

ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE

CHARTER

February 11, 2008

I. Vision

Alaska Native elders and those with disabilities have access to the long term care services necessary to keep them as close to home as possible, as healthy and safe as possible, and that affords them as much independence as possible.

II. Purpose

To create a system which provides the full continuum of long term care services at the appropriate level of care in each community across the state.

III. Objectives

Strengthen the Alaska Tribal Health System's capacity to meet the long term care needs of elders and persons with disabilities by 1) ongoing identification of service development and delivery issues, 2) partnering with stakeholders to develop and implement improvement strategies, and 3) advocating for an effective long term care system.

IV. Guiding Principles

- All elders and persons with disabilities deserve access to the full range of long term care services within their home region.
- All elders and persons with disabilities deserve to be served by an appropriately trained, culturally competent and compassionate workforce.
- All elders and persons with disabilities deserve access to services that are delivered in their community by local service providers to help them stay in their own homes and/or communities as long as possible.
- All elders and persons with disabilities, and their families, deserve to know which services could help them and where they could receive those services.
- All elders and persons with disabilities have the right to choose their own care and to be actively involved in the development of their service plan.
- All elders and persons with disabilities deserve to be served by a tribal health organization that takes a customer-centered approach to long term care service development.
- All elders and persons with disabilities deserve to be served by a tribal health organization that delivers services that are financially feasible and sustainable over time.

V. Definition

Long term care is the care of an elder or individual with a disability who requires on-going assistance with daily living activities such as bathing, dressing, eating, shopping & cooking. Long term care services support elders and their families with medical, personal, and social services delivered in a variety of settings, ranging from a person's

own home to institutional settings, to ensure quality of life, maximum independence and dignity.

VI. Membership

There will be one primary representative from each of the tribal health organizations; other or alternate members may also attend meetings.

VII. Process

- The committee will select a chair and co-chair
- The group will meet regularly (approximately once per month) by teleconference
- In-person meetings will be planned when needed and as resources allow.
- All primary representatives will participate on an equal basis
- Meetings will be organized and staffed by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Advance notice and materials will be provided for all meetings

VIII. Meeting Ground Rules

- Be willing to support our vision and purpose.
- Listen actively and respectfully, and acknowledge whatever is being communicated as true for the speaker at that moment. Active listening guidelines:
 - No interrupting
 - No side conversations
 - Cell phones on mute or vibrate
 - Focus on the speaker
 - Encourage active participation of all present
 - Do not criticize or make judgments of the speaker
- Always tell your truth with compassion for others