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## **Tribal Self-Regulation of Health Care CASE STUDY: CHA/P Certification Board**

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# What Is a CHA/P?

- **Community Health Aide/Practitioner (CHA/P)**
  - Currently 550 CHA/Ps in 170 rural Alaska villages
  - Provide frontline care in their communities as part of the spoke and hub model of the Alaska tribal health system
  - Coordinate with itinerant providers, provides referrals
  - Go through training and receive a level: I-IV
- **Related community practitioners:**
  - DHAs (Dental Health Aides)
  - BHAs (Behavioral Health Aides)
- **National expansion coming soon**



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# History of the CHA/P Program in Alaska

- **CHAP started in the 1960s because of**
  - Tuberculosis outbreak
  - High infant mortality rates
  - High rates of injury in rural Alaska
- **1968: Alaska Community Health Aide Program recognized and received funding from Congress**
- **History of coordination between local IHS Area Office, State of Alaska and THOs**



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# History of the CHA/P Program in Alaska

- **Regional THOs eventually took over program under Title I contracts**
  - Tribal initiative to develop CHAM and training centers
  - IHS involved with supervision and coordination
- **1994: IHClA amended to direct IHS to set up a Board**
- **~1996: YKHC leads charge to develop a Board and standards**



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# History of the CHAPCB

- **CHAPCB created in 1998 as part of transition from federal government control to tribal control of most Area Office functions**
  - **move from IHS credentialing to certification**
  - **wanted Board to maintain federal status, but remain tribally controlled**
- **Charged with formalizing the process for maintaining CHA/Ps, DHATs and BHAs training and practice standards and policies**



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# **Duties of the CHAP Certification Board (CHAPCB)**

- **A board of the IHS
  - **appointed by the Director of the Alaska Area of the IHS, subject to final action of the Area Director****
- **Oversees CHA/Ps, DHATs and BHAs and serves as the governing board for those programs**
- **Certifies training centers and individual health aides**



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# Legal Authority for CHAPCB

- **Snyder Act, 25 USC § 13**
- **Indian Health Care Improvement Act, 25 USC § 1616/**
  - **Incorporates S. 1790 as reported in December 2009**
- **Directives from US DHHS, PHS, IHS and AANHS**
  - **AANHS Circular 94-138**
  - **AANHS Circular 98-150**



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# Support for the CHAP Certification Board

- **Receives recommendations from Academic Advisory Committees in each of the program practice areas**
  - **Recommendations are advisory only unless acted on by the CHAPCB**
- **Receives administrative support from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)**
- **Funded by application fees**



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# CHAP Certification Board Membership

- Each of the regional THOs that has a training site
- A site with a CHAP in the Anchorage Service Unit
- Association of CHAP Directors (a CHAP Director)
- Training centers (an instructor)
- CHA/P Association (a CHA/P)
- \*AANHS Director
- \*State of Alaska
- Medical Director
- Dental Academic Review Committee Rep
- Behavioral Health Director Rep



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# Controlling Documents

- **CHAPCB Standards and procedures:**
  - [http://www.akchap.org/resources/chap\\_library/CHAPCB\\_Documents/CHAPCB\\_Standards\\_Procedures\\_Amended\\_2018-01-25.pdf](http://www.akchap.org/resources/chap_library/CHAPCB_Documents/CHAPCB_Standards_Procedures_Amended_2018-01-25.pdf)
- **Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual**
- **Community Health Aide Basic Training Curriculum**



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# Takeaways

- Tribal regulation through control of requirements for certification
- Participation of the State, allows Tribes to bill for services of CHA/Ps (expanded through SPA amendments)
- Innovative delivery of health care
  - Started with IHS
  - Expanded upon by THOs



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# Moving Forward

- IHS working on national CHAP expansion
  - <https://www.ihs.gov/chap/>
  - Set up a CHAP Tribal Advisory Group
    - Tribal Chair: Dr. Glorinda Segay, Navajo Nation
    - Federal Chair: Dr. Beverly Cotton
  - Meetings started in March 2018
  - Current status: waiting for IHS response to second tribal draft



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