Our Mission

To work in partnership to provide community development, education, social services, culturally relevant programs and advocacy for the people and Tribes of the AVCP Region, to promote self-determination, protection and enhancement of our cultural and traditional values.

Nunaput Umuyallgutkut
Pinirluteng-Illu,
Tegganerput Qigcikluki Pirpakluki-Illu,
Ayagyuaput-Illu Ciuliqagcimaut
Yuuyarakun

Our Tribes are united and strong, our Elders are respected and valued, and our Youth are guided by Yuuyaraq
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ABOUT US

We are a regional non-profit tribal consortium comprised of the 56 federally recognized tribes of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The geographic boundaries of AVCP extend from the Yukon River village of Russian Mission downstream to the Bering Sea coast, north up through Kotlik and south along the coastline to Platinum, and then extending up the Kuskokwim River to Stony River, including Lime Village on the Stony River tributary. The area encompasses approximately 6.5 million acres, or 55,000 square miles, in Southwest Alaska.

Proudly Serving 56 Tribes since 1964


avcp.org

907-543-7300
1-800-478-3521

WELCOME

TO THE AVCP 2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION

CEO’S LETTER

Waqaa! Welcome to the AVCP Annual Convention, all delegates; executive board members; guest speakers; tribal, federal and state partners; observers; and staff.

It has been a busy year. Lately I have had to pause to look back and think about how we got here. Personally, I think of my grandfather, Axel C. Johnson, and all the work by our Elders who laid the groundwork for AVCP.

Those of us who used to play underneath our grandparents’ kitchen table when they talked about the future and our people, are truly humbled and blessed to be able to contribute what we can to our region. It reminds us that “anything is possible.”

I am amazed at how the last few years have transformed my mindset and the mindset of our organization. At this year’s convention, we are excited to share AVCP’s new developments and future plans, as we continue down this path of growth.

We are now closing the first phase, the last three years, of our Quality Improvement (QI) Process and transitioning into phase two - which I am calling ‘Q2.’ In this phase, over the next three years, we will become a learning organization. All organizations include some learning, which we have done a lot of, in these times of dramatic change. But, to continue at our current rate of quality improvements, we must commit to a process of continuous, holistic, learning. Expanding on the growing our own initiative, established in our strategic plan, we will now begin to braid learning into the fabric of our organization.

As a learning organization, we have begun the systemic review of our experiences over the last year. One of the first steps was to gather information on the top priorities of the region through the gathering of key stakeholders. One way we have gathered information is through our recent summits, focused on our three regional priorities, provided by our delegates: public safety, economic development and child welfare. AVCP staff worked very hard in preparing for, holding and reporting on the outcomes of these meetings. I want to thank them for their commitment and hard work. At our Annual Convention, we will present summaries of the outcomes of the last year’s efforts.

As the only Tiwahe demonstration site in Alaska,
AVCP has demonstrated our ability to reorganize, both physically and internally, in the creation of the Family Service Center and the Resource Center. We have broken down silos, expanded capacity for culturally relevant programs, established policies and distributed information through the creation of our Communications Department. We are not done yet. These explicit strategies, practiced through the Tiwahe project, embody principles and approaches that we hope to learn from and adopt on a larger scale. The next three years will be exciting as we enter Q2, the next phase of improving AVCP. Thank you to all AVCP staff for doing an outstanding job.

Please continue to follow and participate in AVCP initiatives through upcoming workshops, our quarterly teleconferences, as well as our newsletters and Facebook page. We look forward to sharing the accomplishments of our team, who have created a truly impressive synergy. It is an honor and a pleasure to push forward, together, toward a new service delivery model for AVCP. This new model is innovative and exciting because it is being developed by us, for us. I look forward to what the next three years will bring. All of us remember playing underneath our grandparents’ tables and listening to the voices of the Elders and the vision they held dear to their hearts to prepare the very best AVCP for those to come. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vivian Korthuis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Districts and Villages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUTH RILEY</td>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Aigaaciq, Andreafski, Saint Mary’s, Pitt’s Point, Mountain Village</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAMES PAUL</td>
<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Akiachak, Akiak, Kwethluk, Tuluksak</td>
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<td>MARCELLA WHITE</td>
<td>Unit 8</td>
<td>Chefornak, Meloryuk, Newtok, Nightmute, Toksook, Bay, Tununak, Ulikumuit</td>
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<td>EDGAR HOELSCHER</td>
<td>Unit 9</td>
<td>Chevak, Hooper Bay, Paimut, Scammon Bay</td>
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<td>PETER ANDREW</td>
<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>Akiaq, Akiaq, Kwethluk, Tuluksak</td>
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<td>JULIA DORIS</td>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Aniak, Chumhalik, Crooked Creek, Georgetown, Lime Village, Upper Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Red Devil, Napaimute, Shattuck, Story River</td>
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<td>JOSHUA CLEVELAND</td>
<td>Unit 10</td>
<td>Eek, Goodnews Bay, Platinum Quinhagak</td>
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<td>THADDEUS TIKIUN JR.</td>
<td>Unit 11</td>
<td>Onutsararmiut Native Council</td>
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<td>WASSILIE PLEASANT</td>
<td>Unit 6</td>
<td>Atmautluak, Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk</td>
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<td>ROLAND WHITE</td>
<td>Unit 7</td>
<td>Kipruq, Kungiganak, Kwillingok, Tuntulik</td>
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<td>CHRISTINA CHANGSAK</td>
<td>Unit 12</td>
<td>Ohogamuit, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICHAEL JOHN JAMES</td>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Aikanuk, Chuloonwick, Emmenak, Nunam Iqua</td>
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As part of our Strategic Plan, established in 2017, our goal was to ensure we are structured for resiliency. Our initiative to “right size the ship” focused on matching the resources (people, money, energy) to the needs of our community by 2019.
Communications
Azara Mohammadi, Director

Promoting:
• Transparency
• Internal Communications
• External Communications
• Multimedia Outreach
• Representation

Through:
• Social Media
  • Calistet Qanerkait (monthly employee newsletter)
  • Qanemcit (quarterly newsletter)
 • avcp.org
  • Publication production
  • Interfacing with media outlets
  • Press releases & articles
  • Photo & video editing

FY18
• Increased Facebook audience by 203%, without paid advertising
• Established monthly employee newsletter
• Established a Twitter and Instagram account
• Redesigned avcp.org
• Enabled online event registration
• Partnered with the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD) Work Based Learning Program to host six high school interns
• Created an AVCP branding toolkit with new:
  • Letterhead
  • Color palatte
  • Presentation templates
  • Photo galleries
  • Imagery guidelines
  • Messaging guidelines

FY19
• Complete redesign of avcp.org
• Continue to increase social media reach and representation
• Improve event registration
• Produce video descriptions of programs and projects
• Establish lesson plan for student interns

Finance
Dendra Chavez, Comptroller

Supporting every program and administrative department of AVCP – from processing payroll for employees and hundreds of assistance benefit payments for clients each month to arranging travel for clients and employees and preparing for our annual audit. We have a crucial role in the work done at AVCP and around the Region.

During the past 12 months, the Finance Department has reached a major milestone – AVCP has fully transitioned from finance software that was unable to meet our needs to a robust and highly rated not-for-profit finance software, called MIP/Abila. This was a long and arduous process, but with the dedication of our staff and partners it is now complete. We look forward to increased efficiency, improved audits, and an all-around upgraded experience for our staff, fellow departments, Tribes, and clients.

In the next 12 months we look forward to growing our own by expanding our staff and focusing on staff development; enhancing our travel process; and preparing for the FY18 audit.

Grants & Compliance
Margaret Fitka, Director

Created in 2016, we are continuing to grow as we support AVCP’s programs and administrative departments.

Over the past 12 months, we have taken the lead in financial reporting for AVCP’s many grants – ensuring that reports are completed accurately and on time while giving program directors more time to provide critical services to our Region.

Another focus has been helping directors identify new ways to accomplish their goals within our funding guidelines. In addition, we assist programs in preparing for and participating in on-site visits or desk reviews with grantors throughout the year, while working closely with the Finance Department in preparing annual audits.

In addition to assisting the Programs, Grants and Compliance has developed new policies and processes to increase AVCP’s efficacy. Moving into the next 12 months, we will focus on trainings centered around these new procedures.
Facilities, Fleet & Safety

John Hastie, Director

Our department was awarded the AVCP Department of the Year for 2017. We have expanded to accept more responsibilities and have increased our capacity to be more efficient and effective.

We executed many projects, that were deferred for years, to increase the energy efficiency of our buildings, maintain the integrity of our facilities, advance the safety and functionality of all our spaces, and improve the comfort and aesthetics of our organization.

- Adopted management of vehicle fleet.
- Implemented vehicle safety checklist
- Identified areas for safety improvements
- VPSO Public Safety Building Assessments
- Lock & Key Project
- Records Retention Project
- Energy & Efficiency Upgrades
- Family Service Center Improvements
- Tugkar Building Renovations
- Joe Lomack Building Improvements
- KVNA Building emptied in preparation for demolition
- Storage capacity improved at Central Storage Warehouse
- Assisted Cultural & Environmental Sciences with the sorting and loading of electronic waste
- Changed flight school hanger windows
- Repaired and/or replaced meter bases
- Excess property liquidation

Human Resources (HR)

Lema Pete, Director

We assist all programs by supporting the employee needs for the organization in a variety of directions and processes. AVCP employs between 350-400 people in region at any time. Over half of our employees work and live in the 56 villages in our region and 96% are Alaska Native.

The Human Resources Department (HR) provides these services through management of the personnel process (from selecting and on-boarding the employees, up to retirement). There are 3 major focus areas in Human Resources: Employee/Manager support; Benefits Management; and Staff Development.

The HR team is concentrating efforts in the development and management of the overall progression of the HR Department.

FY18

- A diverse, highly skilled, productive, healthy, and efficient workforce
- Fair and lawful treatment of all employees
- Leadership and Management Development and mentoring through focused and consistent training
- Development of New Employee Orientation (NEO), Outlook Training, Excel Training and an annual Supervisors Training
- Development of a Retirement Insurance Committee
- Revision of the Employee Handbook
- Roll out of a new annual evaluation process
- Updating of the HR Master Process Manual for all sections of the department
- Expanded manager/ supervisor skills training
- Hire a full time Staff Development/ Trainer in the HR Department
- Development of all HR forms for electronic signature
- Orientation of village employees before the job starts
- Smart Board/ Screen for Meetings and Interviews with village staff
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Information Technology (IT)

John P Charlie, Director of IT Infrastructure
Aaron Mute, Director of IT Operations

Providing the best possible technology service and support of day-to-day operations of AVCP through the maintenance and support of software and hardware standard application(s) and network systems, which run on Windows Server OS and other supported OS, Windows 7 Pro or later, and other standardized data processing systems.

• Continued RiteTrack implementation for client services. Project plan in place, to complete Phase II Departments in 2019
• Currently building Social Services and integration with the MIP financial system, with an expected go live date of December 1, 2018
• New phone system deployment implemented in the Bethel offices with enhanced features to meet the latest telecommunication services. Mobility, paging system, and emergency buttons to be mostly functional by November 30, 2018.
• 2018 Connectivity Project included firewall upgrades to village-based staff to interconnect them to the internet and the AVCP headquarters securely to protect the computers and other detrimental data including email. The upgrades to further protect other sites are anticipated to be completed by November 30, 2018.
• Office 365 deployment throughout AVCP, village and Bethel-based staff. Allows for collaboration in real time, as well as improved efficiency.
• PC Refresh Year 1 has been completed. AVCP is on a 3-year PC Refresh plan, to replace all old computers, with quicker, more efficient workstations for all.
• FY18
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FY19
• IT Department Service Level Agreement (SLA) to define how the IT Department supports AVCP, both locally and each Village.
• Printer Refresh, to replace all printers at AVCP in Bethel, and village-based sites.
• SharePoint deployment for all departments at AVCP, creating a better workspace environment online.
• Securing AVCP networks to upgrade existing security measures including firewalls to all AVCP village sites.
• Client management remote installation, to keep all computers up to date, including computers in the village based offices.
• Hire additional IT staff members for cloud administration, financial and other data application, and securing AVCP’s network and server infrastructure.

Legal

Joy Anderson, General Counsel

Supports the work of each of AVCP’s programs and administrative departments. In the last twelve months, our team has: reviewed, drafted, and/or negotiated over 600 contracts; assisted programs in preparing for on-site grantor reviews; advised Tribal Courts on topics ranging from tribal child protection cases to banishment; and provided legal advice and counsel in numerous matters.

Travels throughout the Region to support the programs and mission of AVCP. Locations visited this year include: Aniak, Hamilton, Upper Kalskag, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kotlik, Kwigillingok, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Mekoryuk, Oscarville, St. Mary’s, Stony River, Toksook Bay, Tuntutuliak, and Tununak.

Collaborates with other Consortiums to advance Native issues from the YK-Region and around the State. In the past year we have provided legal support to the Statewide VPSO Tribal Caucus, participated on the Tribal Child Welfare Compact legal team; and supported subsistence collaboration among Western Alaskan tribes and consortia.

Participate in nationwide advocacy efforts benefiting Tribes and Consortia. We joined the tribal amicus brief filed in Texas v. Zinke (a case challenging the constitutionality of ICWA) and helped prepare comments for several Department of Interior listening sessions and tribal consultations.

Note: The Legal Department does not provide legal assistance directly to individuals or Tribes (the only exception is providing advice and counsel to tribal courts through AVCP’s Tribal Justice Center; ICWA-compact Tribes are represented in CINA cases through AVCP’s partnership with Alaska Legal Services Corporation).
Office of Self-Governance (OSG)

Martha Whitman-Kassock, Program Administrator

Providing funding for essential operations of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) programs that Tribes elect to Compact under AVCP’s Self-Governance agreement. The OSG agreement provides AVCP with the broad authority to consolidate and redesign programs and reallocate funds between programs. The Tribes in the AVCP region can also elect to contract for these programs directly with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) under P.L. 93-638 or, Tribes can elect to have select programs provided by the BIA directly. Contract Support costs are provided to the entity responsible for providing the service for administrative costs associated with operations of the program. AVCP collaborates with OSG and BIA to maintain the financial integrity and timely and accurate delivery and reporting of funds negotiated in the Self-Governance annual funding agreements and to provide information to AVCP Tribes regarding Self-Governance and other Self-determination issues. The OSG agreement provides flexibility for receiving funding from other agencies and deferred revenue sources. AVCP continues work to clearly define the service delivery of OSG and its programs.

FY18

- Provided funding match for Head Start and Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Tribal Services (Aid to Tribal Government)
  - Training
    - April 2017, held Tribal Administrators Training at UAF/KUC Bethel college providing 1 credit class towards the Occupational Endorsement “Introduction to Tribal Administration”
    - September 2017, held Tribal Board Members’ & Officers’ Roles & Responsibilities and Tribal Board Members’ Goal-Setting & Decision-Making training for Administrators and Council members
    - Held QuickBooks training in December 2017; February 2018 to ATG Compact Tribal Administrators and bookkeepers.
    - Issued Tribal ID’s at the tribe’s request for 10 ATG Compact Tribes
    - Hired 2nd ‘Tribal Compliance Support Specialist’ to accommodate the tribes’ financial monthly/quarterly reports
- ICWA
  - Developed a foster care department to increase foster homes in the region
  - ICWA CFSS staff trained in providing relative placement initial walk-throughs as a precursor to becoming a licensed foster home
  - Revised policy and procedures that guide child welfare work
- Tribal Courts
  - Disbursement of OSG Pass Through Funding to AVCP Compacted Tribal Courts
  - Secured Operational funding for the Tribal Justice Center
  - Provided Strategic Action Plan outreach to tribal courts who have accomplished a tribal court assessment
  - Assisted with Five (5) Tribal Court assessments in AVCP Region through contractors from the BIA
- Natural Resources
  - Hired a second staff member to assist with department operations
  - Completed the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project in Pilot Station
  - Completed AVCP’S Forest Management Plan
- Housing Improvement Program (HIP)
  - Two homes completed for eligible clients
  - Provided improved and healthier living spaces with low energy use
- Economic Development
  - Completed 2018-2023 YK Region CEDS document
  - Held three sub-regional meetings and region-wide Economic Summit where the CEDS was developed with the participation of sister organizations (YKHC, AVCP RHA, Calista, YDFDA, and CVRF) with the purpose to address economic development in a coordinated effort
  - Johnson O’Malley (JOM)
    - Accepted proposals for JOM projects with AVCP JOM Compacted Tribes
    - Contracted with 6 tribes out of 24 JOM Tribes
- Scholarships and Adult Education
  - Collaborated with YUUT, AVTEC, NIT, ACC, State of Alaska, Alaska and Out of State Colleges and other funding agencies
  - To provide VPO/TPO, CDL, Welding, Rural Facilities Maintenance Technician, Toyo/Boiler Maintenance, Firefighting training, QuickBooks and Child Care Conference
  - Provided 525 students with higher education & training scholarships, 186 completed with certificates and 2 to 4 year degrees
- Realty
  - Implementation of the Realty Career Ladder aimed to retain employees by offering a competitive salary due to the highly technical nature of the positions within the Realty Department
  - We have also increased our staff from a total of seven (7) employees to ten (10) employees. After months of training new staff, we are now addressing the backlog of transactions case files to complete or close out files
  - Our organization has completed our first ever self-assessment Desk Audit Review; we have a team developed which assisted in completing the audit and supplying additional information or action as necessary
- Social Services
  - Obtained Welfare Assistance training with BIA Human Services Director
  - There has been a decrease General Assistance Applications
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Office of Self-Governance (OSG) cont'd

FY19

- Tribal Services
  - Offer training for ATG Council Members, Tribal Administrators and bookkeepers and continue providing Occupational Endorsement classes to Tribal Administrators
  - Implement Tribal Enhanced ID’s to all tribally enrolled members to meet the Real ID Act at AVCP
- ICWA
  - Increase capacity of child welfare workforce by providing relevant training in the field of child welfare services
  - Strengthen department protocols to improve child welfare outcomes
  - Streamline service delivery to increase service delivery strategies
- Tribal Courts
  - Eight (8) planned Tribal Court Assessments through 2019
  - Training and Capacity building for all Tribal Justice Center staff
  - Strategic Action Plan outreach to tribal courts who will receive a tribal court assessment
- Natural Resources
  - Hire an additional staff member to increase focus on activities surrounding issues critical to Bering Sea ecosystems, including resilience areas, fisheries, prevention and preparedness, and vessel traffic
  - Identify additional locations and communities that will benefit from forestry and/or hazardous fuels reduction projects
  - Through the Adapt Y-K Delta Climate Resiliency and Adaptation Workshop, develop strategies that set out practical steps to conserve and enhance the region’s resources into the future
- HIP
  - Collaborate with AVCP Programs to increase and renovate the number of homes in the region.
  - Work with Child Care and TIWAHE to provide safe homes for children in child care and foster care.
- Economic Development
  - Redevelop foundation of department to increase service provided in the region
  - Identify funding and partnership opportunities

- JOM
  - Collaborated with YUUT, AV/TEC, NIT, ACC, State of Alaska, Alaska and Out of State Colleges and other funding agencies
  - To provide VPO/TPO, CDL, Welding, Rural Facilities Maintenance Technician, Toyo/Boiler Maintenance, Firefighting training, QuickBooks and Child Care Conference
  - Provided 525 students with higher education & training scholarships, 186 completed with certificates and 2 to 4-year degrees
  - Scholarships and Adult Education
    - Partner with YUUT to provide training.
    - Continue with higher education & training scholarships
    - Attend High School Career Fairs for presentations and recruiting
- Realty
  - Address transactions accounts with monies in suspense deposit accounts; complete case files and release funds accordingly
  - Create and implement Realty specific policies and procedures; which will in turn help to address and significantly reduce the backlog of transactions and probate files. (Started and in process)
  - Identify space needs in order to fill additional positions to continue to address backlog of transactions and probate files
- Social Services
  - Increase General Assistance Caseload by 50% - increase outreach
  - Inquire about starting our Emergency Assistance Program

SERVICES

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Benefits Division
Kathryn Nenneman, Director

Social Services
- the Energy Assistance Program (EAP), Crisis Heating Assistance Program (CHAP) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funded by the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to 42 Tribes
- The BIA Welfare Assistance Programs: General Assistance (GA) and Burial Assistance (BA), currently compacted in 2018 to provide service to 38 Tribes
- The Title VI Older Americans Act (OAA) and Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) providing Elder Meals through three school districts to 12 villages.

FY18
- Combined the EAP and CHAP applications to reduce the time it takes to process applications and assist households as quickly as possible.
- LIHEAP assisted 2,041 households in FY 2018 with $2,410,756.79 in assistance payments from our LIHEAP grant.
- EAP assisted 1,984 households in FY 2018 with a budget of $1,965,620.78
- CHAP assisted 23 households in FY 2018 with a budget of $143,547.90.
- WAP assisted 34 households in FY 2018 with Toyo stoves, wood stoves, and doors. 1,500 Weatherization kits have also been ordered to be sent out to eligible EAP clients. WAP’s total budget was $301,588.11

FY19
- Social Services is in the implementation phase into the client data management software, RiteTrack. Go-live is scheduled for November 1st.
- Expedite payments to vendors with new software
- Following BIA Welfare Assistance training by Gloria Gorman, AK BIA, on May 9th-10th, 2018, conduct outreach to expand caseload over the next year, including Emergency Assistance for loss of homes due to fire.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Providing comprehensive services that meet the basic needs of the families in our region, along with improving our communities by enabling families to become self-sufficient by strengthening families. The primary goals of the AVCP TANF Program are the four purposes of TANF, as described in section 401 of the Social Security Act:
1. To assist needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes
2. To reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage
3. To prevent out of wedlock pregnancies
4. To encourage the formation and maintaining of two parent families

AVCP TANF is a temporary assistance program that assists needy families with dependent children under the age of 18, or families with children under the age of 19, who are still enrolled in school, as full time students. AVCP TANF also assists pregnant women in their last trimester of pregnancy that have no other children. AVCP TANF is a program that provides services to all qualified clients, regardless of nationality, and to all qualified clients who qualify for services under the four purposes of TANF.

FY18
- In FY 2017 AVCP TANF served 7,171 families, with an average of 598 families per month
- In FY 2017 AVCP TANF provided $2,567,821.72 in cash benefits to families in the AVCP Region
- Provided funding to Campfire Alaska that served communities of: Akiak, Alakanuk, Aniak, Atmautulik, Bethel, Chevak, Chuathbaluk, Crooked Creek, Kongiganak, Kotlik, Kwillingok, Lower Kalskag, Marshall, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Pitkas Point, St. Marys, Tuntutuliak, Tununak, and Upper Kalskag
- Provided funding to the Healthy Families Program, to provide a culturally relevant program, for families who are working towards self-sufficiency
- Provided funding to ANSEP, for youth from the AVCP region to access resources to become successful & receive education needed to prepare for college and careers
- Provided funding to the ICWA Structured Decision Making (SDM) project to keep children safe at home and in the villages, as a to provide direct support prior to outside agencies getting involved.

FY19
- In an effort to eliminate silos and improve service delivery, we have combined the Social Services and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Departments, and homed them under one director.
- Provided funding to the Workforce Development Program, to connect TANF clients and young adult tribal members under the age 25, with employment, training and educational opportunities
- Provided funding to ANSEP, for youth from the AVCP region to access resources to become successful & receive education needed to prepare for college and careers
- Provided funding to the ICWA Structured Decision Making (SDM) project to keep children safe at home and in the villages, as a to provide direct support prior to outside agencies getting involved.
- Continue to provide funding to child based education, safety and development programs
- Work on administering payments timely
- Increasing capacity of village workforce to help alleviate Bethel based staffs workload
- Assist more clients to become self-sufficient
- Increase the protection of children that are in and out of state custody
- Work with Tribes in finding ways to improve lives within the Region
- Help clients access higher education / training

Learn more at: www.avcp.org/services/benefits-division
Child Advocacy

Monica Charles, Guardian Ad Litem
Kathy Lou Peace, Guardian Ad Litem

The Child Advocacy Department’s vision is that every child from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta will grow up in a safe and loving environment. We are committed to providing quality guardian ad litem representation in every case.

The GAL represents a child’s best interests in Alaska State Court Child in Need of Aid (CINA) proceedings, and is an independent legal party (the same as parents, tribes, and OCS). GALs advocate for children who have been abused or neglected to become or remain safe, healthy, stable, and connected to their culture. GALs make recommendations to the judge based on their independent investigation, which includes:

• Visiting children in placement
• Interviewing parents, ICWA or CFSS workers, Office of Children’s Services (OCS) workers, foster parents, teachers, counselors, tribal council members, and others
• Following State and Federal laws, such as the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

AVCP contracts with the Alaska Office of Public Administration (OPA) to provide guardian ad litem representation for Alaska Native and American Indian children in CINA cases in Western Alaska. Our staff GALs represent approximately 150 children throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (roughly 2/3rds of our Region's cases). In the last 12 months, our GALs have traveled to several YK-Delta villages and Anchorage to visit children in custody.

In the next year we look forward to prioritizing face-to-face contact with children in care and encouraging more collaboration among the different agencies serving our children in Western Alaska.

Cultural & Environmental Sciences (C&ES)

Steven R. Steet, Director/Archaeologist

The department has four distinct but closely-related functions: 1) to assure that all Realty transactions comply with federal cultural preservation law, specifically the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the National Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), among others; 2) to coordinate compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); 3) to administer the ANCSA 14(h)(1) Historic and Cemetery Sites program on behalf of Calista Corporation; and 4) to provide technical and logistical assistance to tribal environmental programs with funding provided through U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP). As of August 2017, the department was also tasked with reorganizing the operation of the museum at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center.

FY19

• Deliver unit-based workshops on land management with a focus on the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) process, land ownership and “site control” for community development; short course for college credits
• Hire at least one full-time staff archaeologist and a temporary seasonal archaeologist to reduce backlog in NHPA, Sec. 106 and NEPA compliance reports for Realty Department transactions
• Collaborate with EPA, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and municipalities to increase backhauling throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region; increase collaboration with GreenStar LLC
• Establish a sustainable operating budget for the Yupiit Piciryarait Museum
• Continue to support community archaeological and cultural heritage projects in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

FY18

• Ben Charles was hired during August 2017 as the Museum Coordinator to reorganize the Yupiit Piciryarait Museum and establish an advisory committee including the City of Bethel, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, AVCP and the Lower Kuskokwim School District
• Mary Woods was hired during July 2018 as the Museum Technician to organize the museum collections, inventories and open the main galleries to the public
• Rose Kalistook returned to AVCP as the Environmental Program Manager in July 2018 to support tribal environmental programs and Realty National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance
• Continued to support tribal backhauling and solid waste management and removed more than eight tons of e-waste and lead acid batteries from the region this fall. We collaborated with GreenStar LLC to backhaul e-waste from middle Kuskokwim villages
• Consulted on the USACE Donlin Gold Draft NHPA, Sec. 106, MOA as part of the larger environmental impact statement (EIS) process
• Staff participated in the Nunalleq Archaeological Project during 2018 in preparation for the grand opening of the Nunalleq Culture and Archaeology Center in Quinhagak, August 11

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Education, Employment, Training & Child Care (EET&CC)

Beverly Turner, Acting Director

Promoting the economic and social development of our Tribal members to reduce joblessness in accordance with the goals and values of the communities that we serve.

Supporting education, employment, training and economic development activities to fully develop the academic, occupational and literacy skills to make such individuals more competitive in the workforce.

Assisting our Tribal members to succeed in the workforce by encouraging self-sufficiency and helping to familiarize them with the world of work, and facilitating the creation of job opportunities and services related to those activities.

Johnson O’Malley (JOM):
- Accepted proposals for JOM projects with AVCP
- Contracted with six tribes out of 24 JOM Tribes

Scholarships and Adult Education:
- Collaborated with Yuut Elitnaurviat, Alaska’s Institute of Technology (AVTEC), Northern Industrial Training (NIT), Alaska Career College (ACC), the State of Alaska, Alaska and out-of-state colleges and other funding agencies.
- To provide village police officer (VPO) and tribal police officer (TPO), commercial driver’s license (CDL), welding, rural facilities maintenance technician, Toyo/boiler maintenance, firefighting, and QuickBooks training and child care conference
- Provided 525 students with higher education & training scholarships, 186 completed with certificates and two to four-year degrees.

Child Care
- 290 Providers including Daycares
- 19 Providers received cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid cards

Head Start

Sheila Beaver, Director

Nurturing children in their culture by speaking the Yup’ik language and having the children explore a variety of cultural activities that are relevant in their community, with several opportunities for parental involvement.

AVCP Head Start serves 221 children and families in the following communities:
- Akiachuk
- Bethel
- Chefornak
- Kotlik
- Quinhagak
- Scammon Bay
- Russian Mission
- Tuluksak
- Tuntutuliak
- Tununak

FY18

John O’Malley (JOM):
- Accepted proposals for JOM projects with AVCP
- Contracted with six tribes out of 24 JOM Tribes

Scholarships and Adult Education:
- Collaborated with Yuut Elitnaurviat, Alaska’s Institute of Technology (AVTEC), Northern Industrial Training (NIT), Alaska Career College (ACC), the State of Alaska, Alaska and out-of-state colleges and other funding agencies.
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FY19

JOM:
- Order school supplies for JOM compact tribes.
- Reach out to compact tribes about the proposals
- Increase JOM contract

Scholarships and Adult Education:
- Partner with Yuut Elitnaurviat to provide training
- Continue with higher education & training scholarships
- Attend high school career fairs for presentations and recruiting
- Continue travel to villages to recruit

Child Care
- Home repairs for child safety
- Child Care Providers Conference
- Complete home inspections
- Continue travel to villages to recruit

FY18

- Hired Deputy Director
- Maintained attendance rate
- Reviewed reporting process and identified areas of opportunity
- Hired staff for new location
- Family Advocates received training on new responsibilities and will oversee the family service unit
- All teaching staff are enrolled in an early childhood education program and are taking courses toward completing their degrees

FY19

- Open new location in Kipnuk
- Communicate subsidized training opportunities for parents of students, in partnership with EET&CC and Yuut Elitnaurviat
- Develop a more robust reporting process based on observations from last year
- Increase average attendance by at least 5%
- Increase home visits by Family Advocates
- Communicate more information about services and opportunities through avcp.org
Healthy Families

Melanie Fredricks, Director

Healthy Families uses Elluarrluteng Ilakutellriit, a framework that demonstrates the life-cycle of traditional practices, values, and beliefs as told by Elders from the AVCP region. Healthy Families offers a three-and-a-half-day workshop held one to two times a month in Bethel. Facilitators and Elders are available to bring the Healthy Families Workshops to communities within the region. The Workshops aims to reconnect us with our cultural values, stories, and personal strengths to overcome daily hardships and to understand the traumas that affect our lives. It provides a safe place for Elders to teach through their personal experiences.

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FY18
- Facilitated 13 Healthy Families Workshops in Bethel with a total of 106 participants;
- Hosted 11 Qasgiq Sessions;
- Facilitated 2 (spring & fall) Healthy Families Workshops with local plant knowledge;
- Facilitated Healthy Families Workshops in Kasigluk, Napakiak, Emmonak and Tuluksak.

FY19
- Capture and distribute traditional knowledge
- Curriculum development for Healthy Families model and Youth Track
- Implement Healthy Families as the core value of the Family Service Center

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Department

Valerie Andrew, Director

Acting in the best interest of Alaska Native children by meeting the requirements of the ICWA with a focus on protecting the tribes’ rights under ICWA by keeping children safe, keeping families as intact as possible and preserving children’s connections to their tribes and Alaska Native culture.

Our program works with compacted tribes to protect their interests in state court child protection cases including prevention services.

FY18
- Increased capacity of child welfare workforce by providing relevant training in the field of child welfare services.
  - All ICWA Community Family Service Specialist (CFSS) workers attended the AVCP ICWA Child Welfare Conference
  - All ICWA CFSS workers attended ICWA II and KWYA
  - ICWA CFSS staff trained in providing relative placement initial walk-throughs as a precursor to becoming a licensed foster home
- Strengthened department protocols to improve child welfare outcomes.
  - Revised policy and procedures that guide child welfare work
  - Service alignment across service delivery sites

FY19
- Implement an evidence and best practice service delivery model focusing on family early intervention and prevention services for families served under the ICWA program
- Implement a foster case unit focused on goals set by the tribal-State compacting initiative
- Integrate technological updates to improve data collection services utilizing RiteTrack
Natural Resources

Jennifer Hooper, Director

The mission of the department is to protect and maintain the integrity of our region’s natural resources and the unique subsistence way of life through the promotion of self-determination of our tribes and our people. Our vision constitutes protection of these resources and our way of life for both present and future generations in the face of a changing climate and an evolving and expanding technological society. We strive to provide beneficial services and rights protection to our region’s members and landowners.

FY18

- Continued support of the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Hired a second staff member to assist with department operations
- Completed the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project in Pilot Station
- Completed AVCP’s Forest Management Plan
- Provided a seasonal fisherman technician for the ADF&G Pilot Station Sonar project
- Formed new connections with agencies involved in emergency preparedness and response at the Coast Guard’s 2018 Arctic Guardian Seminar
- Through the Adapt Y-K Delta Climate Resiliency and Adaptation Workshop, develop strategies that set out practical steps to conserve and enhance the region’s resources into the future
- Participate in the State Board of Fisheries process for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Finfish meeting in January 2019 and the Federal Subsistence Board process for their January-February 2019 Fish and Shellfish meeting – both regarding fisheries regulatory proposals
- Completed and released funds for six ROW case files.
- Our organization has completed our first ever self-assessment Desk Audit Review; we have developed a team for assisting in completing the audit and supplying additional information or action as necessary.
- Thirty-six (36) probate cases have been prepared and submitted to the BIA for review.
- Reorganized all transaction files in an effort to complete or close out transactions case files.
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FY19

- Hire an additional staff member to increase focus on activities surrounding issues critical to Bering Sea ecosystems, including resilience areas, fisheries, prevention and preparedness, and vessel traffic
- Identify additional locations and communities that will benefit from forestry and/or hazardous fuels reduction projects
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Realty

Land transactions staff provide counseling to landowners, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding their land. Transactions include gift deeds, sales (advertised or negotiated), private and commercial leases, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) leases, rights-of-way (ROW), revocable use permits (RUP), mortgages, removal of restrictions, partitions, subdivisions, gravel/sand leases, land exchanges, and rights protection.

The Probate and Estate Planning staff’s primary responsibility is to administer and manage the estates of deceased restricted landowners, which includes preparation of probate packages containing family...
Transportation

Locally Sourced Labor & Supplies

- **Rental Payment**: $14,700
- **Fuel Purchased from Local Village Corporations**: $4,300
- **Force Account Construction Salaries**: $750K APPROX.

Transportation

Clarence Daniel, Director

AVCP entered into an agreement with the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) for the assumption of the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP).

The success of the AVCP Transportation Program is dependent upon pooling and leveraging funds from the TTP with much larger sources of funding opportunities.

The Transportation Department’s purpose is to promote the economic development of villages through planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining priority projects in the AVCP region.

FY18

- Stage III work for the YK Corridor (see map, left) continuing (two-year work plan)
- Held two public information meetings about the YK Corridor
  - AVCP Tribes March 12
  - GASH Villages May 23
- Completed Chevak Community Streets Project
- Approximately $750,000 in force account construction salaries by project completion
- $4,300 in fuel purchases to the local village corporations
- $14,700 in rental payments to local residents, tribes, corporations
- Increased department staff

FY19

- Continue with at least two construction projects per season
- Complete Napakiak and Hamilton Projects
- Seek additional funding from outside sources like INFRA, TIGER, PNRS, etc.
- Complete Tribal Transportation Manual
**Tribal Justice**

Denise Nerby, Acting Director

The Tribal Justice Center assists tribes in establishing and implementing tribal court orders and forms. The Tribal Justice Center provides technical assistance and training specific to tribal court; both on and off-site, and sample templates of court orders and forms. The Tribal Justice Center also coordinates with multiple different professional entities.

- Disbursement of OSG Pass Through Funding to AVCP Compacted Tribal Courts
- Secured Operational funding for the Tribal Justice Center
- Strategic Action Plan outreach to tribal courts who have accomplished a tribal court assessment
- Five (5) Tribal Court assessments in AVCP Region through contractors from the BIA
- Hosted a Culturally Relevant Domestic Violence Training, in Sept. 2018

**FY18**

- Eight (8) planned Tribal Court Assessments through 2019
- Training and Capacity building for all Tribal Justice Center staff
- Fill all Tribal Justice Center Vacancies
- Strategic Action Plan outreach to tribal courts who will receive a tribal court assessment

**FY19**

- Continue to fully pay the Tribal Administrators by AVCP
- Offer ATG Council Members, Tribal Administrators and bookkeepers training
- Offer and continue Occupational Endorsement classes to Tribal Administrators
- Implement Tribal Enhanced I.D.s to all tribal enrolled members to meet the Real ID Act

**Tribal Services**

Doris Mute, Director

Providing support to member Tribes through compacting resolutions authorizing AVCP to negotiate and enter into an Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) for Aid to Tribal Governments (ATG) services on their behalf. Tribal Services offers financial management and reporting support for ATG funds and offers tools to strengthen Tribes’ self-determination and help build local capacity to guide and manage their own government.

- In December 2017, sent out FY18 funding agreement (MOA) to FY18 compact tribes by email and mail
- Allocations letters sent out in December 2017
- Contract Support Cost 10% indirect rate implemented in 2017 and 2018 for compact tribes
- 2017 and 2018 Memorandum of Agreement (funding agreement) continued between AVCP and compacted ATG tribes
- Trainings
- April 2017, held Tribal Administrators Training at UAF/KuC Bethel college earning one credit class towards the Occupational Endorsement “Introduction to Tribal Administration”
- September 2017, held Tribal Board Members’ & Officers’ Roles & Responsibilities and Tribal Board Members’ Goal-Setting & Decision-Making training for Administrators and Council members
- Held QuickBooks training in December 2017; February 2018 to ATG Compact Tribal Administrators and bookkeepers; Will hold Advanced Quickbooks version in December 2018
- Issued Tribal IDs at the tribe's request for ATG Compact Tribes- 10 tribes
- Opened another Tribal Compliance Support Specialist position to accommodate the tribe’s financial monthly/quarterly reports - two Tribal Compliance Support Specialists – Department is fully staffed

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Helping the people of our region obtain and maintain paid employment and to help employers connect with these human resources. This is achieved through the operation of 25 Tribal Job Centers in the region with an integration of employment, training, education, and economic development services for job seekers, workers, and employers.

The 26 Tribal Job Centers advertise local employer job vacancies and assists clients and job seekers applying for these positions. Clients are also connected to training opportunities which include professional development workshops, vocational trainings, higher education, internships, apprenticeships and access to General Equivalency Diploma (GED) programs.

Employers may also seek qualified candidates for their open positions by contacting their local Tribal Job Center.

FY18
- Opening of the Resource Center, where clients may access workstations for:
  - Job Searching
  - Career/Training Testing
  - Classroom Training
  - GED Learning
  - Resume Building
  - Interviewing
- Clients may now attend training at the school of their choice.
- Expanded partnerships
  - Job center staff can now provide the following services:
    - ASVAB Test Preparation Testing
    - Driver’s Permit Testing - 50 clients
    - GED Online Learning and Practice Testing - 5 clients
    - Pre-employment Finger Printing
    - TABE Test Proctoring
  - Connected over 150 clients with jobs in the region
  - Connected 172 clients to funded training
  - Partnered with training vendors

FY19
- Fill 12 new direct positions
- Open four more Tribal Job Centers in
  - Akiachak
  - Scammon Bay
  - Toksook Bay
  - Quinhagak
  - Start Career Ready Program - employ clients, whose wages are subsidized by AVCP, to partner organizations
  - Develop youth opportunity programs
  - Streamline funding process with the EET Department
- Identify 2019 economic and workforce development projects region-wide
- Develop career pathways booklet
- Start client professional development training

TWD Partnerships
1. Alaska Rural Professional Development LLC.
2. Alaska National Guard
3. Alyeska Pipeline
4. ANSEP
5. ANTHC - Division of Environmental Health and Engineering
6. ASKW - Davis LLC
7. ASRC Construction Holding Company
8. Associated General Contractors of Alaska
9. AVCP - Education, Employment Training
10. AVCP Housing
11. IAVTEC - Seward
12. Bethel Chamber of Commerce
13. Bethel Women in Philanthropy
14. Bethel Community Foundation
15. Calista Corporation - Workforce Development
16. City of Bethel
17. Coastal Villages Region Fund
18. Cook Inlet Tribal Council
19. Crowley Fuels
20. Darlin Gold
21. DOWL Engineering
22. EXCEL Alaska
23. Job Corps
24. Lyndon Logistics
25. Lower Kuskokwim School District
26. Northern Industrial Training
27. ONC
28. SOA Dept. of Labor
29. SOA Transportation & Fuel
30. SOA Division of Motor Vehicles
31. The Kuskokwim Corporation
32. U.S. Dept. of Labor - Apprenticeship
33. United States FBI
34. Vitus Marine
35. YKHC – ANHC/DHAT
36. Yukon Delta Fish & Wildlife
37. Yuut Elitnaurviat

STUDENTS
- Yuut Elitnaurviat
  - 145

Obtained Employment
- 83 ADULTS
- 65 YOUTH

In our region, local governing bodies, whether they are tribal and or city councils, struggle with hiring either Village Police Officers (VPO) and or Tribal Police Officers (TPO) due to limited funding and or financial hardships. Communities associated with the VPSO Program, citizens are afforded immediate response to all emergencies without delays caused by weather, distance, or budgetary restraints. Although VPSOs are not expected to routinely handle high risk or complex investigative situations, they do act as a valuable communications link with the Alaska State Troopers and other state agencies and can extinguish many potential volatile situations. VPSOs provide basic public safety including:

- search and rescue
- emergency trauma training
- probation and parole monitoring
- fire protection
- school resource officers & D.A.R.E. instructors
- basic law enforcement

Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program

Alvin B Jimmie Sr, Director

Vocational Rehabilitation

Irma Goodwine, Director

Providing assistance to tribal members with a physical or mental disability that prevents them from entering the workforce or maintaining employment. This also includes becoming productive in the subsistence lifestyle. The following services and appropriate accommodations are provided, but are limited to: guidance and counseling, equipment, supplies, hearing devices, assistive devices, transportation, basic living costs, housing assistance, training, higher education, self-employment and more. AVCP VR Program operates under discretionary funds and is flat funded at $473,104 annually. AVCP VR enter into its fourth year of its five-year cycle (2015-2020) on October 1st, 2018.

FY18

- Assisted communities with public safety renovation projects
- Found ways to support our region’s VPSOs
- Maintenance of vehicle fleet was conducted to assure the VPSOs have well maintained vehicles to do their daily jobs.
- Visited 46 communities to conduct outreach and answer questions about how the program operates, and discover ways we can better provide public safety services.
- Conducted public safety assessments which included the documentation of public safety facilities

FY19

- Continue the support of our current VPSOs.
- Find ways to provide better public safety services in our region
- Work toward a VPSO presence in each of our regional communities.
- Assist with communities that are in dire need of renovated public safety buildings
- Assist communities with support and enforcement with established tribal courts
- Outreached to 27 villages and local agencies as planned

FY18

- 67 open cases
- 24 successfully closed (7 being subsistence plans) and 4 unsuccessfully closed.
- Participated in statewide discussion about the current state of public safety in rural Alaska, including:
  - 2018 Public Safety Summit
  - Statewide VPSO Coordinator’s meetings

FY19

- Meet the program goal of opening at least 50 cases, with at least 10 of them being successful closures
- Outreach to villages according to workplan.
- Preparing a Disability Awareness Event
- Reestablish agency partnerships from previous years (see above).
- Successfully run the Loan Closet
- Continued Training pertaining to changes to Federal Registrar
- Annual meetings with Alaska Consortia of Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (ACTVR) and Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation-Nationwide (CANAR)