

BHA Spotlight – Ann Neglaska

Meet Ann Neglaska from the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) who won the BHA “Shining Star Award” for someone who has been employed for 5 or more years and demonstrates excellence in their role by continuously delivering exceptional client care and has somehow improved the behavioral healthcare delivery system in their community.



Her supervisor wrote “Ms. Neglaska has been a dedicated Behavioral Health Aide serving not only her home community of Kaltag but also works with clients located throughout the TCC Region. She performs all clinical duties (screenings, SUD assessments, individual counseling, outreach, etc.) with professionalism and exemplifies what it means to be a BHA. However, what makes her a Shining Star is her willingness to frequently go above and beyond what might typically be expected to serve her clients, her home community, and the TCC region. For example, Ms. Neglaska is the only Health Care provider in Kaltag and therefore assists with all medevacs regardless of if they are Behavioral Health related. She will coordinate care with the On Call physician, provide support/info to families, communicate with the medevac team, and even drive the ambulance to transport patients.

Additionally, she will provide crisis response, which often takes place outside of normal work hours to check on community members and ensure safety. In fact, the TCC CHAP Training Center has requested that she lead a workshop on "Peer Debriefing" since Ms. Neglaska is skilled in providing support and assistance with processing complex feelings associated with being a health care provider in a rural setting. Recently, she has also volunteered to provide hospice care to a community member and diligently provided 24-hour care for the individual to feel safe and comforted. As a result, I firmly believe it is easy to see how Ms. Neglaska's work as a BHA has impacted her community and has increased overall health outcomes for the entire village.”

The quotation has been edited for length and clarity.