

Curyung Tribal Council

P.O. Box 216 – 715 Seward Street

Dillingham, Alaska 99576

Phone: (907) 842-2384 - Fax: (907) 842-4510

Mark “Eddie” Angasan, Chairman of the Board and Robert Clark, Chief Executive Officer
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
PO Box 130
Dillingham, AK 99576

Mr. Angasan and Mr. Clark,

We write this letter dismayed with the actions of your administration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has come to our attention twice over the past two weeks that the Chief Operations Officer has demonstrated not only an erroneous viewpoint but incompetent behavior in the name of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation.

The now well-known and widely distributed email sent by the COO to all Division Managers on March 16th, instructing them not to panic and to take the COVID-19 as a political hoax, is unfathomable. We are thankful many local and regional leaders have called this on the carpet but we question what is being done in response to this incident.

It is common knowledge as was discussed at the BBAHC annual meeting a few weeks ago, that the COO was out-of-state, traveling across the country from Florida to Seattle before flying back to Alaska. Eventually returning to Dillingham last weekend, the COO was seen not only in multiple public places over the weekend but also reported to work at Kakanak Hospital on Monday, March 23rd, in complete disregard to the State of Alaska’s Health Alert 9.1 – Out of State Travel, dated March 20, 2020 which directed “Any returning resident or worker is expected to self-quarantine for 14 days after returning to Alaska and monitor for illness.”

The mission of BBAHC is “To provide quality health care with competence, compassion, and sensitivity” How are any of the COO’s recent actions demonstrative of fulfilling any of these roles?

What appears to us to be absolute ignorance and blatant arrogance by BBAHC’s COO, jeopardizes the welfare of every patient, provider and employee of BBAHC as well as the general public of Dillingham and greater Bristol Bay. This behavior compromises the Corporation and reveals the incompetence, indifference and apathy of the administration to tolerate this callousness.

Curyung implores you Mr. Clark and Mr. Angasan to do what is truly in the best interest of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, its patients, employees and Tribes, to address this disreputable conduct swiftly and appropriately in order to protect the Bristol Bay region.

Respectfully,



Thomas Tilden
First Chief