



**Indian Health Service Environmental Health Specialist of the Year – 2011  
Bryan Reed, REHS – Alaska Area**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Alaska Area IHS Office of Environmental Health and Engineering nominates Bryan Reed for the 2011 IHS outstanding Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) of the Year. In 2006, Mr. Reed served as the Field EHS and in 2009, he was promoted to the Manager of the Department of Environmental Health & Safety at the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) in Dillingham, Alaska). In this position, he currently oversees the Environmental Health, Injury Prevention and Remote Maintenance Worker (RMW) programs that serve 7,532 residents of 34 Alaskan Native tribal villages in a remote and road less area totaling 46,714 square miles.

## **SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Grant Award Success – Through excellent grant management, Mr. Reed has played a leading role in implementing capacity building initiatives for the tribes of Southwest Alaska. With the aid of an EPA Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) grant award, two specialized trainings focused on Alaska specific service needs have been offered in 2011. In addition to the tribal environmental programs, drinking water and wastewater trainings have also been hosted through funding from the RMW program. Not only have his efforts focused on tribes, he has also ensured that trainings are available for Environmental Health staff and other BBAHC employees. He secured funding that will support a local Child Passenger Safety (CPS) program, arranged for two staff to attend a CPS technician



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training, and to host an in region CPS course in 2012. Through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), he coordinated the first Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Trainings (ASIST) to be taught in Bristol Bay in several years. Ten BBAHC staff attended the first training in December, 2011. Combined, over 55 Bristol Bay residents have received specialized training during the calendar year.

Injury Prevention Program – IP Epidemiology Fellowship. Mr. Reed is one of 11 EHS's accepted into the 2011 IHS Injury Prevention Epidemiology Fellowship. As a Fellow, Mr. Reed is responsible for designing and completing an injury prevention specific project that will address a local injury prevention issue and carry out the implementation of the project. Reed's project is focused on the evaluation of existing Bristol Bay region injury surveillance data and comparing it to public economic data associated with the region's primary economy- commercial salmon fishing. The projects goal is to understand how the region's economy impacts severe injuries among the region's residents. Project results will be used to educate key stakeholders, mobilize partnerships focused on addressing injuries, and support regional planning efforts.

Village Health Clinics - Mr. Reed stepped up as the primary point of contact for the BBAHC and assisted the Community Health Aid Program (CHAP) with the construction and transition of two new village health clinics. These new clinics are a tremendous improvement in providing essential health care services to community members because health care services are not otherwise available in their villages. Unlike previous clinic construction projects, these projects presented several unique challenges that nearly prevented the projects from being completed. Each tribal village invested a significant amount of time and money into the successful completion of these projects. Both projects have successfully been completed and occupancy into the new facilities will be completed in January 2012.

## **PROFESSIONALISM**

Mr. Reed holds the REHS credential (2005), has a BS degree in Environmental Health (Western Carolina University, 2005), is currently on course to complete his MPH (University of Alaska-Anchorage) in the Spring of 2013, and has maintained a 4.0 gpa through more than 18 hours of coursework. Throughout the year, Mr. Reed conducted eight presentations to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation's Executive Board. During these meetings, information was provided to update the Board on sanitation system project progress, sanitation system failures, and changes in Village utility operations. In January 2011, Mr. Reed coordinated the attendance of the Sanitation System & Health Clinic Project management staff from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and State of Alaska Rural Utility Business Advisory (RUBA) staff to attend the BBAHC Annual Full Board meeting. During this meeting, Reed and the respective delegates met with nine tribal leaders to develop future sanitation system projects and to address village specific infrastructure needs.

Mr. Reed supervises two EHO's, two IP Specialists, two Remote Maintenance Workers, and an administrative assistant/laboratory technician. In 2011, Mr. Reed co-mentored JrCOSTEP Lailani Rockholt. Furthermore, he frequently assisted two new department directors from the BBAHC's Community Health Aid Program and Health Education Program as they transitioned into their new leadership roles.



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## **INNOVATION**

Surveillance System Development – Mr. Reed conceptualized and received funding to develop a sanitation system database and surveillance system that will be used to monitor complaints, failures, and preventative maintenance activities occurring within the Bristol Bay region. The system will be used to quantify the types of challenges experienced by sanitation system utilities, investigate the events taken to mitigate them, and to develop plans to educate community members and technical assistance providers on system specific challenges. Another goal is to link the specific public health needs with appropriate funding and technical assistance agencies so that improvements can be made to ensure the systems continue to operate to their capacity.

Environmental Health Business Plan – Early in 2011, Mr. Reed developed a Business Plan for the Department of Environmental Health & Safety that aligns with the BBAHC's Strategic Plan. The plan identifies specific measures to increase monitoring of public health impacts in Bristol Bay, continuing to investigate public health issues (i.e.: severe injuries, rabies, and botulism), perform various educational events including a tribal capacity building class, increase education in schools, and providing topic specific materials to the BBAHC's leadership (i.e.: climate change, impacts of resource development, impacts of ICD-10 implementation, etc). Additional focuses in the business plan include: using a business case approach to operating and developing plans to sustain and increase program funding, evaluating the effectiveness of the services delivered by the Department, and pursuing appropriate research opportunities focused on improving the health of Bristol Bay residents.

Water Testing Time Study – In an effort to successfully manage challenging financial times, Mr. Reed evaluated the feasibility of charging for community water samples analyzed at the BBAHC's three State certified drinking water laboratories (previously, samples were analyzed free of charge). To gain a better understanding of the labs operating costs, Reed developed and implemented a 'time study' to track the amount of staff time spent performing drinking water lab activities. The study enabled Mr. Reed to identify the amount of time and true costs associated with performing water lab activities; thus enabling a fee structure to be established.

Research Projects – Mr. Reed was instrumental in the development of two Public Health research projects in 2011. He is credited with co-designing a funded multi-agency project that focuses on conducting climate change assessments in Bristol Bay tribal villages. The focus of the project is to examine the affects of climate change and link them to changes in traditional lifestyle. The second project is titled, "Improving Respiratory Health in Alaskan Native Villages". Reed served as the primary point of contact at the BBAHC and is credited with gaining local project approval. This project also involves multiple agencies and is focused on monitoring the indoor air quality of homes of youth with chronic respiratory issues, conducting interventions, and performing follow-up monitoring to evaluate the effects of the applied interventions.

## **SUMMARY**

Bryan Reed is dedicated to serving as an Environmental Health Specialist in a career focused on Public Health. He is recognized for his diversity, vision, and efforts to be a proficient leader. He strives to design and implement programs based on the 10 essential Public Health Services.