



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Governor Parnell Makes Board Appointments**

October 8, 2009, Anchorage, Alaska – Governor Sean Parnell today announced appointments to the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Alaska Mental Health Board, Alaska Statehood Celebration Commission, Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board, and Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council.

#### **Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**

Governor Parnell reappointed Anna K. Sappah to the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

The 15-member board advises the governor, legislature and state agencies on alcohol or drug abuse-related mental health issues, on the design of abuse prevention and treatment programs, and on public education efforts. It also reviews grant applications to the Department of Health and Social Services and works with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to design programs for alcoholics with psychosis.

Sappah, of Anchorage, has been executive director of the Substance Abuse Directors Association of Alaska since 2007. She worked as a tobacco prevention policy specialist for the Alaska Native Health Board, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Akeela, Inc., and as a certification administrator for the Alaska Commission on Behavioral Health Certification. She has also worked as a correctional officer and construction equipment operator. Sappah holds a methadone advocate certificate from the American Association of Treatment of Opioid Dependence, and has served on the board of the Narcotic Drug Treatment Center in Anchorage since 2001. She has been in recovery from addiction since 1995. Sappah has served on the alcoholism board since 2006 and was reappointed to a seat reserved for a beneficiary of substance abuse services.

#### **Alaska Mental Health Board**

Governor Parnell appointed Joseph D. Dingman Sr., Kathleen S. Graves, Ph.D., Daniel J. Meddleton Sr., Stephen Sundby, Ph.D., and Kathleen M. Watson, and reappointed Ramona S. Duby, Randall Jones, Debi Keith and Brenda Moore, to the Alaska Mental Health Board.

The 12-to-16-member board is the state planning and coordinating body for federal and state laws relating to mental health services for people with mental disorders. It prepares a comprehensive state treatment and rehabilitation plan, advises and advocates before state agencies, the legislature and the public on mental health issues. It also provides a public forum for mental health issues, and works with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority on a comprehensive mental health program supported by Trust funds.

Dingman, of Barrow, has been captain of the North Slope Borough Fire Department since 2006 and worked for the department since 1996 as assistant chief, captain and training chief. A member of Barrow's volunteer fire department since 1984, he also worked three years as a Florida hospital emergency care technician and as a faculty member at Ilisagvik College in Barrow since 1996. Dingman earned an associate's degree in municipal fire control from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and holds state certifications as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) I instructor, EMT III, and fire services instructor. He has an adult son who is a consumer of mental health services and he is a founder of the Alliance for Mental Health Issues, working to establish a group home on the North Slope. Dingman was appointed to a seat reserved for a person with a family member receiving mental health services.

Graves, of Anchorage, has been director of behavioral health for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium since 2008. Her career in Alaska has included work as a researcher and post-doctoral fellow at the University of Alaska Anchorage, clinical family services supervisor for Cook Inlet Tribal Council, clinical social worker for the Alaska Native Medical Center, human services director for Southcentral Foundation and lead counselor at Abused Women's Aid in Crisis. Her professional publications have addressed such issues as aging, suicide prevention and resilience among Alaska Natives. Graves earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Alaska Anchorage, a master's degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, and a doctorate from the Smith College School of Social Work. She was appointed to a public seat.

Meddleton, of Anchorage, is a retired health and mental health services administrator, whose career included serving as administrator of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute, administrator of the Juneau Pioneers Home, director of the North Slope Borough's health department and chief operating officer of Providence Hospital. He worked as a management consultant in Anchorage, and was an adjunct professor of management for California's University of LaVerne. Meddleton earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan Technological University and a master's degree in hospital administration from the University of Minnesota. He has a son and a brother receiving mental health services, and was appointed to a seat reserved for person with a family member receiving mental health services.

Sundby, of Wasilla, has been clinical director of Alaska Family Services since 2006. His career as a mental health service provider and administrator includes work as behavioral health services director for a residential care facility in Indiana, behavioral health administrator for Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau and clinical psychologist and vocational services director for a mental health center in Texas. He is an Alaska-licensed professional counselor, Alaska-approved counselor supervisor and Texas-certified associate psychologist. He is a member of numerous national and state professional associations and is a former member of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association board. Sundby earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Sam Houston State University in Texas, and master's and doctoral degrees in psychology from Western Michigan University. He was appointed to a seat reserved for a state-licensed provider of mental health services.

Watson, of Fairbanks, works at the Rivers Edge Resort and is the mother of an adult son who experiences mental illness. A lifelong Fairbanksan, she graduated from Monroe High School and has worked in the hospitality, telecommunications and banking industries in Fairbanks. She was appointed to a seat reserved for a family member of a person receiving mental health services.

Duby, of Anchorage, has worked as executive coordinator and residence manager for the Alaska International Education Foundation since 2002. She spent 10 years as an assistant commercial property manager and seven years as a professional temporary for Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. She has received training in community behavioral health care, grant writing and clinical record-keeping. Duby belongs to the Athena Society, is a board member of Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, and is a member and past president of the Alaska Federation of Business and Professional Women. She is a consumer of mental health services, has served on the board since 2006, and was reappointed to a seat reserved for a consumer of mental health services.

Jones, of Anchorage, has been a psychotherapist in Alaska for 30 years, and been with Providence Behavioral Medicine Group since 1997. In 18 years with the Langdon Psychiatric Clinic he was a therapist, vice president and president, and was later clinical director and director after it became Providence Behavioral Medicine Group. He also directed a Cordova substance abuse treatment center and developed a sex offender treatment program for the state prison system. Jones earned a bachelor's degree from Washington State University and a master's degree in family therapy from the Fuller Theological Seminary in California. Jones is an Alaska-licensed marriage and family therapist. He has been on the board since 2008, and was appointed to a seat reserved for a provider of mental health services.

Keith, of Anchorage, is an administrative assistant in Alaska's health care industry, currently working for Providence Imaging Center as a scheduler. She has worked as office manager for an Anchorage psychiatrist, a peer navigator for the Alaska Youth and Family Network, and as health unit coordinator for Providence Health System. Keith studied nursing and music at Walla Walla College in Washington, and has been a state-certified nurse's assistant. She is the mother of two adult children with special needs. Keith has served on the board since 2006, and was reappointed to a seat reserved for a person with a family member who is a consumer of mental health services.

Moore, of Anchorage, has been a community outreach specialist with the United Way of Anchorage since 2001. She co-founded and since 1995 has been a member of Christian Health Associates. She was a peer counselor involved in media ministry with Abbott Loop Community Church, and previously worked in commercial banking and marketing. Moore has served on the board since 2004, was reelected board secretary in 2008, and was reappointed to a public seat.

### **Alaska Statehood Celebration Commission**

Governor Parnell appointed Mia Costello to the Alaska Statehood Celebration Commission.

The nine-member commission plans and administers all official state activities leading up to and relating to the 50th anniversary of Alaska Statehood, including administering a timetable and budget and archiving statehood-related materials.

Costello, of Anchorage, is an educator with experience in government and public relations, and has worked since 2008 as an education specialist for Nine Star Education & Employment Services. She worked in communications for two previous Alaska governors in Juneau and worked in public relations in Anchorage. A public high school teacher in Anchorage and Juneau, she has won awards for a civics education curriculum she designed. Costello earned a bachelor's degree in government from Harvard College and a master's degree in education from the University of Alaska Southeast. She had represented Interior Alaska on the commission from 2006-08, and was appointed as the governor's designee to the commission.

## **Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board**

Governor Parnell reappointed George Woodbury to the Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board.

The five-member board, representing land users from around the state, makes recommendations to the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources on the orderly development of farm, forest and grazing land in the state. It also represents the state in local, federal, and state soil and water conservation programs, makes recommendations on the use or disposal of land and resources, and serves as the board of directors for the Alaska Soil & Water Conservation District board for areas of the state not organized into local conservation districts.

Woodbury, of Wrangell, has been a forest products harvesting, manufacturing and marketing consultant in Alaska and Hawaii since 1999. He was vice president of timber operations for the Alaska Pulp Corporation in Sitka from 1986-97, managed the Ketchikan Pulp Corporation's timber division from 1974-86 and was a contract logging engineer and manager for the corporation from 1969-74. Woodbury earned a bachelor's degree in forest management from Purdue University and then served five years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. He has served on the board as chair since 2005, and was reappointed to a seat reserved for a Southeast Alaska agricultural producer.

## **Veterans Advisory Council**

Governor Parnell appointed Suellyn Wright Novak and Terry W. Pardee to the Veterans Advisory Council.

The 13-member council advises the governor, the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and other state departments on matters concerning veterans, their dependents and their survivors, including identifying veterans' needs and making recommendations on how to provide for them.

Novak, of Eagle River, retired from the U.S. Air Force as colonel after 32 years of service which include command of a medical support squadron and a medical diagnostics and therapeutic squadron. She is active in service to Alaska veterans, serving as president of the Alaska Veterans Museum, executive officer of the Alaska Wing of the Commemorative Air Force and a director of the Alaska chapter of the Association of the U.S Army. Novak earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Grove City College in Pennsylvania, a master's degree in public administration from the University of North Dakota and a master's degree in military studies from the American Military University in Virginia. She has also been a certified secondary school teacher and certified medical technologist. She was appointed to a public seat on the council.

Pardee, of Haines, is a combat veteran of the U.S. Army who served in Special Forces reconnaissance during the Vietnam War and retired from the Alaska Army National Guard as master sergeant with 24 years of service. He received the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Alaska Distinguished Service Medal. Pardee has worked in Southeast Alaska 11 years as a restaurant owner/operator, 26 years as a marine surveyor, and 36 years as a commercial fisherman. He served on the Haines Borough school board and assembly from 1998-2003. Pardee is a life member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Special Forces Association. He was appointed to a public seat on the council.

## **Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council**

Governor Parnell reappointed Daniel Chythlook to the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council.

The seven-member council is responsible for designing a management plan for the park - the nation's largest state park - and monitoring implementation of that plan with the assistance of the Department of Natural Resources. Members include state government officials, and members nominated by local village councils, city councils, and Native associations.

Chythlook, of Aleknagik, is vice president of the Aleknagik Tribal Council. He is the council's tribal environmental program coordinator and a certified water quality tester for the Nushagak/Mulchatna Watershed Council. He also serves on the Qayassiq Walrus Commission. Chythlook has served on the council since March, and was reappointed to a seat reserved for a member nominated by the Aleknagik Tribal Council.

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