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Community Health Aide Program

Expand the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) from Alaska to the lower 48 and make it a national policy

- Community health aide practitioners have and can increase access to care and are sustainable
- They provide high-educational opportunities for community members, and have expanded the local economy through job creation, cost of care savings, and improved health.
- Use Alaska as a model
 - The Alaska CHAP is community driven and noted for its role in both providing care in remote villages and increasing access to care at their Tribally managed hospitals and clinics.
- Need for Behavioral Health Aides
 - The high rates of alcohol and substance abuse, mental health disorders, suicide, violence, and behavior-related chronic diseases in AI/AN communities is well documented. Each of these serious behavioral health issues has a profound impact on the health of individuals, families, and communities.
- Community based, culturally-informed providers are desperately needed in the I/T/U system.
 - Expanding CHAP as a national policy is a solution to developing culturally competent providers
- Expansion of the CHAP program must not adversely affect the CHAP program already operating in Alaska
- There must be Tribal consultation in the development of the expanded CHAP policy