



2013 Alaska Community Health Aide Program

Shining Star Awards



Rising Star Nominees

Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments

- Margo Simple, CHA I



Maniilaq

- Dorcas Moto, CHA III

Tanana Chiefs Conference

- Nikkitta Holguin, CHA IV



Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

- Theresa Twitdell, CHA II

And the Rising Star of 2013 is...

Nikkita Holguin, CHA IV

In 2009, Nikki started as the sole provider in her village of 80 for 2 years. She transferred to an itinerant health aide position for TCC in 2011.

Nikki is always willing to visit any community in our region to provide health aide services. This includes our busy subregional level clinics where it is nearly guaranteed there will be at least one significant emergency. These challenges do not intimidate Nikki. Nikki has been praised for her efforts in managing busy clinics and remaining focused and competent during an emergency response. Every tribal council in the region will ask for Nikki by name in their request for itinerant CHA coverage.

Nikki is an outstanding CHA in all aspects; communicating with referral physician, following CHA scope of practice, competent with skills and does so in unfamiliar clinics and patients.

**Crystal Stordahl, CHAP Director
Tanana Chiefs Conference**





Shining Star Nominees

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

- Minnie Roberts, CHP



Chugachmiut

- Agnes Miller, CHP



North Slope Borough

- Geraldine Ningeok, CHP

SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium

- Kyla Westcott, CHP

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

- Janet Clark, CHP
- Lena Stewart, CHA II



And the Shining Star of 2013 is...



Kyla Westcott, CHP

Kyla has been employed with SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium for over 5 years and is truly committed to her role as a CHP. Kyla serves the community of Pelican, Alaska and bears the responsibility of being the only provider in the community gracefully. Kyla is well known and respected in the community. She is able to balance her professional responsibilities with her personal life. Currently she is taking distance courses to prepare for nursing school.

Kyla is a dynamic CHP that wears many hats. This was recently demonstrated when a Pelican resident suffered cardiac arrest. Kyla's quick thinking and resourcefulness saved this person's life. She is always ready to learn and take on any challenges that come her way. Kyla is a true asset to the community of Pelican and SEARHC.

J. R. Bowman, DO, MS, MHS
Medical Director, CHCS
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium

Outstanding Accomplishment Nominees

Eastern Aleutian Tribes

- Summer Mack, CHA III



Tanana Chiefs Conference

- Jessica McGinty, CHP



Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

- Alvina Murphy, CHA III



Outstanding Accomplishment of 2013 is...



Jessica McGinty, CHP

Jessica McGinty shows the heart of what it means to be a community health practitioner in rural Alaska. As a health aide for over 6 years and sole provider for most of 2012 Jessica pulled continuous after hours emergency call with only sporadic relief from itinerants. In the past 2 years her community has suffered from multiple unexpected tragic deaths, she provided emergency medical response to all of them.

Despite the many tragedies and limited staffing, Jessica provided extensive help and intervention to a suicidal patient that most certainly could have ended as another tragic death to further compound the anguish amidst her community. She spent hours with this patient talking about getting help, stopping drinking, and explaining that life was worth living. In the end the patient accepted help and Jessica was there to support the patient through receiving care.

Jessica's actions are consistent with her usual giving of her heart and time for her community.

With all her commitment and effort in 2012, Jessica McGinty went above and beyond the tremendous requirements of health aides.

**Crystal Stordahl, CHAP Director
Tanana Chiefs Conference**



In Memoriam



- Ooyuan Nagarak, CHP
- Veronica Nicholas, CHP
- Mable Oyoumick, CHP
- Dolly Smith, CHP



Ooyuan Nagarak, CHP

April 18, 1984 – October 27, 2012



Ooyuan worked as a health aide in Elim from January 2003 until she departed to attend the DHAT training program.

After becoming a Dental Health Aide Therapist, Ooyuan practiced in the South Central Alaska region, working out of Tok.

In 2007, Ooyuan received the "Outstanding Accomplishments" Shining Star award.

Thomas H. Vaden
Norton Sound Health Corporation

Veronica Nicholas, CHP

July 14, 1967 – November 3, 2012



Veronica was a unique lady with a determined spirit and sharp mind, always a hard worker and very independent.

Her passionate heart led to a career in health; she was a community health aide and served as a board member to Ahtna, Incorporated, the Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority, Copper River Native Association, and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

She will be remembered for her unwavering loyalty and devotion to her family and those close to her.

Mabel Oyoumick, CHP

October 4, 1943 – August 15, 2012



Mabel worked as a community health aide in the Norton Sound Region from 1974 until 1999 when she retired as a CHP. She then went to work as a personal care attendant and as a clinician for GOCODAN.

She was a meek and caring person. She exemplified ethics and professionalism and treated all of her patients and elders with dignity and respect. Many locals held her in high regards for her services as a health aide.

Thomas H. Vaden
Norton Sound Health Corporation

Dolly Smith, CHP

December 13, 1937 – September 7, 2012



Dolly was hired as an Alternate Health Aide for the village of Kiana in December 1975.

She was married to Donald Smith and they had 7 children.

In February 1979 she became the Primary Health Aide for Kiana.

She demonstrated an on-going attitude of learning as well as sharing her knowledge and experience. One of her daughters took on the role in her footsteps and is now the CHP Clinic Supervisor for Kiana.

June Ballot
Maniilaq