

Health and the Economy of Southeast Alaska

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Economic Impact of Healthcare

- Approximately 2,200 healthcare jobs in SE, one of the few areas that is stable or growing.
- Healthcare includes many of the “fastest growing occupations”: medical assistants, nursing aides, home health aides, pharmacy technicians, pharmacists, physical therapists, respiratory therapists, nurses, physician assistants. (*AK Economic Trends, January 2009*)
- Stable, year round positions, typically with benefits
- Healthcare is often the largest employer in a city/borough – such as Sitka (SEARHC) and Ketchikan (Ketchikan General Hospital) (*AK Economic Trends July 2009*)

Importance of a Quality Healthcare System

A high quality, functioning health care system is a basic necessity for every community.

The healthcare infrastructure is essential for recruiting and retaining businesses and employees.

Promoting Health and Wellness in the Workplace

Workplace wellness initiatives – results in more productive and satisfied employees.

Online opportunities available from health insurance carriers.

Encourage physical activity, healthy food choices, tobacco cessation, stress management techniques.

Opportunity for leaders to lead by example

Promoting Health and Wellness in the Community

**Public Health Initiatives – Avoid second hand smoke -
www.smokefreejuneau.org, www.alaskatca.org**

Sitka – “Bicycle Friendly Community” – www.bikeleague.org

Community Health Forums - Juneau

Sitka Health Summit

**Social support programs are critical – Head Start, Big Brothers/
Big Sisters, etc.**

Current Health Issues

H1N1 Influenza

**Substance Abuse – alcohol, prescription drug abuse,
“oxycontin”**

Mental Health – depression, suicide

**Access to healthcare – lack of community health centers in SE
(no “sliding scale” access)**

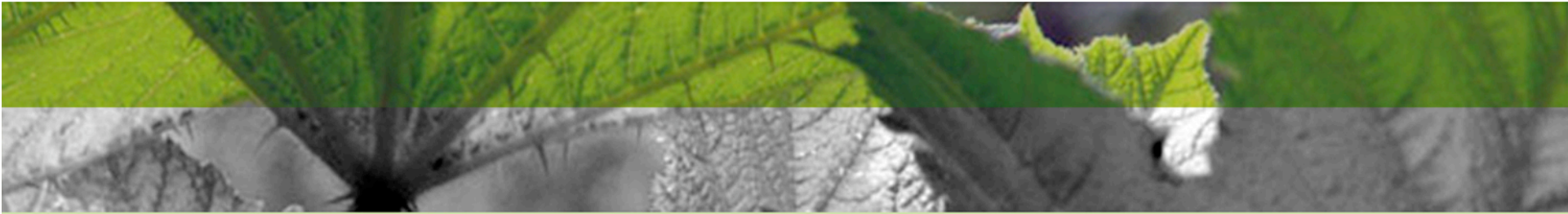
National Health Reform - ???

Leaders for health and wellness

Lead by example

Advocate for health and wellness in the workplace

Advocate for health and wellness in the community



- Questions/comments?
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