



# ANCHRR

Alaska Native  
Collaborative Hub for  
Research on Resilience

*“Our culture is the  
physical manifestation  
of the lands and our land  
is where prevention lives.”*

*- Nome Collaborative Hub*

## IN THIS ISSUE

---

- Highlights from the 2nd Annual Statewide Collaborative Hub Meeting
- Current and Upcoming Events

FALL BRIEF 2019

# NOME

## ANCHRR 2nd Annual Statewide Collaborative Hub Meeting March 27 & 28, 2019

**ANCHRR 2nd Annual Collaborative Hub Meeting was held March 27-28, 2019, in Nome, Alaska with 80+ attendees from across Alaska. This gathering was hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks in partnership with Kawerak and the Northwest Alaska Wellness Initiative (NAWI).**

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Bring people together from across Alaska to focus on Alaska Native community strengths
- Discuss how research can document, understand, and support community strengths
- Build capacity to do research by and for Alaska Native people
- Identify strategies and successes in transforming communities, institutions and services
- Identify what youth, communities, and institutions are doing to strengthen culture and wellbeing



### Hub Highlights

ANCHRR Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) held their annual meeting before the gathering in Nome, and ANCHRR was fortunate to have members of this advisory group stay for the remainder of the week. ANCHRR EAC is comprised of representatives from statewide leadership in tribal health, community wellness, education, and self-determination services.

Elder John Waghiyi led the meeting with an opening ceremony and keynote presentation. In addition, UAF Associate Professor of Linguistics Dr. Walkie Charles and Adjunct Instructor Baxter Bond were keynote speakers for the gathering. Both Charles and Bond teach Yup'ik at UAF.

Nome resident and UAF alum Marjorie Tahbone was the Master of Ceremonies throughout the gathering. Bering Straits community members shared their local innovations that drive community-level strengths and youth wellness and prevention efforts.

Bethel resident and Elder Esther Green and the Rural Human Services students introduced the Alaska Native Community Resilience Study (ANCRS) and shared their experiences with conducting interviews for the study.





## Highlights from Discussion Groups

How can ANCHRR best support communities and systemic change?

- Through helping people embrace their identities
- By involving youth and leaders to bridge intergenerational gaps
- By inspiring communities with the sharing of knowledge
- By assisting in developing toolkits for communities to do their own research
- By supporting local community control and defining our own narratives
- Through subsistence gathering for community wellness

What does self-determination and research look like for Alaska Native People?

- Elder driven; look at how research was done in the past and practice learning and understanding that reflects ancestral processes
- Changes structures, policy, governance, paradigms
- Communities learn from the research to talk to the government and advocate for community wellness
- Western research validates what indigenous knowledge already knows
- Implements cultural values as resources
- Ensures that cultural values guide in decision making



*All Photos by Dr. Sven Haakanson.*



# ANCHRR All Hubs & NIH Tribal Advisory Committee Joint Meeting

August 19-22, 2019

The University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Native Village of Emmonak will host the 2nd Annual All Hubs Steering Committee. The All Hubs Steering Committee brings together the three projects funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH): RFA-MH-17-350 Collaborative Hubs to Reduce the Burden of Suicide among American Indian and Alaska Native Youth.

The three hubs include:

- **Southwest Hub for American Indian Youth Suicide Prevention Research** - Mary Cwik and Allison Barlow, PIs, Johns Hopkins University
- **Collaborative Hub to Reduce The Burden of Suicide Among Urban American Indian And Alaska Native Youth** - Spero Manson and Dedra Buchwald, PIs, University of Colorado, Denver
- **Alaska Native Collaborative Hub for Research on Resilience (ANCHRR)** - Stacy Rasmus, Lisa Wexler & James Allen, PIs, University of Alaska Fairbanks

This year's All Hubs Steering Committee meeting will be held jointly with the **National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC)** meeting. Leaders and program officials from the NIH will travel to Alaska to attend the joint meetings of the All Hubs Steering Committee and TAC and will also have the opportunity to travel to an Alaska Native community participating in ANCHRR.

The three-day event will begin with a one-day site visit to Emmonak, Alaska. The Yup'ik community of Emmonak, located on the mouth of the Yukon river on the Bering Sea coast, has a long-standing history of collaboration with the **Center for Alaska Native Health Research (CANHR)** and is active within ANCHRR suicide prevention research initiative. This event presents a rare opportunity for federal grant funders to experience rural Alaska and gain an authentic understanding of the strengths and the needs of our state's rural Alaska Native communities.

The following two days of meetings will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska. There will be break-out discussions, panel presentations on funding and training opportunities along with a one-day open meeting of the TAC that will address tribal health research policy, current initiatives and priorities.



## Upcoming ANCHRR Events

- ANCHRR's 3rd Annual Statewide Collaborative Hub Meeting and Executive Advisory Committee Meeting will be held in Juneau, Alaska in 2020! We will send a Save the Date notice in mid-September, 2019.
- Community Protective Factors Data Collection Interviews for ANCRS will conclude in December 2019.
- The Research Steering Committee is planning an annual meeting in January of 2020.

Stay up to date on ANCHRR News and Events by visiting:

[www.anchrr.org](http://www.anchrr.org)

Join us on Facebook and Twitter



### ANCHRR Outreach Coordinator

Carol Murphrey  
University of Alaska  
Fairbanks  
P.O. Box 757000  
Fairbanks, AK 99775

Phone: 907.474.7659  
Email: [admin@anchrr.org](mailto:admin@anchrr.org)  
Website: [anchrr.org](http://anchrr.org)  
Fax: 907.474.5700

### ANCHRR Leadership Team

Stacy Rasmus  
Lisa Wexler  
James Allen  
Evon Peter  
Jessica Black  
Billy Charles  
Rhonda Johnson

