

# ANTHC CHAP Program

## Spotlight on North Slope Borough



My name is Joyce Kompkoff Peterson and I was offered and accepted the Instructor/Trainer position located here in beautiful Barrow on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. I have been in the medical field off-and-on since 1987. I started out as an ETT then continued on to EMT-1. I held my EMT-1 for 18 years while an EMT-1, I worked as a CHR. A short while later, I was asked by my family, community and Chugachmiut to train in the Community Health Aide Program. I worked as the Primary Health Aide and later as the Primary Health Practitioner in the remote village of Chenega. Chenega is located in the Southwestern portion of Prince William Sound. If you are looking at the map of Alaska (see below) it is about 50 miles due East of Seward. The non-profit organization Chugachmiut serves the communities of Port Graham, Nanwalek, Seward, Chenega, Valdez, Tatitlek and Cordova. My dad made a living as a

fisherman and building docks all around Prince Willems Sound, so when people ask me where I am from I like to say Prince William Sound since, I have lived in every community and for three months every summer we lived on the fishing grounds(College Fiord).

I am an Orthodox Christian and have four beautiful children, all grown, my oldest daughter lives in Valdez, AK, my second daughter no longer graces us with her happy-go-lucky presence on this Earth, my son lives in Chenega, Alaska and my youngest daughter lives in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. I have a wonderful and supportive husband who also works for NSB at CIPM. We enjoy hunting, hiking, fishing and being in our Great Outdoors. Indoors I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, crocheting/crafting, and I especially love hot, hot steam baths. I took a break from the health field and worked at the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company Terminal in Valdez. I ran little boats in and around the Port of Valdez. It was my job to be ready for a disaster like the Exxon Valdez Oil spill of 1989. I did preventive maintenance on all equipment needed so that if it were to ever happen again we were ready to respond. Some of the machinery included generators, water pumps, Echo blowers, outboards, big Tioga heaters, skimmers, boats, and boom, boom, boom. We put the boom around the big tankers before they started loading crude oil into the tankers. So, we also had to maintain the boom, we repaired it, boom boat duties which included constant checking of deployed boom, we also had to wash it with a heavy duty power-washer (Rambo) to remove the barnacles and algae every spring and fall, the pressure washer could strip the paint off your car, it was so strong and was really hard to manage for my little five foot one inch self.

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If that wasn't enough, I thought I might work on the pre-requisites for the Nursing Program, all I had left was a Chemistry Class. I also continued to cover the clinic every summer for one month at Nuchek Spirit Camp on Hinchinbrook Island. The camp was put on by the Heritage Department of Chugach Corporation in the month of July every year. We had about 150 people in camp each week. I enjoyed being a part of this camp. Every year we taught our kids how to live off the land and practice our cultural ways. I am also a board member of the Chenega Corporation.

I decided I wanted to get back into the health field and enrolled at Charter College for the Medical Office Administrative Assistant Class in February 2019. I simultaneously completed two online classes every five weeks from February 2019 to November 2019 which included Compliance in Health Care Environments; Medical Terminology Fundamentals; Functions of Health Records Management; Institutional Billing, Coding and Reimbursement; Confidentiality of Health Care Records; Reimbursement Methodologies; Health Care Delivery Services; Pathophysiology and Pharmacology; Regulatory Issues in Health Information; Computerized Billing and Coding; Medical Insurance Processing and Coding; Insurance Billing and Bookkeeping; Insurance Claims Processing; Technology Fundamentals and Student Success Strategies and Professional Success Strategies; Medical Office Administrative Assistant Certificate for a total of 18 classes receiving my MOAA certificate in November 2019 while I was taking the classes my husband and I moved to Barrow.

I then started to visit our CHAP offices introducing myself and applied for CHA positions online. Lucky me, I received a call from NSB HR Department offering me the position of a Barrow-based CHA, I accepted the position on May 29, 2020. I have completed an Instructor Training Course in First Aid, CPR & AED and an Instructor Training Course for the Mandt System, which is a program that uses a continuous learning and development approach to prevent, de-escalate, and if necessary, intervene in behavioral interactions that could become aggressive.

I will admit I have a long way to go to get up to speed, but now that I am back in the office, I will give my full attention to doing just that. Thank you, for your patience. I look forward to getting to know each of you. I am excited to be working with you and the North Slope Borough. I am learning how I can best support you and will work at making our Community Health Aide Program the best in the State.