

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southcentral Foundation's Traditional Healing Clinic receives special recognition from Indian Health Service

(ANCHORAGE, AK) – Southcentral Foundation's Traditional Healing Clinic received one of the Indian Health Service Director's Special Recognition Awards for important contributions to the mission of the Indian Health Service. Southcentral Foundation Vice President of Executive and Tribal Services Ileen Sylvester accepted the award at a June 29 ceremony in Washington, D.C.

“This award is for outstanding public health leadership in incorporating traditional healing practices into the total medical care regimen for the benefit of Native patients, families, and communities,” said Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, director of the IHS. “This fusion of Native values, beliefs, and practices with modern medical practices is a prime example of the positive power of federal self-determination policies that allow Indian tribes to manage their own health care.”

The Traditional Healing Clinic provides traditional Alaska Native approaches to health in an outpatient setting in conjunction with other services offered at Southcentral Foundation's Anchorage Native Primary Care Center (ANPCC). Tribal doctors address all aspects of healing and wellness through talking circles; Healing Touch, Healing Hands, and massage; culturally sensitive supportive counseling; traditional cleansing, songs, and prayer; and consultations with tribal Elders. The clinic also includes an Alaska Native traditional healing garden, which is used as a teaching garden. The majority of the garden's plants are native to Alaska and have been used for thousands of years to nourish and heal Alaska Native people.

The ANPCC serves Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. Traditional Healing Clinic services are available on a referral basis.

For more information about Southcentral Foundation's services, visit

<http://www.southcentralfoundation.com>.

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Established in 1982, Southcentral Foundation's (SCF) mission is to work together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services. The nonprofit health care affiliate of

Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI), SCF has grown in its 27 years, from a single dental clinic to an internationally recognized, award-winning health care organization that employs more than 1,400 people and manages more than 60 health care programs and services.

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