

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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SEARHC announces new management team at ARMC

KLAWOCK, Feb 13, 2008 — The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) is pleased to announce the formation of a new management team at the Alicia Roberts Medical Center (ARMC) in Klawock on Prince of Wales Island.

Two current SEARHC employees — Donna Miller from Sitka and Joyce Moore from Klawock — will assume the leadership duties previously held by Cindy Gamble, who recently left ARMC after 21-plus years. Miller will assume her new role as administrator in March, while Moore immediately assumes the duties of deputy administrator. In addition to managing the day-to-day clinic operations, Miller will serve as Moore's mentor while Moore completes the education she needs to eventually assume a role as an administrator.

“We must identify opportunities like this to grow our own administrators,” SEARHC President/CEO Roald Helgesen said, adding that Moore's story is similar to his own. Helgesen began his career with SEARHC answering phones at Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital. He served the consortium in numerous capacities and was supported by SEARHC in his on-going professional development. “SEARHC needs to develop key Alaska Native staff who are woven into the fabric of the community they serve. Joyce Moore is a dedicated employee who has worked hard to earn this opportunity. By creating this road map for the future, SEARHC is able to meet strategic plan initiatives, provide for strong leadership and achieve continuity of services.”

“While we were all saddened by Cindy's departure, we are excited by this opportunity,” said David Vastola, M.D., SEARHC Community Health Services Medical Director.

Miller will be able to take advantage of Moore's extensive knowledge of Prince of Wales Island, as well as her familiarity with tribal government issues. ARMC serves the Native people from four federally recognized tribes on POW — in Klawock, Craig, Hydaburg and Kasaan — that also are represented on the SEARHC Board of Directors. It also serves other POW residents and is the largest of four SEARHC facilities on the island.

From its start as a clinic staffed by four Community Health Aide/Practitioners in the mid 1990s, ARMC has grown into a facility staffed by physicians and mid-level providers. In addition, ARMC now provides dental, pharmacy, physical therapy, x-ray, laboratory, prevention and wellness services. It also serves as a site in the Frontier Extended Stay Clinic program, which

gives patients a safe and comfortable place to stay when they need special treatment or care for limited periods of time or while waiting for a medevac to the hospital.

Miller holds a Master of Public Administration degree from State University of New York-Brockport. She began her career as a dietitian and after many years in various administrative positions went to nursing school for her RN. She currently is employed at Mt Edgecumbe Hospital as a registered nurse. Prior to her nursing career in Sitka, Miller spent 20-plus years in health care administration in New York State. This included the position of Vice President of Geriatric and Support Services of Newark-Wayne Hospital and Executive Director of Albany County Residential Health Facilities, giving Miller a broad range of health care administrative experience in acute, long term and outpatient services.

“I’m really excited about joining the team at ARMC and the opportunity to work closely with Joyce,” Miller said. “Together we can provide quality health services to the people of Prince of Wales Island.”

Moore currently is the ARMC office manager and has worked at ARMC for 11 years. She is a lifelong resident of Prince of Wales Island and a graduate of Klawock High School. During her time at ARMC, Moore obtained her national coding certification, and she will complete an Associate in Health Care Management degree this month. She plans to continue her education until she earns a master’s degree.

“I’m thankful for the opportunity SEARHC has given me to further my career goals,” Moore said. “I’ve been here for 11 years, and I’ll be here for all of our communities to help them in a higher capacity. To be given this kind of opportunity is very rare for a person from a small community. I’m very pleased.”

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