Fairbanks Native Association

T H E
N E W S L E T T E R

December 2009

Fairbanks Native Association

Merry Christmas, from our family to yours

Employee Spotlight: Fairbanks Alcohol Safety Action Program - FASAP

Director Louise Glynn helps guide alcohol offenders toward healthy, productive behavior

Louise Glynn is the director of FNA's FASAP office. Clients from all walks of life are sent to the Fairbanks Alcohol Safety Action Program (FASAP) by the courts.

Louise Glynn’s office walls are decorated with the icons of popular music culture. Framed and behind glass are album covers from Eric Clapton, Led Zeppelin, Elton John, Joe Cocker and Chicago; a time when vinyl was king and so was rock and roll. On first contact, sharp-eyed clients might wonder about the path ahead, as they anticipate regaining driving privileges or fulfilling the court’s directive.

There’s no paradox for Louise; love of music is not a ticket to excess. A point she'll gently share with clients, if the conversation moves in that direction. After arrest and jail, Louise is likely the first friendly face people see since the police stopped their cars. Her counseling is some of the best advice they need to hear.

For most people, the FASAP intake interview is the first time they learn the full extent of the consequences of their actions. These usually are convictions under first, second or third DUI charges. FASAP is also court mandated for assault, minor consuming, minor operating, reckless driving, reckless endangerment, and disorderly conduct.

New judgments arrive from the courts twice a week. Each month FASAP sees ap-

Louise Glynn Continued

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FNA Board selection opens, nomination deadline Jan. 26, election March 2

Fairbanks Native Association is seeking qualified individuals to serve three-year terms as members of the Board of Directors.

Three seats are open. Each person will serve until March 2013. The election for these seats will occur at the Annual Meeting.

In order to be eligible, you must be one-fourth (1/4) or more Alaska Native or American Indian, a resident of Fairbanks North Star Borough for 30 continuous days, and 18 years of age or older.

On August 14, 2009, the FNA Board of Directors revised the FNA Bylaws to change the process on how nominations are received. The language we now operate under is as follows:

“Nominations for directors shall be made on a form provided by FNA not less than thirty days prior to the date of the annual meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting.”

These changes were made to increase the level of candidate information reaching the membership prior to the meeting.

This year, FNA's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall.

To be considered a Board Candidate, complete and submit your nomination paperwork no later than 5:00 pm, Monday, January 26, 2010.

Contact Maurine McGinty at 452-1648 ext. 6235 for questions regarding this opportunity. Nomination forms are available at FNA’s front desk.

Steve Ginnis says, “I encourage everyone to become involved in our community, attend the Annual Meeting.”
She also demonstrates leadership skills and pays attention to colleagues.

Based on the charges and information gained at the FASAP interview, the client is directed to for-profit services that offer court-imposed counseling and behavior benchmarks.

Services are specifically designed to manage behavior associated with part of the population’s fixation on drinking to oblivion and the negative consequences associated with it. Depending on the individual, drug and anger counseling may also be ordered.

Sanctions for third-time DUI offenders are severe. When all costs are totaled, the tab from lost wages, lost job, fines and court fees, attorney or public defender, FASAP fees, paid transportation, private counseling and possible residential care facilities, an offender’s case may exceed $20,000.

For a woman who grew up on Long Island, New York, attended the State University of New York at Farmingdale, and aspired to be a veterinarian or work for the USDA, leading an alcohol monitoring program is a leap. And yet, her she is.

Louise came to head the department in 2008, after joining FNA as a client screener almost three years ago. Prior to moving to Alaska, she was a clerk in the Colorado State Courts, a position that provided a level of experience immediately applicable to FASAP.

She’s now enrolled in an accreditation process toward certificates in substance abuse counseling.

Recalling her years in Colorado, she says, “It was a mountain town called Rollinsville, about 40 miles west of Denver, right at 9,000 above sea level. While my husband worked for an electrical contractor, I helped raise his stepdaughters (now 23 and 28). At that elevation, there’s more than a few things that relate to life in Fairbanks. I know how to chop wood and carry water.”

But her husband’s work was slow and the chance for something better came as an opening for an electrician at the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. “I adapt pretty well; 18 years at 9,000 feet builds a strong heart; I like it here,” she says.

Joy, temperance, and repose, slam the door on the doctor’s nose.

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
We value our employees; they are the heartbeat of FNA
Join us in celebrating the 2009 Employees of the Month
for their dedication and accomplishments

January

Kelly Caldwell
Early Head Start, Home Visitor

February

Karla Martin
Accounting Dept.
Payroll/Benefits Coordinator

March

Mona Nollner
Ch'eghutsen', Family Advocate

April

Brandie Pike
Head Start, Primary Teacher

May

Martha White
JOM, Educational Tutor

June

Desiree Ballesteros
Graf, Secretary

July

Lois Hardesty
Head Start, Cook II

August

Bertha Nollner
Community Service, Case Manager

September

Virginia Shangin
WCCIH, Residential Aide

October

Linda Alford
Early Head Start, Primary Teacher

November

Ruth Esmailka
Community Service, Program Asst.

December

Janet Pearson
Ralph Perdue Cntr, Reception
FNA receives AEYC award in recognition for years of service to the community’s children

At its conference in October, the Fairbanks Association for the Education of Young Children gave its President’s Award for 2009 to FNA. Established to recognize commitment to early childhood development, this year’s distinction has a lot to do with longevity and hard work.

From the commendation statement we learn again why FNA is a community leader:

“For the past 42 years FNA has been passionate about the services it provides to Alaska’s children and families. [...] working with the community, FNA established programs to serve the children in our Borough:

“Johnson O’Malley: providing cultural preschool experiences, tutoring for school age children, and culturally relevant programs for Alaska Native children.

“Ch’eghutsen: which provides services addressing mental wellness through culturally sensitive opportunities, empowering the family and a child’s best place for healing.

“Women and Children’s Center for Inner Healing: a safe place for women and their children in the process of recovery from alcohol or drug addictions, focusing on their healing together as a family.

“Parents as Teachers: Nationally recognized family centered services regardless of income, through a home based model and socialization delivery that focuses on parents as their child’s first and best teacher.

“Head Start and Early Head Start: Comprehensive early childhood services provided through home base and center base models to children and families, prenatally through the age of five.

“ […] FNA serves over 300 families annually, empowering parents and focusing on the family as their strength.

“FNA […] provides employment in the Early Childhood field to over 80 staff members, encouraging and maintaining a strong training base and commitment to professional development.”

Board retreat clarifies issues, informs, opens way for better service

As earlier announced, FNA’s board of directors held a retreat to review program management, discuss policy and resources. Though delayed several times, it was held October 20 at the Westmark in Anchorage. It was facilitated by Cady Lister, a senior consultant with Information Insights.

Among the topics covered: financial status, Behavioral Health Services and the Ralph Perdue Center, Long House, Enhanced Detox, Women and Children’s Center. Also reporting, directors of Graf Rheeneerhaanjii, Ch’eghutsen”.

The afternoon component included presentations about FNA’s education programs. These included Head Start, Early Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Johnson O’Malley, FASAP and Community Services.

Retreats are designed to allow policymakers and staff the freedom from daily pressures to allow full and frank discussions about the organization each party wishes to see thrive and succeed. Steve Ginnis, at right, FNA’s executive director, and members of the staff and board of directors.

The afternoon closed out with board and staff interviewing each other. The exercise informs and builds trust on both sides. Discussions moved to core values, hopes, wishes.

The next morning board members and staff met to examine the common values that propel our work in this arena. Exercises helped reinforce direction and commitment while exploring challenges and obstacles ahead.

Staff and our consultants are analyzing the retreat’s outcomes with hopes of using what was learned to design a strategic planning session, one aimed at future challenges.

Clean Hands Promote Health
Encourage your children by example; washing your hands reduces the risk of disease, protects the family and the community
Wash Your Hands