

Alaska Community Health Aide Program Who's Who & What's What

Academic Review Committee (ARC)

Statewide group representing basic training instructors, field supervisors, CHA/Ps, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Develops all aspects of CHA training including curriculum and training standards. Reports to and is a subcommittee of the Association of Alaska Community Health Aide Program Directors.

Alaska Area Native Health Service (AANHS)

The office of Indian Health Service in Alaska (Anchorage) that provides consultation and support to tribes and tribal organizations managing health care programs through PL 93-638 legislation.

Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual (CHAM/eCHAM)

Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual contains the history, exam, assessments, and plans for most of the common problems seen in village clinics. The CHAM contains the current clinical practice guidelines for CHA/Ps, and certain plans may act as standing orders for individual CHA/Ps when approved by a supervising physician. There are four sections: Emergency, Patient Care Visit, Medicine, and Reference and Procedure. Since January 2015, the CHAM is designed to be accessed electronically via a website (<https://access.echam.org/index.html>) or an iPad app or an ePub via e-Reader (Kindle, iBooks). Referred to as CHAM, eCHAM, or iCHAM.

Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB)

The ANHB is the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues. Active as an advocacy organization for the health needs and concerns of all Alaska Natives for over 40 years, it continues to emphasize the importance of self-determination in healthcare services and encourages wellness and healthy ways of life in Native communities through policy change. It advocates at the state and national levels on behalf of all tribal organizations.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)

Established in December 1997, the Consortium was designed to manage the statewide health services component of the Alaska Tribal Health System. This includes the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. The Consortium is owned by all Alaska Native people through their tribal governments and their regional non-profit organizations set up to provide health care services across Alaska.

ANTHC-CHAP

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium-Community Health Aide Program includes a Training Center and Distance Learning Network, the office of the Community Health Aide Program Certification Board and Statewide Services all within the Division of Community Health Services.

Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS)

Tribal organizations carrying out health programs to ensure that Alaska Natives have access to a comprehensive, integrated, tribally-controlled health care delivery system for the improvement of the health and well-being of Alaska Native people.

Association of Alaska Community Health Aide Program Directors (AACHAPD)

The group of CHAP Directors who manage the regional program; may also directly supervise CHA/Ps. Responsible for ensuring that the local program operates smoothly, CHA/P training needs and standards are met, and clinics are adequately staffed and function efficiently. AACHAPD is a subcommittee of the Tribal Health Directors.

Behavioral Health Aide (BHA)

BHAs include Behavioral Health Aides I, II, III and Behavioral Health Practitioners (BHP). All BHAs are included under the standards of the Community Health Aide Program Certification Board.

CHAM- See **Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual**.

eCHAM Advisory Committee

Statewide group authorized by CHAP Directors to monitor the CHAM for needed updates and to organize revisions.

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Community Health Aide Association (CHAA)

The CHAA works in an advisory capacity to the CHAP Directors and Training Center Directors on issues related to training, working conditions, recognition, and promotion of the delivery of quality health care services throughout the State.

Community Health Aide Program (CHAP)

The program within the contracted or compacted agency (tribal health organization or independent village) that administers the program services for one or more villages, and provides support and field training to CHA/Ps. Is authorized by the federal *Indian Health Care Improvement Act*, 25 USC § 16167 (Section 119 of PL 94-437), as amended.

Community Health Aide/Practitioner (CHA/P)

These health care providers are the cornerstone of health care delivery in rural Alaska and the vital link to regional and state health care facilities. The CHA/P provides acute, chronic, preventive, and emergency care to her/his village with medical supervision from physicians in regional centers. The designation CHA refers to a Community Health Aide in the process of Basic Training; CHP refers to a Community Health Practitioner who has completed Basic Training and has been credentialed as a Community Health Practitioner.

Community Health Aide Program Certification Board (CHAPCB)

The Certification Board was created in 1998 by the federal government and charged with formalizing standards and procedures for training, practice, and certification. Standards for Dental Health Aides (DHA) were added in 2002, followed by Behavioral Health Aides (BHA) in 2008. As the governing board of the CHA, DHA and BHA providers, the CHAPCB functions to certify individual Community Health Aides, Dental Health Aides, and Behavioral Health Aides at all levels of training and also certifies curricula and training centers. Members represent the Indian Health Service, State of Alaska, CHAP Training, CHAP Directors, Medicine, Dentistry, Behavioral Health and CHA/Ps.

Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Director

Administrative manager of a CHA Program; may also directly supervise CHA/Ps. Responsible for ensuring that the local program operates smoothly, CHA/P training needs and standards are met, and clinics are adequately staffed and function efficiently. Each is a member of the Association of Alaska Community Health Aide Program Directors, which meets to discuss policy for administering CHA standards in the field and in training.

Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Training Center

Provides 15 weeks of didactic and clinical training for Community Health Aides during 4 sessions. Training is held year round to accommodate the needs of approximately 550 CHA/Ps statewide. Some Training Centers are also involved in field training and evaluation. There are currently four Training Centers managed by tribal health organizations: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in Anchorage, Norton Sound Health Corporation in Nome, Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks, and Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel. All must meet the training standards for curriculum. Training activities are managed by a Training Center Director and/or Training Coordinator. All training center coordinators are members of the Training Center Coordinators' Committee, a subcommittee of ARC. They hold monthly teleconferences and meet quarterly with ARC. They recommend curriculum changes, review, and recommend approval of Continuing Education for Community Health Aides/Practitioners for the CHAPCB. Also see Distance Learning Network.

Continuing Education

Education experiences designed to refresh or advance the skills or knowledge of the CHA/Ps. 48 contact hours are required every 2 years to maintain minimum continuing education requirements established by the CHAPCB for recertification.

Coordinator Instructor/Supervisor Instructor (CI/SI)

Supervise and instruct Community Health Aides and Community Health Practitioners in the field. Frequently responsible for ensuring learning needs are met between training sessions. Help CHA/Ps keep skills and information current. Act as advocates for CHA/Ps. CI/SIs may be mid-level providers or they may be CHPs or sometimes RNs. Sometimes CI/SI personnel are administrative, but not clinical. In some agencies, they may be called Field Instructors or other title.

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Dental Health Aides (DHA)

DHAs include Primary DHA I and DHA II, Expanded Function Dental Health Aides (EFDHA I and EFDHA II), Dental Health Aide Hygienists and Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHATs). All DHAs are included under the standards of the Community Health Aide Program Certification Board.

Distance Learning Network (DLN)

The Distance Learning Network is an extension of the ANTHC CHAP Training Center. DLN offers portions of basic training by distance via the akchap.org website. Students take the didactic portion of the class and then complete the skills and clinical portion on site at any of the four training centers, or at a regional site under the direction of a training center. Session IV is currently available by distance; Sessions I & II are being combined and will be offered in 2017 by distance. DLN also offers continuing education courses.

Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA)

Established to ensure federal employees and those working in tribal organizations under federal authority, including health care providers, against civil tort claims as long as the employee is acting within their scope of practice.

Field

Field refers to the supervisory and non-medical or secondary training portions of the overall Community Health Aide Program including clinic supervision and oversight.

Indian Health Service (IHS)

The division of federal government under the US Department of Health and Human Services that provides funding and management of health services to American Indians/Alaska Natives either directly or through compacted/contracted agreements with federally recognized tribal organizations.

Referral Physician

Referral physicians work collaboratively with individual CHA/Ps, according to Community Health Aide Program Certification Board standards that require that each CHA/P have a referral physician as a condition of practice.

Review and Approval Committee (of Training Centers) (RAC)

This committee consists of each Training Center Director and a group of field supervisors and CHA/Ps which recommend standards for Training Centers to the CHAPCB. Regular reviews are conducted at each Training Center to ensure adherence to those standards. RAC reports to and is a subcommittee of CHAP Directors.

Tribal Health Director (THD)

The Tribal Health Director at each tribal health organization is responsible for managing the health programs within their agency and is often the direct supervisor of the CHAP Director. THDs meet as a committee at regular intervals and CHAP Directors report quarterly to the THDs.

Tribal Health Organization (THO)

Most of the responsibility and management of health programs has been transferred from the Indian Health Service to various tribal organizations. Villages, alone or in partnership with other villages, may also pursue managing their own health programs. There are many contracted and compacted programs that are referred to as corporations or tribal health organizations. The tribal health organization is responsible for administering its own Community Health Aide Program. The health agency hires CHA/Ps, CI/SIs, and CHAP Directors as well as Dental Health Aides and Behavioral Health Aides.

www.akchap.org is the official website of the Alaska Community Health Aide Program. Access to essential program information including training schedules, CHAM, certification standards, news and events.