



Kelt'aeni Newsletter

Fall 2011

Volume 11, Issue 5

The MSTC Board of Directors held a workshop recently to plan for the future of the organization and to address several areas of concern brought to their attention by our beneficiaries. The board agreed on the following action plan to address the concerns brought forward.

MSTC Board Action Plan

1. **Approach the Mentasta Traditional Council Regarding the Provision of Adequate Stable Work Space for MSTC Employees in Mentasta.**
 - a. Ted Sanford – Designated as the MSTC Board Representative and Contact
2. **Provide a List of Facility Requirements**
 - a. George Drinkwater – Designated to Provide List
3. **Document Response to Concerns**
 - a. **Evelyn Beeter – Designated to Compose the Written Response**
 - i. Provided in Writing at the MSTC Annual Meeting and MTC Board Meeting
 - ii. Insert Response in the Newsletter
 - iii. Include the Response on the Website
4. **Board Members Consistently Attend MTC Council Meetings and Represent MSTC**
 - b. Ted Sanford and Donna Pennington – Designated as MSTC Board Representatives
 - c. 1st Thursday of Every Month
5. **Provide Data to MTC Regarding Number of MSTC Job Openings in Last Year and Number of Mentasta Applicants**
 - a. Evelyn Beeter – Designated to Provide List
6. **MSTC Administrative Staff On Site in Mentasta**
 - a. One Day Per Month – Evelyn Beeter, George Drinkwater, Agnes Denny
 - i. Conduct Door To Door Visits
 - ii. Provide a Written Report Regarding Comments Back to the Board



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ANTHC News is updated regularly at:
<http://www.anthctoday.org/>

“With Honor, Dignity, and Respect, empowering our people by enhancing our traditional values to ensure a healthier and more positive future for our children.”



The following issues were presented to the MSTC Board of Directors from the Mentasta Board Representatives.

Alcohol Issues

The Primary concern voiced was regarding staff not being fired after a DUI.

MSTC has had three (3) staff members with this issue over time. Two of these cases occurred recently. MSTC did not fire the staff members because they reported the violation as soon as it happened. Our Federal and grant funding require that we provide a drug free workplace, which relates to the workplace and work hours. The MSTC Board directed policy includes policy related to illegal drugs; alcohol is not illegal and thus not singled out in our current policy. We will be working on our alcohol policy with the attorneys. It is important that we work with our attorneys on this issue as employees have certain legal rights and it is MSTC's responsibility to make sure our employees' rights are protected. The other side of this coin is that we do only have a small pool of qualified individuals able to work in our communities.

Nepotism

The primary concern voiced was in regard to nepotism and close family members serving on the board and/or working together in supervisory roles.

MSTC has the same issues as other village councils throughout the state and nation with relatives working for relatives. There are examples of this in many of our communities. This is a situation that all of our staff has to deal with on daily basis. MSTC recognizes that these staff members are held to a higher level of accountability and have to walk the extra mile in all areas. It is imperative that they know the difference between personal and work, and be a professional, productive staff member. This is an area that MSTC will continue to address.

EPA Program

The primary concern voiced was that the vehicle removal project in 2011 did not include Mentasta.

This was an issue of great concern voiced by the board representatives. The MTC was requesting to know why the car crushing program did not happen in Mentasta. The simple answer is that the Mentasta Tribal Council did not approve and sign the EPA resolution. MSTC was told that Mentasta did not support the EPA program, related to a staff person being fired. This was why no vehicles were removed for Mentasta. This may not have been known by the Mentasta community members.

When MSTC is applying for grants, we usually look to the villages to provide support in the form of a resolution. Because Mentasta did not support the EPA Program Project Proposal MSTC was then obligated to find another partner for the project.

Another issue that occurred in the past, in relation to this program, was that Mentasta members wanted our EPA director to pick up garbage at specific locations. This is not what the program was funded to do; it was awarded to teach our young people not to throw trash and garbage around in the first place, to recycle the cans and paper and plastic and batteries. Under the funding each community is supposed to support their recycling center with their own EPA program. The MSTC EPA program is an overall program to improve the environment around our communities and not to perform individual services. The vehicle removal project was a specific project funded under the grant.

Increased Jobs in the Villages

The primary concern voiced was that the people in the community need jobs to provide for their families.

- MSTC currently has seven direct service positions in both Mentasta and Chistochina.
- MSTC currently has another seven direct service positions that serve both villages.
- MSTC currently has three administrative staff at the Chistochina Administrative Office.
- The Accounting Department and Contractors also serve the entire organization.

A challenge that MSTC is facing is that some of village-based positions are a revolving door; people want jobs but don't apply.

A Greater Presence in the Village

The primary concern voiced was that the people in the community did not see MSTC staff and managers in the village on a regular basis.

The MSTC Board of Directors has requested that management staff create a rotating work schedule where they will be present in Mentasta on a regularly scheduled basis. Staff will also work on being more active in the community.

Equal Level of Services

The primary concern voiced was that the people in the community did not feel Mentasta residents received an equal level of service from MSTC programs.

A major obstacle in Mentasta is that there is not a sufficient structure available for MSTC to provide staff workspace in Mentasta. MSTC cannot do the same things we can do in Chistochina and just don't have the same staff, space and volunteer support as we do in Chistochina. We need more creative staff and community participants so that can have more activities in Mentasta. We also need more adequate space. There is enough of staff and time to make it happen with your assistance and input; we need you to help give our staff a spark and ideas of what you would like so that we have something to work with.



EPA Program Notes

Car Crusher Project a Great Success~

MSTC's EPA Program is completing the final cleanup of our EPA "Special Project", consisting of an abandoned vehicle and scrap metal disposal program. The project has been a great success here in Chistochina and in the Native Village of Gakona, our partner in the EPA/IGAP Program.

We have disposed of over 200 vehicles, 6 large containers of scrap metal, over 75 appliances, and hundreds of tires. Vehicles came from Chistochina, Gakona, Gulkana, and as far as Chitina.

MSTC was also happy to partner with Ahtna, Inc. to remove many abandoned vehicles, scrap metal, and tires from native land.

This project would not have been such a success without the help and assistance of many people in our area. MSTC would like to thank them all, and also those who agreed to have the vehicles removed to help preserve our environment.

"The elders were wise. They knew that man's heart, away from nature, becomes hard; they knew that lack of respect for growing, living things, soon led to lack of respect for humans, too."

Chief Luther Standing Bear - Lakota Sioux

Ahtna Literacy Lessons



The leaves are falling

C'et'aan'
Leaves

nadaex.
they are falling



He is carrying in wood.

T sets
Wood

dandelyae.
he is carrying in, packing in or bringing in



The wood is stacked full.

T sets
Wood

katneghildok.
it is stacked up





Alaska Native Aging in Place Pilot Program (AOA) Update

Stephanie Moe, Aging in Place Director

Greetings from the “Alaska Native Aging in Place Pilot Program (AOA)”. Although we are coming upon our 3rd year in the program I feel it is always a great idea to refresh everyone, including ourselves, on what the program goals and objectives are ☺

The **goal** of this three-year demonstration project is to pilot an Aging in Place Program in two rural Alaska Native Villages. To develop a cost effective, village based model that enables Native Elders to remain in their homes and villages during the remaining years in their life.

The objectives are:

- 1) Collaborate with strategic partners to develop a village based program**
- 2) Implement and evaluate services,**
- 3) Disseminate process and outcome data and lessons learned to provide a model that can be adapted by other rural villages.**

The expected **outcome** is that the documentation of the project will provide a model, information, and assistance for other Tribes in developing village based programs.

Products include reports detailing evaluations of client services, and program development activities and outcomes, and; a website that disseminates information and assistance to benefit rural Tribes in developing village based programs.

In other words the approach of the program would be to document the development of an Aging in Place program in two rural villages that will serve as a model for developing similar programs in other villages in Alaska. With the help from Strategic partners such as Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, University of Alaska and regional community college, State Senior and Disability services, regional providers, and tribal councils ☺

The second year was full of challenges and successes, all that we are pursuing to disseminate through reports, process evaluations, newsletters, strategic partners, and our website. By knowledge that the program is at this point just a demonstration project, we forget to realize that having these challenges are not bad, but actually better for the program to document in hopes that future programs could be able to take the information and have a decent idea of what to maybe look out for with their program ☺ With that I would like to express how happy we are to accept your comments, questions, and concerns in hopes of great documentation for the program ☺ With the help from our Tribal councils we would like to establish Elder Committees in Chistochina and Mentasta in hopes of getting ideas for the program and future programs, with our MSTC Board, MSTC staff meetings , and regional meetings we hope to hear all concerns and look to readjusting wherever necessary. With the consultation from our strategic partners such as: ANTHC, UAA, PWSCC, State Senior and Disability Services, Alzheimer’s Resource Agency, Connecting Ties, we hope to establish a closer relationship and work together for a great outcome of the program. We have gained knowledge from Elders and Elder program staff in Fairbanks and Anchorage such as: Fairbanks Native Association Elder Program staff and Elders, Denakkannaaga Elder Program staff, ANTHC Elders staff, and Southcentral Foundation Elder Service staff. What we gained from these programs is the understanding of urban services for elders and also what some of the reasons for relocation are. Elders seem to like our visit and stories ☺ Another important item would be to incorporate new resources into our care plans wherever necessary and to have those services available to our elders. An elder workshop with resources and partnerships involved is what we need to happen and plan on happening in the near future.





MSTC Staff Members

ADMINISTRATION

	Phone	Email
Evelyn Beeter, President/CEO	822-5399 ext.26	ebeeter@mstc.org
Agnes Denny, Human Resources	822-5399 ext. 33	aad@mstc.org
Dianne Hagerty, Office Manager	822-5399 ext.23	dhagerty@mstc.org
Maria Peacock, Custodian	822-4349	

PREVENTION PROGRAM

Jenny Sanford, Prevention Technician Mentasta	291-2320	jsanford@mstc.org
Prevention Technician Chistochina - OPEN	822-5399	

ACCOUNTING

Jeanie Farley, Chief Financial Officer	337-9192	jfarley@alaskaaccounting.com
Patti Bendz, Contract Health Care Manager	337-9192	patti@alaskaaccounting.com

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

George Drinkwater, Health Director	822-5399 ext. 24	gtd@mstc.org
Jody Hatch, CHA – Chistochina	822-3280	jhatch@mstc.org
Nora David, CHA – Mentasta	291-2320	ndavid@mstc.org
Mariah Craig, CHA – Mentasta	291-2320	mcraig@mstc.org
Danielle Boston, Dental Health Therapist	822-5399	dboston@mstc.org
Diabetes Coordinator – OPEN		
Mentasta Community Health Representative - OPEN	291-2320	
David Springer, Community Health Representative	822-5399 ext. 30	dspringer@mstc.org

AOA PROGRAM

Stephanie Moe, Elders Director	822-5399 ext. 57	smoe@mstc.org
Margaret Drinkwater, Admin Assistant	822-5399 ext. 25	mrdrinkwater@mstc.org
Elaine Sinyon, Activities Coordinator - Chistochina	822-5399 ext. 29	esinyon@mstc.org
Elaine Sam-Sanford, Activities Coordinator - Mentasta	259-4500	esandord@mstc.org

EPA PROGRAM

Jim Sharpe, EPA Coordinator



MSTC Board of Directors

- Ted Sanford, Chairperson (Mentasta)
- Donna Pennington, Board Member (Mentasta)
- Gilliam Joe, Secretary/Treasurer (Chistochina)
- Larry Sinyon, Board Member (At Large)
- Shannon Sanford, Board Member (Chistochina)
- OPEN, Alt Board Member (Mentasta)
- Jessica Denny, Alt Board Member (Chistochina)



"Don't let yesterday use up too much of today." -

[Native American Proverb](#)

October 2011

- Shalaukna Kaase - 10/1
- Gareth Northway - 10/4
- Elaine Sam - 10/7
- Helen Pitka - 10/7
- Susan Green - 10/7
- Brandon Nicolai - 10/8
- Gabriel Charley - 10/10
- Ronan Drinkwater - 10/11
- Kobe Pence - 10/11
- Lena Graig - 10/12
- LaDonna Wolf - 10/14
- Katie John - 10/15
- Evelyn Beeter - 10/20
- Vanessa Clary - 11/22
- D'Angelo John - 10/23
- Nora David - 10/26
- Laura David - 10/26

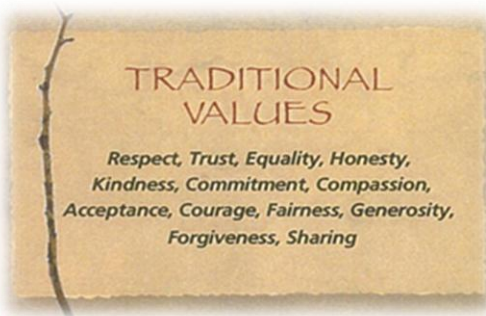
November 2011

- Diane Jordon - 11/3
- Jaylee Adams - 11/5
- Gilliam Joe - 11/6
- Freddy Nicolai Sr. - 11/7
- John Nicolai - 11/7
- Daniel Hicks - 11/9
- Rickson Sanford - 11/13
- Leonard Menka - 11/15
- Joseph Shank - 11/17
- Demitirie Chickalusion - 11/18
- James Pitka - 11/19
- Douglas Neal - 21
- Venessa Clary - 11/22
- Kratina Gallant - 11/23
- Meranda Moran - 11/26



PO Box 357 ● Gakona, AK 99586

907-822-5399 ● www.mstc.org



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