



# The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash  
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## Graf Rheeneerhaanjii Re-Opens to Support Youth in Need

By Deborah Kvasnikoff, Behavioral Health Deputy Director

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is re-opening Graf Rheeneerhaanjii (Graf), a youth residential program. Applications for residential admission opened on November 19, 2024, and the program is actively processing intakes to provide timely support to youth in need.

Graf serves youth of all genders, aged 13 to 17.5, with a primary focus on those diagnosed with mental health conditions like depression, anxiety, and trauma. The program offers a structured and supportive environ-

ment for healing, with stays ranging from 90 days to six months depending on individual needs.

During their time at Graf, youth participate in daily therapeutic activities, including individual and group therapy, as well as weekly family therapy. They also join life skills groups and peer-focused activities, helping them develop communication, anger management, coping, and self-regulation skills. Graf combines these supports with a mix of fun and challenging recreational activities to encourage personal growth.

The Graf program integrates cultural activities into the daily activities, fostering a sense of identity and belonging for the youth it serves. Residents participate in traditional practices such as beadwork, drumming, storytelling, and subsistence skills like fishing and berry picking, guided by Elders and cultural mentors. Graf's Traditional Counselor has been working with Elders to develop the program. These activities not only promote healing and resilience but also strengthen the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.**

### CONVENTION DEADLINES

- February 7<sup>th</sup> - Full Board Resolutions Due
- February 11<sup>th</sup> - Background Check Deadline
- February 28<sup>th</sup> - Candidacy Window Closes
- March 4<sup>th</sup> - Emerging Leaders Window Closes
- March 13<sup>th</sup> - Elections

See page 3 for more information about the Emerging Leader application process, and pages 10-11 for all other information about election criteria and requirements.



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## Mission

Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign Tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

## Vision

Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

## Executive Board

Trimble Gilbert, Arctic Village  
1st Traditional Chief

Andrew Jimmie, Minto  
2nd Traditional Chief

Brian Ridley, Eagle  
Chief/Chairman

Sharon Hildebrand, Nulato  
Vice-President

Charlie Wright, Rampart  
Secretary/Treasurer

Herbie Demit, Tanacross  
Upper Tanana

Claude 'Joe' Petruska, Nikolai  
Upper Kuskokwim

Nancy James, Gwichyaa Zhee  
Yukon Flats

Ivan Demientieff, Grayling  
Lower Yukon

Lori Baker, Minto  
Yukon Tanana

Charlie Green, Galena  
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski, Nulato  
Elder Advisor

Mackenzie Englishoe, Gwichyaa Zhee  
Youth Advisor



# Letter from the Chief

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

As we enter the new year, all of us at Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) are busy preparing for our 2025 Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting, scheduled for March 10-13 in Fairbanks. The theme for this year's convention is *Guided by Culture, Focused on Tomorrow*. This gathering is an essential time for us to come together, share updates, and shape the future of our organization.

This year's convention will cover a wide array of focus areas that have been identified by our Tribal delegates, including:

- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP)
- Rural Health
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure
- Substance Use Prevention
- Housing Solutions

Additionally, several important seats on our Executive Board are up for election, including the Vice-President, Yukon Flats Subregional representative, and Yukon Tanana Subregional representative. These leadership roles are vital to ensuring our collective voice is heard and that our priorities are advanced. To stay informed about convention details and other updates, please visit our website at <https://www.tananachiefs.org/convention/2025>.

Over the recent holiday season, I had the opportunity to spend quality time with my family. During this time of reflection, I was reminded of the incredible work we do at TCC. I want to express my deep gratitude to our dedicated staff who embody our vision and mission, serving our Tribes and Tribal members with care and commitment. Their efforts inspire me daily, and I am proud to work alongside them.

While we have much to celebrate, I also recognize that there is always room for growth. At TCC, we are continually evaluating how we can enhance our services and better meet the needs of our Tribes and Tribal members. I am optimistic about the future of our organization and remain committed to driving improvements that will strengthen our communities.

I look forward to seeing many of you next month in Fairbanks for our Annual Convention. It will be a valuable opportunity to connect, collaborate, and continue our work together.

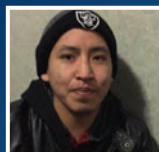
Mahsi' Choo,  
Chief Brian Ridley  
Tanana Chiefs Conference



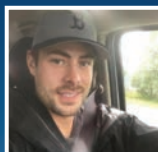
# MISSING



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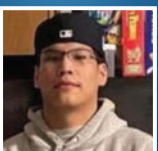
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Debbie  
Nictune



Frank  
Minano



Devin  
Standifer

### SUBMIT TIPS ANONYMOUSLY:

Text AKTIPS followed by your tip to 84711 or visit <https://dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips>



Call the Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100, Fairbanks Police Department at 907-450-6500 or TCC Public Safety at 907-452-8251 ext. 3269.

Visit [www.tananachiefs.org/missing](http://www.tananachiefs.org/missing) for more information.



## Seeking the New Emerging Leaders: Apply by March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Tanana Chiefs Emerging Leaders Youth Advisory Council is seeking passionate young adults aged 18-22 to join our committee. If you are eager to develop leadership skills, collaborate with other aspiring Tribal leaders, and make a difference in the TCC community, we want to hear from you!

### Who Can Apply?

Interested applicants must be:

- An Alaska Native Youth, ages 18-22 at the time of application;
- Enrolled or eligible for enrollment in a TCC Tribe; and
- A permanent resident of Alaska (may attend college outside of the state).

### Which Seats Are Open?

Seats are open in the following regions. Those labeled "At Large" can be filled by representatives from any community in the TCC Region.

- Seat D – Yukon Koyukuk (2025-2028)
- Seat H – At Large (2025-2028)
- Seat K – At Large (2025-2028)
- Seat J - At Large (2025-2027)

### Apply Today!

All applications must be submitted by March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Visit <https://www.tananachiefs.org/emerging-leaders-application/> to complete your application.

If you have any questions about the application or these positions, please reach out to Shawna Hildebrand at 907-452-8251 ext 3612 or [shawna.hildebrand@tananachiefs.org](mailto:shawna.hildebrand@tananachiefs.org). You can also contact Shannon Erhart at 907-452-8251 ext 3288 or [shannon.erhart@tananachiefs.org](mailto:shannon.erhart@tananachiefs.org).

## FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION

### 2025 FNA Board Election Three seats open

Candidates must submit a completed application to FNA Administration by 5 p.m., Monday, Feb. 3, 2025.

Applications and information may be found on our website [www.fairbanksnative.org](http://www.fairbanksnative.org)

#### To be eligible for the FNA Board of Directors, you must be

- A direct descendent of an individual who was/is Athabascan, Inupiat, Yup'ik, Unanagan, Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, Cup'ik, Sugpiaq, Eyak, and/or Alaska Native/American Indian.
- A resident of the Fairbanks North Star Borough for at least 30 days
- Eighteen (18) years of age or older
- Not employed by FNA

**Submit an application by Monday, Feb. 3, 2025 by 5 p.m.**

Contact: Shaylene Dublin 907-452-1648, ext. 6235 or [sdublin@fairbanksnative.org](mailto:sdublin@fairbanksnative.org)



*Guided By Culture,  
Focused on Tomorrow.*

## Theme Announced for TCC's 2025 Annual Convention

We are proud to announce the theme for the 2025 Annual Convention and Board of Directors Meeting: *Guided by Culture, Focused on Tomorrow.*

This theme reflects the deep connection between our traditions and our vision for the future. Our culture is our compass, helping us make thoughtful decisions as we address challenges and opportunities unique to our Tribes.

Rooted in resilience and wisdom passed down through generations, we are empowered to create a brighter future. From healthcare to education and economic development, our shared values strengthen our plans for tomorrow.

Join us as we celebrate our unity, honor our heritage, and work together to build a thriving future for the next generation.

BE YOUR  
**REAL ID**  
SELF  
BY MAY 7, 2025



FIND OUT HOW TO GET  
YOUR REAL ID TODAY AT  
[TSA.GOV/REAL-ID](http://TSA.GOV/REAL-ID)



# Graf Re-Opens to Support Youth

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

youths' connection to cultural roots, empowering participants to carry forward the values and wisdom.

Overall Graf provides a culturally sensitive, structured, monitored, and supportive environment designed to assist adolescents in developing the attitudes, skills, and behaviors necessary for their recovery and wellness journey.

Parents and guardians are required to be part of the process, actively participating in assessments, treatment planning, discharge planning, and weekly family therapy.

While in the program, youth continue their education through the Raven Homeschool Program, with classes held Monday through Friday.

## Preference Is Given to the Following Youth:

- Those enrolled/eligible to be enrolled in TCC member Tribes
- Individuals with Tribal court or Office of Children's Services involvement
- Individuals with juvenile justice involvement
- Any youth with multiple treatment attempts

If you are interested in finding out more about the program, please call Graf directly at 907-452-0800. To access Graf's application, scan the QR code or visit TCC's Website at:

<https://www.tananachiefs.org/graf/> and our staff is available to assist families with the process.

SCAN ME!



## TCC Leadership Engages with Alaskan Lawmakers on Regional Priorities

In December, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) leaders, including Chief Brian Ridley, Vice President Sharon Hildebrand, Director of Tribal Client Services Amber Vaska, and Health Director Jacoline Bergstrom, met with Alaskan lawmakers ahead of the 2025 legislative session to discuss critical issues impacting the region. Topics included education, appointments to the Board of Fish and Board of Game, Behavioral Health and Medicaid reimbursements, Pharmacy Benefit Managers, and Cody's Law, which addresses police response to crisis interventions.

TCC values its ongoing collaboration with policymakers and remains optimistic that this administration will address the concerns raised. A special thanks to Representatives Mike Prax, Maxine Dibert, Will Stapp, and Frank Tomaszewski, as well as Senators Mike Cronk and Scott Kawasaki, for attending and taking the perspectives of Indigenous communities into account when making decisions that impact us all.



Seeking a small school where you can experience a warm and tight-knit community?

You have a choice!



Call us for more info  
907-474-0958

### Our School:

- ✓ Grades 7-12
- ✓ Small Class Size
- ✓ A Fall Subsistence Break
- ✓ The Chance to learn about native culture and traditions.
- ✓ College Classes Sponsored by TCC GO

601 Loftus Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709

k12northstar.org/effiekokrine

## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF QUITTING SMOKING

- 5 years after quitting smoking, the chances of having a stroke decrease
- 15 years after quitting smoking, the chances of coronary heart disease drop close to the level of someone who does not smoke.

Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for free, personalized support from a coach and to create your quit plan today!

ALASKA'S TOBACCO  
**QUIT LINE**  
IT'S FREE. IT'S CONFIDENTIAL. AND IT WORKS.



## Improving Access to Your Primary Care Provider

The Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center is proud to announce the launch of **Open Access Scheduling (OAS)**, a system designed to provide quicker, more flexible access to your healthcare.

With OAS, you can now schedule **same-day, next-day, or same-week appointments** with your Primary Care Provider (PCP). This improvement helps you see your provider faster, ensuring timely and consistent care when you need it.

### How to Schedule an Appointment:

- Call **907-451-6682 after 8:00 AM** for same-day afternoon slots.
- Call **907-451-6682 after 3:00 PM** for next-day or same-week morning appointments.
- Telehealth options are available for village residents.

### Benefits of Open Access Scheduling:

- **Reduced Wait Times:** No more waiting weeks to see your PCP.
- **Consistent Care:** Regular visits with your PCP improve your overall health outcomes.
- **Flexible Options:** Choose in-person or telehealth visits based on your needs.

We're committed to providing better access to care for our patients. Call us today at **907-451-6682** to schedule your appointment and take charge of your health!

## TCC WIC Program: Supporting Fairbanks Families

The Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is now providing direct services to beneficiaries in Fairbanks! This expansion ensures that local families have access to essential support for their health and well-being.

### Here's What the TCC WIC Program Offers:

- **Nutrition Support:** Families receive personalized nutrition counseling at least twice a year, including anemia screening to promote good health.
- **Personalized Nutritious Foods:** WIC provides supplemental foods tailored to the specific needs of each family member, from infants to adults.
- **Community Connections:** Our team connects families to other health programs and activities within their community for additional resources and support.
- **Breastfeeding Assistance:** With a lactation consultant on staff, the program offers breastfeeding education and support. Infants can receive breastfeeding assistance, formula, and baby foods starting at 6 months old.

### Contact Us

For more information or to schedule an appointment, reach out to us:

- Phone: 907-451-6682 ext. 3773
  - Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
  - Location: Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, 1717 West Cowles St.
- Visit [TCC WIC Program](#) to learn more about how we support families across Fairbanks.

# 2025 TCC Calendars Available Now!

Send your mailing address to [Communications\\_Dept@tananachiefs.org](mailto:Communications_Dept@tananachiefs.org) or call 907-452-8251 ext. 3424 to get your calendar today!

### Updates to the 2025 Calendar

- TCC All Staff Meeting will now be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.
- The main photo for June 2025 was incorrectly credited. This photo was taken and submitted by Etta Maillard of Nenana. Thank you, Etta, for sharing this beautiful photo!

**Scan here for more:**

# Protecting Our Elders from RSV

By Lauren Wise, TCC PharmD

Last month, we discussed Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV. In case you missed the last edition, RSV is a common virus that affects the lungs and can potentially be very dangerous in more vulnerable populations, such as the very young or elderly. RSV spreads in the fall and winter seasons through infected people coughing or sneezing and by touching contaminated surfaces. Most people usually are not greatly affected by RSV, but for some it can be very severe or life-threatening. It is estimated that between 60,000 and 160,000 older adults are hospitalized for RSV in the United States every year. Of those people, 6,000 to 10,000 people die from the RSV infection.



## More About the RSV Vaccine

may also qualify for an early vaccine. These health and environmental concerns, as well as an advanced age, can make RSV easier to contract and more dangerous to your health.

The RSV vaccine is a one-dose vaccine that everyone should receive at an older age. This means that you only need to receive the vaccine one time in your life; it does not need to be repeated each year. Eligible elders can receive the RSV vaccine at any time, but before RSV season would be ideal to avoid potential infection.

## How Do I Know if I Have RSV?

People who have RSV normally begin to show symptoms 4 to 6 days after becoming infected. Symptoms are similar to the common cold, such as a runny nose, decrease in appetite, coughing, sneezing, wheezing, and a fever. If you do suspect you are sick, stay home and recover. Try to prevent spreading the virus to others. You can manage the fever with acetaminophen (Tylenol) and make sure to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids. If symptoms become worse or you are concerned about your health, contact or visit your healthcare provider.

Please reach out to your healthcare provider for more information or to schedule a vaccination appointment.

## Who Should Be Vaccinated?

The Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommends that all adults older than 75 years old should be vaccinated for RSV. Additionally, people who are at an increased risk of contracting RSV can receive the vaccination earlier at the age of 60 years old. Reasons that someone would be at an increased risk include a history of chronic heart or lung disease, a weakened immune system, severe diabetes, or obesity. People who are over the age of 60 who reside in a nursing home or long-term care facility

## Check Out These Resources For More Information

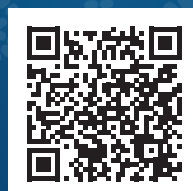
American Lung Association:



CDC - RSV Infection:



National Foundation for Infectious Diseases:



**April Johnson**

ANMC-TCC Patient Advocate  
907-687-9193

**Lucy Frank**

Lead ANMC-TCC Patient Advocate  
907-687-9193

## Patient Advocates

*Here for You!*

### Traveling to Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) & Need Assistance?

The ANMC-TCC Patient Advocates work closely with the medical teams at ANMC to ensure TCC patients receive clear communication about their care, excellent patient experiences, safe discharge plans, and access to support if concerns arise while at ANMC.

Please reach out to our ANMC-TCC Patient Advocates if needed.

# Gateway to Recovery

## HOURS OF OPERATION

To better serve our community, Gateway to Recovery will operate on a temporary schedule - **one week open and one week closed.**

### Admission Hours

Admissions will only be accepted during the first three days of each open week between 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM. Please call prior to sending clients.

(Example: Feb 13-19, admissions will only be accepted Feb 13, 14 & 15)

### Contact Us

907-328-7822 • 650 Younker Court, Fairbanks, AK 99701

<https://www.tananachiefs.org/services/health/gateway-to-recovery>

### 2025 SCHEDULE

**OPEN:** January 30 - February 5

**CLOSED:** February 6 - February 12

**OPEN:** February 13 - February 19

**CLOSED:** February 20 - February 26

**OPEN:** February 27 - March 5

*\*SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.*



## Ready for a Rewarding Career? Become a Dental Health Aide Therapist!



**Apply Today for this Training Opportunity!**

**Deadline to Apply: February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### Contact:

Dr. Christine Ho, DHAT Coordinator

[christine.ho@tananachiefs.org](mailto:christine.ho@tananachiefs.org)

907-451-6682 ext. 3587

## February: National Cancer Prevention Month

February is National Cancer Prevention Month, a time to focus on reducing cancer risks and improving health. For Interior Alaska Native communities, it's an opportunity to promote wellness through proactive steps that honor our traditions.

### Ways to Reduce Cancer Risk

- **Stay Active & Eat Healthy:** Regular activity and a balanced diet, including traditional foods, support overall health.
- **Avoid Tobacco & Limit Alcohol:** Quitting tobacco and moderating alcohol lowers cancer risks.
- **Get Screened:** Early detection saves lives. Contact TCC for cancer screenings.
- **Protect Your Skin:** Use sunscreen, wear protective clothing, and avoid tanning.
- **Get Vaccinated:** The HPV and Hepatitis B vaccines help prevent some types of cancer from ever developing. These vaccines are typically given to children and are one way families can ensure their children are protected from these cancers for life.
- **Know Your Family History:** Understanding your health history helps create personalized prevention plans.

### Community Support

Traditional practices like hunting, fishing, and sharing meals foster both health and cultural connection. TCC offers educational workshops, screenings, and resources to support cancer prevention tailored to our community.

This February, let's prioritize health and encourage friends and family to take preventive actions. Together, we can reduce the impact of cancer and safeguard the well-being of our communities. For more information or to schedule a screening, contact your local TCC clinic.

## TCC Health Advisory Board Plans for the Future

In January, the TCC Health Advisory Board, along with Health leadership and members of the Executive Management Team, convened for a strategic planning session to identify key initiatives and establish goals aimed at enhancing health services throughout the region, while aligning with TCC's overarching strategic plan.



BACK ROW: Edna Riley/Yukon Tanana, Victor Joseph/Tanana, Agnes Tony/Upper Kuskokwim FRONT ROW: Patricia Salmon/Yukon Flats, Sylvia Pitka/Upper Tanana, Beverly Kokrine/Yukon Koyukuk and Jessica Black/Fairbanks Native Association

# TCC Shuttle Service

TCC's complementary Patient Shuttle Service now has extended hours to meet the needs of patients traveling to Fairbanks for medical appointments.

### WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday • 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Call (907) 347-0765 for appointments outside the route schedule.

### WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Saturday - Sunday • 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Call (907) 687-8338

### AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

Monday - Friday • 5:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Saturday • 6:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Sunday • 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

SCAN TO VIEW MORE  
SHUTTLE INFO!





# Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center Patient Travel Updates

To better meet the needs of our patients, we've made some important updates to our Patient Travel services:

- **New Voucher Pick-Up Location:** Travel vouchers can now be picked up at **Building B, front desk by the entrance** during operating hours.
- **Convenient Wright Air Location:** Travel vouchers and meal tickets are also available for pick-up at Wright Air when patients land.
- **24/7 Emergency Support:** Our Patient Travel team is available around the clock to assist with urgent travel needs. Call **907-451-6682 option 5** or **1-800-478-6822 option 5** for after-hours support.

## Patient Travel Hours:

- Monday-Friday: 8 AM - 6 PM
- Saturday-Sunday: 8 AM - 5 PM

For questions or assistance during business hours, call **907-451-6682 ext. 3711**.

We're committed to making your travel process as seamless as possible. Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

# Stay Active at TCC's Fitness Center!

We are excited to announce the opening of TCC's brand-new fitness center, located in the basement of the Chief Peter John Tribal Building. This facility is designed to support the health and wellness of our beneficiaries and TCC staff members.

The fitness center offers limited open access hours to accommodate both patient-only times and open access times:

- **Patient-Only Access:** Reserved exclusively for patients to focus on their wellness goals in a dedicated environment.
- **Open Access:** Available to all TCC staff members and beneficiaries.

Please note that training staff may not be available during open access hours, so plan your workouts accordingly. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this new space to prioritize physical wellness. Together, we can foster a healthier and stronger community. See you at the fitness center!

Fitness Center Hours				
MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00AM - 6:00PM				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>8am - 11am</b> Patient Access Only	<b>8am - 11am</b> Patient Access Only	<b>8am - 11am</b> Patient Access Only	<b>8am - 11am</b> Patient Access Only	<b>8am - 11am</b> Patient Access Only
<b>11am - 2pm</b> Open Access	<b>11am - 1pm</b> Open Access	<b>11am - 2pm</b> Open Access	<b>11am - 2pm</b> Open Access	<b>11am - 2pm</b> Open Access
<b>2pm - 4pm</b> Patient Access Only	<b>1pm - 2pm</b> Elders-Only Fitness Class	<b>2pm - 4pm</b> Patient Access Only	<b>2pm - 4pm</b> Patient Access Only	<b>2pm - 4pm</b> Patient Access Only
<b>4pm - 6pm</b> Open Access	<b>2pm - 4pm</b> Patient Access Only	<b>4pm - 6pm</b> Open Access	<b>4pm - 6pm</b> Open Access	<b>4pm - 6pm</b> Open Access
	<b>4pm - 6pm</b> Open Access			

# Make a Difference Become a Foster Parent

Help Us Find Safe Homes!

Help us reach our goal of having readily available foster parents in Fairbanks and across the TCC region to provide safe, loving homes at a crucial time in a child's life.

Our Tribal communities have a need for caring, supportive families to care for our Tribal children who are in foster care.

## Questions? Contact:

Niisha Walsh | Tribal Social Services Manager  
valeen.walsh@tananachiefs.org | 907-452-8251 ext. 3372

# Election Criteria 2025 TCC Annual Convention

## SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

### Executive Board of Directors

#### Subregional Positions:

- Yukon Flats Subregion .....3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently Chief Nancy James, Gwichyaa Zhee
- Yukon Tanana Subregion .....3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently Chief Lori Baker, Minto

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a current village director, as authorized by Tribal/village resolution. (Article 4, Section 2)
- Must be residents of the State of Alaska and Alaska Native members of member villages of the corporation. (Article 4, Section 1)
- Full Time employees of the corporation shall not be eligible to serve as Directors or officers of the corporation with exception of the President. E-Board Members may serve as temporary or seasonal TCC employees. (Article 4, Section 2)
- Must successfully pass an ICPA and Alaska Barrier Crimes Act Background check.
- Compliance with the TCC Board of Directors' Drug and Alcohol Free Policy #50-5001 applies to all TCC Executive and Health Board of Directors, with the exception of the President/Chairman of the Board who is an employee who follows the employee policy. To be eligible as a candidate, individuals must successfully pass the background check the week before their election.
- Must successfully pass the ICPA and (DHSS) Alaska Barrier Crimes Act Background check. (See also Executive Board Policy 50-5003). Executive and Health board candidates must turn in a completed and correct background check application to Heather Rogers in Human Resources by February 11th to guarantee background checks will be completed by February 28th. Individuals contemplating running for a board position should turn in a background check application immediately to ensure the ability to make corrections to mistakes in the lengthy application. All background check applications will be confidential and only Human Resources will have access to the application and the names of individuals. Those individuals that do not submit complete paperwork or fail to pass a background check will not be eligible candidates for the TCC President/Chairman, Executive Board or Health Board positions.

### Advisory Boards

The three TCC Advisory Boards make recommendations to the TCC Executive Board and President/Chairman. The Regional Health Board is selected by each respective subregion (Article 7, Section 2). The President/Chairman has the authority to appoint all individuals to the other advisory boards (Article 7, Section 5), but the most recent process has been for the subregions to democratically select representatives to each advisory board. All candidates must be Alaska Native.

### Regional Health Advisory Board

- Upper Tanana Subregion..... 3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently Sylvia Pitka, Northway
- Upper Kuskokwim Subregion.....3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently Tony Agnes, Nikolai

### Education Council

- E-Board Representative..... 1-year term (2024-2025)  
Currently Chief Nancy James, Fort Yukon
- Upper Kuskokwim Subregion..... 3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently Chief Alice (Allie) Dale, McGrath
- Upper Tanana Subregion..... 3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently Larry Mark Sr., Tanacross

### Interior Athabaskan Tribal College Board of Trustees

- Upper Kuskokwim Subregion..... 3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently VACANT
- Upper Tanana Subregion..... 3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently VACANT
- Yukon Tanana Subregion..... 3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently Alex Hanna, Minto (Resigned 2024)
- Yukon Flats Subregion..... 3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently Jacqueline Balaam, Birch Creek (Resigned 11/2024)

## FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

### Officer Positions

- Vice President.....3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently Sharon Hildebrand, Nulato

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Officers must be Alaska Native members of a member village of the corporation and eligible to be selected as a Director of a member village. (Article 5, Section 1)
- Compliance with the TCC Board of Directors' Drug and Alcohol Free Policy #50-5001 applies to all TCC Executive and Health Advisory Board of Directors. All candidates must take and pass a drug test prior to their respective spring 2025 Subregional Advisory Board Meetings, according to this policy in order to serve their term if elected.

### IRHA Board of Commissioners

- Seat C .....3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently Speedy Sam, Huslia
- Seat B .....3-year term (2025-2028)  
Currently Kimberly Carlo, Gwichyaa Zhee

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- \* Must be eligible to serve on TCC Board of Directors (Article 18)
- Employees of TCC or IRHA are not eligible to serve as IRHA Commissioners (Article 18)

## Important Dates and Deadlines

### January 30<sup>th</sup> - Declaration of Candidacy Opens

January 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am the open period in which a candidate may declare written candidacy begins. Please confirm receipt of your letter of intent.

### February 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm - Full Board Resolutions Due

Full Board Resolutions must be written as TCC resolutions, not Tribal resolutions. Please confirm receipt of your resolutions.

### February 11<sup>th</sup> - Background Check Deadline

The last day TCC is able to guarantee a background check will be completed in time for the required 10 day announcement of candidates before the meeting.

### February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm - Candidacy Window Closes

The open period in which a candidate may declare candidacy ends. Candidates must declare their candidacy in writing. TCC must provide a list of eligible candidates to member Tribes.

### March 13<sup>th</sup> - Elections

TCC elections held at the TCC Full Board of Directors Annual Meeting in Fairbanks.

**ICPA BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION:**

TCC Executive and Health Board of Directors must successfully pass a federal ICPA background check, and the Alaska Barrier Crimes Act background check.

The TCC Executive Board has made the commitment to both comply with current laws, Board policies and advocate for reasonable changes in background check requirements. As part of compliance, TCC Executive Board and Health Board candidates must submit their complete background check application which includes fingerprints by February 11th submitted to Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director. This allows enough time for the check to be completed. Only those candidates that successfully pass the background check will be eligible to continue as official candidates for the respective elections.

**2025 TCC ELECTIONS: ELECTION RULES**

**RULE 10. MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED**

To be elected to a position, nominees are required to receive a majority vote from the votes cast by the TCC Board of Delegates. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot provided by these Election Rules until a nominee receives a majority vote.

**RULE 11. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY**

1. In the event of a tie occurring for a Subregional seat after the third ballot, a coin toss will occur to determine the outcome of the election.
2. Ballots where there are four (4) nominees or more. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot the following rules will apply with the intent to eliminate candidates to achieve a majority:
  - The Election Committee will eliminate all nominees except for the three (3) nominees receiving the highest number of votes and conduct a subsequent ballot.
  - If there are three (3) or more candidates that receive the second highest number of votes, all those with the second highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot including the candidate with the most votes. The

remaining candidates will be eliminated.

- If there is a tie for candidates with the third highest vote and there are two (2) or more candidates that receive the first and/or second highest number of votes, only the two (2) or more candidates that receive the highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.
  - If there are more than three (3) candidates tied for first highest vote, all of those receiving the first highest will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.
  - If all but one candidate ties for second, the Election Committee will distribute an "elimination ballot" that includes only the nominees who tied for second. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the "elimination ballot" and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.
3. Ballots where there are three (3) nominees. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot having three (3) nominees, the Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes, and conduct a subsequent ballot. If all three (3) nominees tie for the votes cast, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot including all nominees. If two nominees tie for the fewest votes cast, the Committee will distribute an "elimination ballot" that includes only the two nominees who tied for the fewest votes cast on the prior ballot. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the "elimination ballot" and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.
  4. Ballots with two (2) nominees. The nominee receiving a majority vote shall be elected. If neither nominee receives a majority vote, the Election Committee will prepare another ballot without elimination of the nominee receiving the fewer votes. This Election Committee will repeat this process as necessary until one nominee receives a majority vote.

*\*\* Majority is based on the number of Directors present for the 2025 Full Board of Director's roll call.*

# Full Board Resolutions

All resolutions must be received by fax, email, mail or in-person by 5:00pm Friday, February 7, 2025 to be considered for review at Convention. If you choose to mail in your proposed resolution, call 1-800-478-6822 ext. 3275 to notify Legal so that you do not miss the deadline.

Fax or email, then mail proposed resolutions & information sheets to:

Tanana Chiefs Conference  
 ATTN: Keith Rueben, Legal Department  
 122 First Avenue, Suite 600 | Fairbanks, AK 99701  
 FAX: (907) 459-3953  
 Email: [keith.rueben@tananachiefs.org](mailto:keith.rueben@tananachiefs.org)

REMINDER: PLEASE WORD RESOLUTIONS AS TCC RESOLUTIONS AND NOT Tribal RESOLUTIONS



Download the resolution form on our website.

# Declaration of Candidacy

Individuals who want to declare themselves a candidate must submit a written, signed and dated letter of intent between 8:00 AM January 30, 2025 and 5:00 PM February 28, 2025.

Letters of intent must be received by fax, mail or delivered in person no later than 5:00 PM on February 28, 2025 to:

Tanana Chiefs Conference  
 ATTN: Chelle Johnson, Executive Coordinator  
 122 First Avenue, Suite 600 | Fairbanks, AK 99701  
 1-800-478-6822 ext. 3044 | FAX # (907) 459-3884  
 Email: [chelle.johnson@tananachiefs.org](mailto:chelle.johnson@tananachiefs.org)

2025 TCC Full Board elections process follows the TCC Elections Rules; A copy of the elections rules can be requested by contacting Robin Brown, General Counsel at [robin.brown@tananachiefs.org](mailto:robin.brown@tananachiefs.org)



Download the letter of intent form on our website.

## LETTER OF INTENT



DATE (Must be between 8 a.m. January 30, 2025 and 5 p.m. February 28, 2025)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ declare my intent to run for the Tanana Chiefs Conference  
 (Name) (Village/Enrolled to)

position of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Insert seat you intend to run as a candidate for. Example: Secretary/Treasurer, Subregional Executive Board, TCC Health Board, TCC Education Council, IRHA Board of Commissioner, or /ATC)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature Mailing Address City, State, Zip Code  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name Phone Number Email Address



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

## The Council Newsletter

(907) 452-8251 ext. 3424  
communications\_dept@tananachiefs.org  
[www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org)

Communications Division  
122 First Avenue, Suite 600  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701



Sign-Up to receive  
our E-Newsletter!  
Get important  
updates straight  
to your inbox.



# FIND YOUR PURPOSE

*Join Our Team!*

### New Vacancies

<b>Alatna</b>	Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Billing & Denials Manager
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Billing Technician II
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Rural Energy Specialist
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Revenue Operations Manager
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Security Officer I
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Resource Family Specialist
<b>Fairbanks</b>	HIMs Manager
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Certified Medical Assistant I
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Community & Infrastructure Development Division Director
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Employment & Training Coordinator
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Tribal Justice & Governance Director
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Supply Technician III
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Social Services Coordinator I
<b>Fairbanks</b>	SAPTA Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Learning & Development Coordinator
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Administrative Assistant II - Learning & Development
<b>Fort Yukon</b>	Yukon Flats Subregional Prevention Coordinator Trainee
<b>Galena</b>	Yukon Koyukuk Subregional Prevention Coordinator Trainee
<b>McGrath</b>	Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
<b>McGrath</b>	Tribal Family Youth Specialist
<b>Nenana</b>	Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor
<b>Tok</b>	Upper Tanana Subregional Prevention Coordinator I

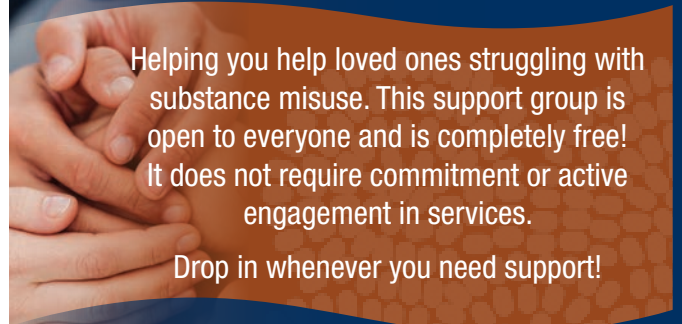


### Apply Online or Learn About Our Benefits!

Visit our website at [www.tananachiefs.org/careers](http://www.tananachiefs.org/careers) to see a full list of open positions and learn more about the benefits available through Tanana Chiefs Conference.

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF JANUARY 17, 2025

## Let's Talk!



Helping you help loved ones struggling with substance misuse. This support group is open to everyone and is completely free! It does not require commitment or active engagement in services.

Drop in whenever you need support!



Scan the QR Code for more info & join us Wednesdays via Zoom  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEB  
17**

**TCC Offices Closed**  
President's Day

**MAR  
10-13**

**2025 Annual Convention & Full Board of Directors Meeting**  
8 Star Event Center | Fairbanks, AK

**MAR  
14**

**TCC Offices Closed**  
Traditional Chief's Day

**APR  
8-10**

**Annual Self-Governance Meeting**  
Fairbanks, AK | More Information to Come

**APR  
15**

**2025 Education Summit**  
Fairbanks, AK | More Information to Come

**APR  
22**

**41<sup>st</sup> Annual Alaska Tribal Court Conference**  
Westmark | Fairbanks, AK | More Information to Come