs for their work in making our VPSO program so successful that we are asked to support the program in these additional ways. It speaks well of the work we are doing.

**ICWA Program Update** Amanda McAdoo, our ICWA Coordinator nominated to serve as co-lead negotiator for the Compact. This speaks very well of Amanda and the work she is doing for our families, as well as how well she works with the State and the tribal groups. In other exciting news, HB184 in support of the Tribal Child Welfare Compact was approved and signed into the State's budget. We sent letters to Governor Dunleavy, Representative Zulkosky and the tribal work group members thanking them for their support and efforts. The Compact now has a small line item in the State's Budget, and we could not be happier.

**TCSP Program Update** The Tribal Child Support Program has been in contact with the State of North Dakota, and are working to move ahead plans for Federal Tax Offset in order to obtain child support payments from federal tax returns. North Dakota has a well-run Federal Tax Offset agreement with many Tribes across the country. We are now in discussions with them to be added to their list of Tribal Child Support programs serviced. When the agreement is complete, APIA Tribal
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Child Support will begin referring child support clients for garnishment of their Federal Tax refunds. This is something we have been unable to accomplish with the State of Alaska due to their database restrictions. This will allow our Tribal Child Support Program to make even more collections on behalf of our children and families. Thank you to Malinda and Theresa for your continued commitment to being innovative in our collection efforts.

Wellness Collaborated with communities on local physical activity promotion for cancer prevention: Unalaska- sponsored healthy walk; Nikolski- purchased and shipped nine bicycles; Atka- purchased four exercise foot pedals/dumbbells.

Behavioral Health APIA continues to have a prominent role in the training of psychologists in the state of Alaska. We continue to mentor and train psychologists at the practicum level, predoctoral intern level and post-doctoral fellow. Clinical services being delivered in person and via telehealth has been well executed and well received by clients.

Elder Services The APIA Elder Care Services division was awarded a grant through The Alaska Community Foundation to support the greenhouse efforts in Nikolski and St. George. On June 30, 2022, a total of 13,293 pounds of food items were sent to households in St. George and Nikolski to complete the project objectives and support food security in these communities.

Healthy Relationships Team APIA Healthy Relationships Advocates were awarded the Victims for Justice’s 2022 Victims Service Award for Outstanding Services to Victims in Alaska. The award was accepted by Jessie Rice, Healthy Relationships Coordinator/Advocate II, during Victims for Justice’s 2022 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Public Service Award Gala on April 30, 2022. Congratulations to Jessie and the Healthy Relationships Team for this recognition of the hard work they are doing for our people.

Unangam Tunuu Program – ANA ARP Grant Moses Dirks continues to translate and transcribe language material and hold bi-weekly meetings with the New Words Committee. Christina Newhall, a language consultant assisting with the project (a PhD student and an Unga Tribal Member), traveled to Anchorage for a month in June and July to work with us in-person. While she was here, she and Moses developed interview questions and conducted 23 interviews with Elders and Speakers. Several interviews were recorded solely in Unangam tunuu. These interviews provide relevant cultural and genealogical information. Interview questions range from details of kinship, to memorable historical events (such as the 1964 earthquake, cannery fires, etc.), and seasonal subsistence practices etc. Moses and Christina are making plans to travel to interview fluent speakers in the region and the lower 48.

Our Anchorage office, Unangam Ulaa, is open for clients, visitors and guests again after the prolonged time of COVID restrictions. If you are in Anchorage, come on by at 1131 E International Airport Road. Also, feel free to check us out at www.apiai.org and on Facebook. May God be with you all!
VIRTUAL UNANGAM TUNUU DOWNLOAD CAMP

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the obligations of our language consultants, the Unangam Tunuu Download Camp was held virtually from May 31 – June 3, 2022. This was the first ever Unangam Tunuu Download Camp held over Zoom. During this virtual language event there were two “Where Are Your Keys” language consultants, 9 Unangam Tunuu cohort members and 27 new participants. At this event, participants went through lessons in Unangam tunuu, sang songs in Unangam tunuu, were trained on language learning/teaching Techniques, and were given information about other language learning resources.

The language team hopes to host an in-person Unangam Tunuu Download Camp next Spring or early Summer at a community in the region, as long as the health of the community is not compromised. We will post the date and location on our FB page and website.

PRIMARY CARE

We are committed to keeping our communities safe during the ongoing pandemic. The COVID vaccination for >6mo has been implemented and is available in our communities. The vaccine has proven to be highly effective in preventing severe illness, hospitalization and even death throughout this pandemic. Should any of our population test positive for COVID, antivirals are available in each clinic. This treatment is highly coordinated and screened by a pharmacist, a lot of parameters have to be met before administration. We continue to remain informed and up to date of new information and requirements for COVID.

**Travel kits** In light of the ongoing pandemic, APIA will be sending out another round of travel kits. These kits will include at home COVID test as we know that promptly identifying positive cases is the most effective way to slow the spread throughout our communities.

Each of our clinics will be stocked with kits for travelers and their families.

We are also keeping a close eye on the monkeypox virus. Our providers have attended trainings to remain up to date. If you have any symptoms of monkeypox, talk to your healthcare provider, even if you don’t think you had contact with someone who has monkeypox. Symptoms of monkeypox can include: fever, headache, muscle aches and backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, exhaustion, respiratory symptoms (e.g. sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough), a rash that can look like pimples or blisters.

If there are any concerns for our communities, we will notify our tribal leaders.
A long road to environmental justice: Pau-
loff Harbor Tribe’s Efforts on Sanak FUDs
Sites

The Pauloff
Harbor Tribe is one
of 3 federally-
recognized displaced
Unangax̂ (Aleut)
Tribes, originally
from the communi-
ties of Pauloff Har-
bor and Company
Harbor on Sanak Is-
land. Many Tribal
members now live in
Sand Point where the
Tribe operates. Tribal
members have known that the United States
military heavily impacted the island during the
campaigns of World War II. Many buildings,
radios, tank farms and fuel pipelines, and other
infrastructure were built to support a large ra-
dio tower as part of an Advance Warning Sys-
tem. The military forgot about these sites and
erroneously concluded in the 1980’s that these
sites were not military sites. The Tribe has al-
ways correctly maintained that these sites were
military origin.

When the Tribe began to participate in the En-
vironmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Indian
General Assistance Program (GAP) in 2003,
the opportunity to address this historic mistake
through staff time and EPA-Tribal Environ-
mental Plan (ETEP) development. Their his-
toric records reviews, multiple site visits by
Tribal leaders, (often joined by APIA Environ-
mental Staff), and previous residents’ inter-
views have all provided additional evidence of
military activities. Additionally, recent baseline
assessment efforts have continued to identify
areas of potential contamination. All these ef-
forts have resulted in tons of contaminated
materials removed, the on-island risks reduced,
and additional potentially contaminated sites
identified. The Pauloff Harbor Tribe continues
to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engi-
eers (USACE) and their contractors to reme-
diate and clean-up their home island, an im-
portant subsistence use area.

APIA is very proud of the determination and
hard work that allowed the Pauloff Harbor
Tribe’s achievement in protecting and impro-
ving the environment of their home island, par-
ticularly for the future generations that will
benefit from today’s success in correcting an
historic wrong. APIA is grateful for the invita-
tion that allowed Environmental Health Ser-
vice Coordinator Rachel Lekanoff to join the
Pauloff Harbor Tribe for a soil baseline assess-
ment site visit on Sanak Island at the end of
May.

The EHS Office wishes well to Rachel, who
has joined her home tribe. We thank her for
her good work and look forward to working
with her at Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska! We
are hiring an EHS Coordinator, so please share
the word.

Photo Credits: Arlene Gundersen; Pauloff Harbor
Dump, National Archives: Pauloff Harbor WWII,
Rachel Lekanoff; Pauloff Harbor, Sunny on Sanak,
Antone Point
The number of art and projects started or completed demonstrates how busy everyone was: 45 visors, 60 drums, 22 weavings, 44 model iqyas, nine beaded glass balls, 42 headresses, 15 carvings, 20 paintings, 27 jewelry projects, and eight traditional foods dishes. 30 attendees also participated in the dance lessons each afternoon.

The week finished off at the annual Aleut Picnic where all ages performed dances they learned. Some adorned in the regalia, headresses and jewelry made during camp.

There was a tremendous amount of support this year. $80,120 in grants and private donations were received from the Alaska State Council of the Arts, Community Arts Partnership Grant, Alaska Community Foundation, Camp Initiative Grant, APICDA, Aleutian Housing Authority, APIA’s Health and DFCD Departments and volunteers!

We truly appreciate the Assistants, Unangam Tunuu Interns and Apprentices who helped make the camp a success: David Gregory, Visor Assistant; Mike Witsoe, Drums and General Camp Assistant; Lavern Kochuten, Registration Table and Model Kayak Assistant; Lynette Mack, Registration Table and Unangam Tunuu; Bobbie Dushkin, Unangam Tunuu; Charlotte Rutherford, Unangam Tunuu and Dance; Abigail Millard, Drum Assistant; Alex Griesbaum, Children’s Activities Assistant; Nic Vincler, Apprentice; Nancy Zaochny, Apprentice.
ANCHORAGE SUMMER LANGUAGE INTENSIVE

The three-week Summer Language Intensive (SLI) began on July 18, 2022 and went until August 5, 2022. During this Unangam tunuu focused gathering, 11 Unangam tunuu learners worked together to advance their lessons created during the pandemic and tested with their team for the first time in person since 2020!

The learners also worked with fluent speakers, both in person and over Zoom to work on acquiring new language and creating lessons to teach off that new language.

From this event, the Regional Language Team plans to continue creating new lessons and increase their fluency and teaching ability. Due to the pandemic, two SLI’s were postponed. Another SLI is expected to take place in the Summer of 2023.

Urban Unangax̱ Culture Camp 2022

Thank You Contributors!

APIA Health Department
APIA Family & Community Development Department

ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

Aleutian Housing Authority

The Alaska Community Foundation

QDOBA Mexican Eats

Jenna Larson
June McGlashan
Abegail Millard
Candace Nielsen
Sharon Brandell
The Annual Regional Youth Summit 2022 took place in-person at APIA’s Main Office in Anchorage from July 16th to 18th. There were nine (9) youth participants in all, ranging from the age of 10 to 16 years old. Youth resided in the communities of Anchorage, Atka, Akutan and Unalaska. This was a happy occasion to come together and celebrate with APIA staff, youth participants and parents from the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region and Anchorage after two years of virtual programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Summit opened with a series of Group Agreements for the youth to emulate over the next three days: (1) in every seat is a leader, (2) I will participate fully, (3) when another person is talking I will listen, (4) I will keep my phone on silent, (5) I am responsible for my own experience and (6) that this is a space for meaningful conversations.

Then, Dustin Newman, APIA Youth Services Program Coordinator, facilitated a conversation around Regional Community Topics and Issues. Using the Menti website, youth were able to anonymously submit their responses to a series of questions about their favorite outdoor activity, mental health, teamwork and leadership. Youth reported that their favorite outdoor activity was fishing, camping, biking, walking on the beach and spending time with friends. In response to the question “what changes do you want to see in your community?” youth had much to say. Responses include holding more community events, cultivating more “respect and common sense,” creating more Elder and youth connection, “helping the homeless,” “stopping bullying,” reducing alcohol use and putting a stop to littering.

In consensus, every youth said that they could help themselves and others to start talking about their feelings by creating a “safe place to speak” that is respectful of privacy, “won’t talk about my situation to others” and “where there is no fear of being made fun of.”

When asked to give examples of supporting and reinforcing the concept of Ataqan Akun (“We Are One” in Unangam Tunuu), a youth reported that “getting to know each other better and understanding our community issues is one way we could work together.” Youth said that leaders should act by “always putting their people first,” “[being] open and respectful, but have the knowledge and strength to make hard decisions,” and “they will help you know how to do things even if it’s hard.”

Then, youth started the first two units of American Heart Association’s (AHA) Heartsaver First Aid with instructors Doug Finney and Olivia Bridges: personal protection and medical emergencies. The instructors reminded the youth that the first thing you always assess in an emergency medical scenario is the scene and your personal safety. This is because you do not want to get hurt and add to the number of patients, because you cannot help the situation if you are down, too. The youth learned how medical personnel wash their hands for 20 seconds under warm water and learned how to take off or “to doff”
Regional Youth Summit

gloves safely in order to not get bodily fluids on their hands and stay clean. Special thanks to Doug Finney, who took time out of his weekend to help instruct the first aid class and provide his extensive medical expertise and professional anecdotes.

Following the first session of First Aid, David Clark and Sasha Kramer with Native Movement gave a presentation about Gender Identity during lunch. Native Movement is a non-profit organization dedicated to “building people power, rooted in an Indigenized worldview, toward healthy, sustainable & just communities for ALL.” Youth participants learned about the difference between the biological, sex assigned at birth and gender identity, which might match biological sex or might be different. The representatives from Native Movement also talked about some of the gender variance that has been present throughout history, including in traditional Unangax culture when gender roles were inextricably tied to gender identity.

Next, APIA Youth Services Program staff and additional staff volunteers traveled to the AK Rock Gym to climb for two hours. This activity was chosen to build communication, teamwork and self-reliance. Special thanks to the volunteer APIA staff that attended rock climbing, Jacob Timmons and Kristi Duff from the Employment, Training & Related Services (ETR) Program. Catering on the first day of the Summit was provided by UAA Seawolf Catering and Main Event Grill.

The second day of the Summit was a rainy one, but the youth participants and APIA Staff bussed to the Upper Rabbit Creek Trailhead in South Anchorage to hike. Meda DeWitt facilitated the hike and identified numerous plants along the path that had important history in Alaska Native cultures for food and medicine. DeWitt is an Alaska Native traditional healer and plant medicine person with extensive knowledge and experience in the outdoors. The youth learned about fireweed, elderberry, cow parsnip or putchki, wolfsbane, cottonwood, alder, yarrow, hellbore, stinkweed, devil’s club, arnica, valerian, watermelon berry and mountain chiming bell. Special thanks to APIA Behavioral Health clinician Becks Jacob, who volunteered to hike with us.

Youth listen to Meda DeWitt, Alaska Native traditional healer and plant medicine person.

After the hike, youth and APIA Staff bussed back to Unangam Ulaa to dry off and finish the AHA Heartsaver First Aid. They learned about injury emergencies and practiced the skills to administer an Epi-pen and splint a broken arm. The class finished with an overview of common environmental emergencies including hypothermia and prevention regarding smoking and using tobacco products.

On the third and final day of the Summit, Alice Palen and Caitlin Moroney from APIA’s Behavioral Health Department joined to lead a Mask Making Activity and the building of model iqyax. Ms. Palen is a Behavioral Health clinician and certified Expressive Arts Therapist and Ms. Moroney is a Pre-doctoral Psychology Intern. The youth made beautiful masks that represented aspects of their life that are important to them and/or to their feelings and emotions that they wanted to explore and
Regional Youth Summit

create within the confines of a mask. Amy Carlough, APIA Youth Services Administrator and Georgia Kashevarof, Community Health Services Program Assistant II, made frybread and Olivia Bridges cut up all the fixings for Indian (NDN) tacos that the youth participants enjoyed.

Representatives from APICDA, the Aleut Foundation and APIA’s ETR Program joined together to lead an Education Plenary for the youth participants and their parents. Celeste Kukahiko from APICDA shared about multiple scholarship opportunities for youth from communities in the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region. Naomi Philemonof from The Aleut Foundation talked about paying for college credit for high school students and gave t-shirts to all the youth. Jacob Timmons of APIA ETR presented to the youth about internships, scholarships and funding for travel related to education.

To close out the Summit, ‘Wáahlal Gíidaak Barbara Blake and Silungnataanit’sqaq Melissa Marton from First Alaskans Institute lead a Tribal Resolution Writing Workshop. Former Governor Bill Walker and Heidi Drygas joined as special guests and made a short speech about the importance of getting involved in your community at a young age and how to get your voice heard. Youth participants developed working resolutions about stopping littering, ending homelessness, reducing substance use, adding rock climbing to physical activity and enacting gun regulation.

At the end of the day, the youth submitted evaluations and received certificates for their wonderful participation, attention and hard work during the Summit.

“It’s inspiring to see our youth ready and willing to learn how to work on issues that they are passionate about and that have an impact on their lives — such as gender identity and future career and schooling options. Learning First Aid not only benefits all but gives our youth valuable life skills that they can use in real life situations. Truly grateful our youth are given these kind of opportunities to learn and grow and be able to get youth from the region together.”

April Pelkey, parent of a youth participant, regarding APIA Regional Youth Summit 2022
Elder Care Expands Home & Community Based Services

The Elder Care Services division has been persistently working to expand home and community based services through new funding resources from the State of Alaska. New Senior In-Home services include, Chore Services, Supplemental Services, and Case Management Services to support our Elders, caregivers and their families.

Chore is a service that assists an Elder in keeping a safe and clean environment to live independently in their home. Typical chore activities may include meal preparation, shopping for groceries, laundry, performing light or heavy housework, running errands, yard work or sidewalk maintenance, hauling water, and other tasks may be approved.

Supplemental Services is a service to assist the low-income Elder in attaining or maintaining a safe and healthy environment to avoid a crisis that would jeopardize their ability to remain independently in their own home. Up to $500 can be utilized per Elder/household per year.

Case Management services provide assistance to Elders in gaining access to and utilizing needed medical, social, educational, and other programs and services.

Local Elder Health Aides in King Cove, Nikolski, St. George and Anchorage are ready to support enrollment to services and navigate access to additional statewide services.

For eligibility information and assistance in accessing these services, please reach out to the Elder Care Services division at (907) 276-2700.

Wellness Programs

Employee Worksite Wellness This summer the APIA Worksite Wellness put together a coed employee softball team with Anchor Sports with the goal of encouraging healthy habits in and out of the workplace. The final game of the season was on July 20, 2022. We hope to continue to build our team and play again next year!

Traditional Foods APIA’s Traditional Foods Program completed 11 films in the Qaqamiiguq Traditional Foods Film Series. All of these films can be viewed on APIA’s website, along with the accompanying field guides created for each film.

We are excited that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded APIA’s Wellness Program recently with a 5-year award, Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country. APIA will be working in collaboration with Atka on traditional foods and cultural practices projects with this award.

Employee Worksite Wellness

Traditional Foods

Wellness Programs
**Congratulations Graduates!**

Danelle Shellikoff  Associates in General Studies and Associates in Alaska Native Studies from University of Alaska Anchorage

"Danelałqam Dákée Shëllikoff asaṭakut. Unangam̱x̱ ama Athabascan akut. Isanam̱x̱ ama Grayling tanadgusii ilagaan angištakut. My name is Danelle Shëllikoff. I am Unangam̱x̱ and Athabascan, from the villages of False Pass and Grayling. I received an Associates in General Studies in Fall 2021 and an Associates in Alaska Native Studies Spring 2022. During the Fall semester at UAA I took my first Unangam̱ Tunuu class and continue to learn my language. It is my ultimate goal to become a Registered Nurse and serve my people and communities. I would like to thank the APLA family and the Aleut Foundation family for all of their support and encouragement on my journey to achieving my goals."

Karen Ravenscroft  Bachelor’s in Elementary Education from Western Governors University

“My name is Karen Ravenscroft, daughter of Raymond and Lydia Vincler of Akutan, granddaughter to Nick Borenin of Makushin, and Marie Borenin of Akutan. Since I was in elementary school I knew in my heart that I wanted to become a teacher. I loved all of my teachers because they made learning fun and memorable. I proceeded through elementary and secondary school still harboring a love of learning. I had ended up having a child a year out of high school, which I would not change for the world because they are what really motivated my choice to go back for my teaching degree 13 years later. I had finally had some stability in my life, to where I was able to go back to school for my degree. If it had not been for my two children, who inspire me to be the best that I can for them, or my husband David and my mom Lydia who were there to help take care of the kids when I needed to concentrate on my college work, I would not be where I am today. Today at the age of 35, I am a college graduate with a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Western Governors University and an Alaska Certified Teacher of grades K-8. The long days consisting of regular classroom duties as an Instructional Aide plus much more, followed by taking care of things at home, then reading and studying for my coursework. Weekends spent planning for the coming weeks in the classroom with my supervising teacher and then taking proctored tests for my college classes. School/Work holidays were spent working all day every day on my college work to complete any tasks and classes I needed to finish. Three and a half year of this was not easy in the slightest but they were worth it. I was able to fulfill my childhood dream of becoming a teacher. I’m very excited to begin my teaching career in my hometown of Akutan. It’s important for me to represent our people in the school setting, because I know in the past, school wasn’t always a welcoming place."

Colten Mack  Bachelor of Science in Biology from University of Alaska Southeast

“This spring 2022, I earned a bachelor of science in biology from University of Alaska Southeast. This summer, I will return to my hometown, Sand Point, to commercial fish and this fall I will be teaching physical education at Sand Point School. I’d like to thank my parents for raising me to be the goal-oriented person I am today. Also, I would like to thank my sister, Dannielle, and Brandon for all the love, support, and inspiration they’ve always provided me. Finally, I would like to thank APLA for their continued support throughout my educational journey.”

*Continued on page 17*
Unangaâ Warrior Honored

On May 30th, Memorial Day, Private First Class George Fox was honored with Color Guard and 21-Gun Salute conducted by the United States Army’s 4-25 Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne). Born in Unga, raised in Unalaska, PFC Fox is the only known Unangan soldier killed in action during World War II or any War since. Unalaska citizen Gertrude Svarny grew up with George and kept his memory alive by placing a US Flag on his unmarked grave for decades. US Senator Dan Sullivan described this as an incredible, uplifting, epic story that takes twists and turns with dark spots, racism, discrimination as well as service, honor, and heroism. Senator Sullivan acknowledged on the floor of the US Senate that Private Fox’s ultimate sacrifice might have been forgotten was discrimination, because he was Alaska Native. US Army Major General Eifler said that the respect for Private Fox is long overdue and that he hopes this brings some healing to the community and that he prays that it heals some of the wounds from World War II and the injustices that were done to the Aleut people. Governor Mike Dunleavy noted that Private George Fox came from a warrior culture that prides itself in facing death without flinching, that he died thousands of miles from his Unga home, fighting against the greatest evil the world has ever seen. A US Army flag flown over the Pentagon was delivered to Gertrude Svarny by a US Army soldier. A replica of Private George Fox’s military dog tags was delivered to Gold Star Peak (4,148 feet) near Eklutna Lake. In ancient times, Unangax warriors climbed the mountains to the mummy caves to gain strength, power, and bravery from elders who had proved themselves in battle. For future generations, it is hoped that they climb the hills of Unalaska to Private George Fox’s grave, to pay honors as well as to gain courage from his gravesite and sacrifice. It is also hoped that PFC George Fox’s life will be celebrated at future Memorial Day ceremonies. KUCB has published a short film, and APIA is editing a longer movie. Several requests have been made for a book to be written. As Senator Dan Sullivan said, this epic story literally has a Hollywood ending.

Tribal Child Support Program

Are you worried about how the other parent will react to child support? Is that worry keeping you from applying? Talk to us. We can help. Let us chat with you about what child support is, as well as what it isn’t. There is no pressure to apply. The application process is just that– a process– and we are here to help you through it.

Tribal Child Support Programs across the U.S. continue to grow and help more families make ends meet and APIA’s Tribal Child Support Program (TCSP) is no exception. This year, TCSP is on track to collect one quarter of a million dollars. 100% of those funds are distributed to parents and caretakers who are raising our next generation.

If you are interested in opening or transferring your child support case, call Malinda or Teresa at 1-800-478-2742 or email malindab@apiai.org or teresak@apiai.org. We can also be reached by text message at (907) 744-6329.
These past couple of years has put into perspective the resiliency of APIA Head Start Program. There were many lessons to be learned from the statewide shutdown and slow reopening of our programs. Any challenge or problem can be handled when you have dedicated people willing to take it on, bounce back and persevere. The protocols put in place by our Health and Safety Advisory Committee has helped stop the spread of COVID and keep our centers open. The Program continues to follow strict health and safety measures. As we look forward to fall, the intention is to once again return to normal classroom size and services.

Recruitment is in full force for both Head Start & Early Head Start. Social media posts and parents are two of our best recruitment tools… parents being the primary! This year has been challenging and we are eternally grateful to our dedicated staff for their resiliency and commitment to the program. To see all job openings, visit us online at www.apiai.org/jobs and apply online today!

The Head Start facility in Unalaska is very near completion. We are planning on school starting in our new facility on September 6, 2022, if the building has been completed. We will have an opening ceremony and building blessing with the date later in September. We will start the school year with classes for Head Start aged children three to five years old. We are conducting the research and preparing to apply for funding to serve infants and toddlers in the upcoming years as funding is secured.
**Wellness Programs**

**ANTHC Cancer Prevention** Wellness staff, Robyn Burnside and Chrissy Roes, wrapped up an animated video series entitled, "Traditional Unangax Foods: Nutritional Facts Labels." The series featured an animated host voiced by a local Unangax youth showcasing the healthy nutritional properties of salmon, berries, caribou and sea lion. These videos can be found on APIA’s website as well as YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

**Tobacco Prevention** Tobacco Prevention Coordinator, Caroline Nevak, and Wellness Media Specialist, Chrissy Roes completed a 5-part series on tobacco cessation facts, featuring youth from the region. The video announcements will play on Channel 8 TV in Unalaska as well as on Facebook and YouTube.

**Wellness Strategies for Health:** If you live in Atka, Nikolski, or St. George, you might see some new foods being demonstrated in your stores! APIA’s Wellness Program Coordinator, Sarah Dushkin, is working with these stores to introduce some new healthy food options. We look forward to hearing your feedback on the food samples that have been sent to your communities!

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**Congratulations graduates**

Continued from page 14

**Madison Thompson** Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing from Montana State University

“This spring I will be graduating with honors from Montana State University with a BS in Business Marketing. While my family was my biggest support system during my time in college, I am truly thankful for all of the countless educational opportunities provided to me by APIA. Aside from the generous scholarship program APIA offers, Jami does semester check-ins with students. I have always been confident in my academic abilities, but Jami is always there for me and offers support outside of just academics, I have always felt seen and heard by her. Other big contributors are The Aleut Foundation, Unga Tribe, and the AEBS. I’m so proud to be from Sand Point, and feel very fortunate that we have great programs and organizations such as APIA bettering our community. Best, Madison”

Congratulations and best of luck to all of our graduates!
APIA recently received a grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This grant opportunity supports the Cultural Heritage Department’s Unanga Heritage Library and Archive (UHLA).

Funding will support programming and provide core library services to nine of our tribal communities. UHLA provides in-person library and archive services, publishes the Unangam tunuu Word of the Week. UHLA staff catalogs and manages APIA’s growing repository of library and archive material, audio/video collections, WWII documents, photographs, and fine art collections. UHLA holds ongoing programs and workshops on topics such as such as genealogy, the Unangam tunuu language, Unanga culture, and preservation methods.

UHLA staff work in partnership with our constituent communities to strengthen, preserve, and ensure the unity of the Unanga people by providing access to cultural knowledge and information, by expanding learning opportunities, and by hosting events to support community connections.

The library also digitizes and shares Unanga culture through presentations, social media, publications, and programming. Efforts by UHLA staff help to document and preserve significant elements of Unanga language and culture and also help to increase understanding of the important contributions made by Native people.

IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums through grantmaking, research and policy development. Their vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more about IMLS, visit www.IMLS.gov and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

**DONATING TO UHLA**

Aside from the library and archive, UHLA is responsible for managing a growing fine art and artifact collection. UHLA staff manage and care for material on exhibit at our Anchorage headquarters and responsible for objects donated to APIA. The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association exclusively collects objects pertaining to our mission statement.

**Q:** How do I donate an object to APIA?

**A:** All objects offered for donation to APIA must be approved by a committee process. The Cultural Heritage Director and Committee evaluate donations based on criteria that supports our mission statement. Once it is determined that APIA will accept your object, you will be sent a Deed of Gift and a brief questionnaire about the history and provenance of your items. Once signed and returned, the Deed of Gift verifies that you are the owner and that you have transferred ownership and all rights of the object to APIA.

**Q:** How will I be acknowledged for my donation?

**A:** On your Deed of Gift form, you will have the option to designate how you are acknowledged by APIA. Typically, when objects are used for exhibition, the donor is listed as indicated on the Deed of Gift. APIA allows donors to include what they want the credit line to read. This acknowledgement can be used as a credit line in honor someone, or recognize someone else, or may be used to remain anonymous.
Q: Can APIA staff appraise the value of my objects?
A: It is unethical for libraries, museum, and similar institutions to assign value for gifts. Ethical standards and IRS regulations prohibit museum staff from offering value appraisals of any kind. We suggest that you seek the advice of an accredited appraiser who is an expert in Alaskan based collections.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors! As a non-profit organization, your donations are tax deductible. We do not accept unsolicited object donations or ‘drop-offs.’ If you would like to make a donation to APIA, please contact Millie Jackson at milliem@apiai.org or call 1-800-478-2742 and we will be happy to discuss your donation.

Village Public Safety Officers

Army Skill Bridge Internship Program

On May 12th, APIA began a relationship with the U.S. Army Skill Bridge Program. Our VPSO program took on SSG Zachary Burns as an intern for the program. SSG Burns was placed in False Pass with VPSO Sgt. Christopher Stewart for the first week.

During that time, SSG Burns was immersed into the community and the day to day life of a VPSO.

Along with VPSO Stewart, they were able to provide public safety information to the children in False Pass and set up an obstacle course for the children to complete. SSG Burns also received training related to firefighting and the supplies/equipment most commonly used in our VPSO communities to fight fires.

After the first week, SSG Burns joined our VPSO’s from Akutan, Atka, and Nelson Lagoon at the Conference on Crimes Against Women in Dallas, TX. This conference had well over 150 workshops. This conference is one of the best I’ve attended in my 20 years with the program. After the conference SSG Burns returned to False Pass with 1SGT Lejarzar, our most senior VPSO for the remainder of the internship.

VPSO Program New Hires

On June 3rd, Jeffrey Messano was hired as the 2nd VPSO in Akutan and will be a great addition to the team.

July 6th brought two new hires to the team. Sven Johnson was hired as the new VPSO Program Training Manager and will work closely with APIA and the other nine entities that manage VPSO’s in the state, to ensure that our officers are provided with the best possible training. Zachary Burns (Army Skill Bridge Intern) was also brought on board as our first VPSO in the Native Village of Tyonek. This is a new position for APIA and we welcome Zachary to the team!

Kevin “Brady” Gatlin became a member of the team on July 10th and will be stationed in False Pass. Kevin’s wife Megan is a teacher in False Pass and they look forward to making False Pass their home.
AN INVALUABLE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

On June 16, 2022, eight individuals with strong ties to the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region and the Bristol Bay Region joined together at the Dimond Center Hotel to discuss future programming for APIA Youth Services and further, to develop a mission statement with a vision for the Southwest Alaska Steering Committee for Health & Resilience. Luke Stowe, Makarius Swetzof, Marii Swetzof, Dr. Mike Livingston and Reign Galovin represented the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region, while Brenda Wilson with Eastern Aleutian Tribes and Mel Prokopiof with APIA Behavioral Health participated in the meeting via Zoom. The communities that were represented were: Atka, Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point and St. George. Tiffany Webb with Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation represented the Bristol Bay Region for the Steering Committee.

The GCI Suicide Prevention Grant that made this in-person meeting possible included a travel budget for six (6) individuals to come out from the Southwest Region of Alaska. Amy Carlough, APIA Youth Services Administrator, provided an overview of the Youth Services Program at APIA and facilitated a “Data Download.” A Data Download is a way of sharing existing data gathered from community members, in this case from the Notah Begay III Community Empowerment Grant and past data from SAMHSA Community Readiness Assessments. This information inspired commentary and lively conversation between the Steering Committee members and APIA Youth Services Program staff.

Following the opening session, a “tasting menu” was presented to the Steering Committee members of the current programming offered by APIA Youth Services. First, Jenna Larson, APIA Youth Services Program Coordinator, talked about “Prime For Life,” a substance use prevention curriculum for youth. Dustin Newman, APIA Youth Services Program Coordinator, shared a chapter from the new suicide prevention curriculum “Breaking Waves” that he is working on with support from the Suquamish Tribe and their “Healing Of The Canoe” curriculum. Breaking Waves uses an iqyax as a metaphor for moving through life’s challenges and celebrations. Then, Olivia Bridges (APIA Youth Services Program Coordinator) conducted an Auditory Hallucinations Activity from the National Council for Mental Wellbeing’s Youth Mental Health First Aid. Finally, Ms. Bridges gave a brief overview of the American College of Trauma Surgeon’s Stop The Bleed. This is a short, 2-hour course that teaches non-medical, lay people to recognize and respond to severe blood loss with bleeding control interventions, including pressure, packing the wound and applying a tourniquet.

Makarius Swetzof and Tiffany Webb volunteered for the positions of Youth Committee Chair and Adult Committee Chair, respectively, and were voted in unanimously. Ms. Webb works at Bristol Bay Area Health Cor-
AN INVALUABLE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

poration in the Behavioral Health Department and is an Opioid Overdose Prevention Coordinator. She will be helping to recruit youth from the Bristol Bay Region to participate in the Steering Committee. The name of Ms. Webb and Mr. Swetzoñ’s positions will most likely change to “Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region Youth Committee Chair” and “Bristol Bay Region Adult Chair.”

In the afternoon session, Luke Stowe, APIA Community Health Services Executive Assistant, lead a Strategic Planning Session for the Steering Committee members. The mission statement that was developed from this planning session is: “[to] Maintain ancestral teachings and incorporate contemporary models of resiliency to address holistic health needs across the Aleutian Pribilof Islands and Bristol Bay Regions, spanning Youth to Elders.” The vision statement for the future that was developed is: “That each person is safe, loved, honored, valued, and feels pride living by our ancestral teachings. That the youth feel connected, inspired, highly capable, and have pride in their identity and culture. Our communities are mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually healthy and infused with the cultural wisdom of our elders.” Mr. Stowe also facilitated a conversation with the Steering Committee members about their goals and objectives, which will be further identified and explored in a future Steering Committee meeting. Special thanks to Luke Stowe for leading the afternoon session.

Finally, the members completed evaluations and once the clock hit 5:00pm, they bid farewell to one another. Upon examination, the evaluations were overall very positive. The entire meeting was recorded via Zoom and will be saved for record purposes. Thank you to all the wonderful people that joined and participated so actively in this meeting. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for August 30th, 2022 on Zoom. If you are interested in joining the Steering Committee, please contact Olivia Bridges by email at oliviab@apiai.org or phone at 907-276-2700 at extension 738.

Note: The Steering Committee is in the process of a name change to something that is shorter. Stay tuned!

REGIONAL FOOD SYMPOSIUM

The APIA Wellness and Environmental Programs collaborated April 12-14 to host the Regional Food Security and Climate Change Symposium in Anchorage as an in-person and virtual event. Fifty people participated from eight communities in the region. The symposium concluded with establishing a stakeholder group to continue addressing these regional concerns.
**Purchased/Referred Care**

Formerly known as Contract Health Services, Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) is a benefit to Alaska Native and American Indian people that provides funding for referred medical services not available at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC).

**Referral process for routine scheduled care?**

- Visit your primary care provider and if necessary, they will refer you to ANMC.
- An APIA or ANMC provider initiates all referrals.
- All patients are screened for Medicaid, Medicare or private health insurance. If eligible, PRC will help patients apply. What is the referral process for emergency medical care outside of Alaska?

- In an emergency, seek medical attention first and then notify PRC as soon as possible, ideally within three days. Anyone acting on behalf of the patient can make the call to Purchased/Referred Care. Coverage for those traveling outside of Alaska is limited to emergent medical care. Emergency medical coverage is provided for:
  - People moving outside Alaska (180 days maximum).
  - Travelers, temporarily outside Alaska.
  - Full-time students and legal dependents.

**Employment, Training & Related Services Travels**

**Akutan** Our Employment, Training, and Related Services Division (ETR) met with the Akutan tribe and later held a community potluck where applications were handed out. Three applications were completed while we were in town. We also attended their 4th of July events!

**Unalaska** ETR met with Harriet Berikoff and focused on the need of child care and how we could help.

ETR has plans to travel to **False Pass** in August to hold a potluck, hand out applications, discuss our services with community members and assess training and employment needs in the community.

We plan to travel to **King Cove** in August, partnering with the Health Department, to host the Alaska Native Cultural Health and Resilience (ANCHR) Gathering.

We are planning **Sand Point** in September and will host a table at the Silver Salmon Derby!

We look forward to seeing you and sharing what services APIA’s ETR Division has to offer!
Order Online! Visit our website at http://www.apiai.org to order these publications (and more!) online! From APIA’s homepage, select “Store” from the menu on top, then select a publication and proceed. If you would like to order by phone, please contact us at (907) 276-2700.

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OUR MISSION

- To promote self-sufficiency and independence of the Unangan/Unanagas\(^1\) by advocacy, training, technical assistance, and economic enhancement;
- To assist in meeting health, safety, and well-being of each Unanga\(^2\) community;
- To promote, strengthen, and ensure the unity of the Unangan/Unangas; and
- To strengthen and preserve the Unanga\(^3\) cultural heritage.

\(^1\)Unangan [Eastern dialect], Unangas [Atka Dialect] - Aleuts, plural form; \(^2\)Unanga - Aleut, singular form

ALEUTIAN PRIBOLOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION’S
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