



**DATE:** November 4, 2022

**TO:** Skagway Traditional Council

**FR:** Judean Gordon   
SEARHC Board Representative

**RE:** SEARHC Board and Committee Meetings, October 26–28, 2022

The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) Board of Directors successfully held its annual fall board and committee meetings on October 26–28, 2022. All board members were present over the course of three days. Below are highlights from the meetings.

### **Accreditation Governing Body (AGB) Committee**

The AGB met on Wednesday, October 26, and conducted its regular business review. Dr. J. Kennon Kirk, Chief of Staff, provided an overview to the committee on the credentials list that included updates and changes to SEARHC’s provider network. The committee moved to approve new appointments for 17 courtesy staff and advanced practice professionals, 35 reappointments, two changes in staff categories, one change in privileges, and seven administrative closures. The committee also approved an annual Quality Assurance Performance Improvement Plan and Infection Prevention and Control Plan that focuses on critical clinical procedures, clinical outcomes, effective infection prevention, facility core functions and primary needs of patients.

Dr. Elliot Bruhl, Senior Vice President/Chief Medical Officer, discussed and answered questions on updates related to outpatient services, quality measures, specialty services and Behavioral Health.

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee met in the afternoon, conducting its regular business reviewing and approving the minutes from July 28, 2022, and then entered into executive session to review and discuss three items to move to the full board: Chief Executive Officer Evaluation, 2022 CEO Matrix, and 2023 CEO Matrix.

### **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee met on the morning of October 27. Dan Harris, Senior Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, reported on fourth-quarter activities and the 2022 year-end financial performance at SEARHC noting strong financial performance for the year. The report covered a review of SEARHC’s new bond rating, the income statement, volumes, payor mixes,



Staffing at SEARHC increased by 7%, and the Sitka Totem Hotel is now under full ownership by SEARHC as of October 1.

### **Patient Experience Committee**

The Patient Experience Committee met in the afternoon on October 27. Leatha Mercurieff, Senior Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, provided a fourth-quarter report that included expansion of programs and patient satisfaction data. Customer service training was provided in smaller communities and is expanding across the Consortium. Call center operations continue to expand with Prince of Wales now rolled into the centralized system.

A recent improvement was implemented for transferring calls from the call center to the Ethel Lund Medical Center POD teams. Patient travel was discussed, and the SVP Chief Operating Officer is looking to add a Patient Navigator who will assist with patient needs from the point the practitioner identifies that an internal or external referral is needed to coordinate with the patient directly to schedule an appointment, flight, lodging and/or transportation.

The committee also welcomed Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's (ANTHC) President and Chief Executive Officer Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson and Alaska Native Medical Center's (ANMC) Interim Hospital Administrator Alan Vierling who gave a regional update to the board. Ms. Davidson talked about facility expansions at ANMC, three-year strategic initiatives, and heard many concerns from the board.

### **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors met on October 28 and had a full agenda that included a special presentation on SEARHC's strategic plan one-year progress, expansion of services, and the evolving partnership with Providence and Swedish Health. Annual election of officers was held, along with at-large members for the Executive Committee, and representative appointments for ANTHC, the Alaska Native Elders Health Advisory Committee, and Alaska Native Health Board.

Chair Strong provided a report on accomplishments from the past year, highlighting expansion of services and technology, Juneau's Vintage Park construction and exploring to expand patient housing. The ANTHC representative reported on ANTHC-related activities over the past quarter working with leadership pushing forward patient housing and travel related issues that continue to affect patients from the region.

The President/Chief Executive Officer provided a report and highlighted work that has been accomplished enabling providers to be more efficient making way for more patients which was a result of reorganizing and redeploying the primary care system. Future expansions were discussed on increasing access to specialty care in Juneau.



## Key Accomplishments from October 2022 Board Meeting

- Approval of the Consortium-wide Credentials List
- Approval of the Providence TeleICU/TeleStroke Provider Roster
- Approval of the ANTHC Telemedicine list
- Approval of the 2023 Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement Plan and 2023 Infection Prevention and Control Plan
- Election of Officers
  - Chair: Kimberley Strong, Klukwan
  - Vice Chair: Judean Gordon, Skagway
  - Secretary: Lavina Brock, Wrangell
  - Treasurer: Harriet Silva, Angoon
- Members-at-Large
  - June Durgan, Craig
  - Patty Cottle, Klawock
  - James Jack Sr., Juneau
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
  - Representative: Kimberley Strong
  - Alternate: Lincoln Bean Sr.
- Alaska Native Health Board
  - Representative: Patty Cottle
  - Alternate: Judean Gordon

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 26, 27, 28, 2023 in Juneau, Alaska.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent our community on the SEARHC Board of Directors and invite you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Again, thanks for your continual support of SEARHC's important mission: ***Alaska Native People working in partnership to provide the best healthcare for our communities.***