



# Alaska Wellness Coalition:

## December 2020 Discussion Outcomes Executive Summary & Next Steps

In December 2020, The Alaska Wellness Coalition (AWC) convened two group discussions with the help of McKinley Research Group facilitating. The discussions took place on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 with 25 participants, and December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with 16 participants. The intention of these discussions was to further identify needs and priorities of the AWC.

During session 1, the participants divided into small groups to answer a series of questions that were developed by the facilitator based upon input received from key interviews with select AWC members prior to the discussions. Session 2 more specifically asked participants to provide input regarding *Advocacy, Building Capacity, and Data Assessment & Tracking* again via small group discussions.

McKinley Research Group facilitated the groups and recorded notes from each session. These notes were further evaluated, and themes were pulled to develop the following priority areas.

### Themes:

The McKinley Research Group identified the following themes:

- There is a strong need for statewide collaboration and networking.
- Need to present a unified voice to the Legislature and administration.
- Become a central hub for data, training resources, and tool-kits to support and accelerate community-level activities.
- Need to educate members about AWC goals and activities.
- Potential for AWC is tremendous but has not been fully realized.
- Need to narrow our focus and ensure priority activities are implemented successfully.
- Need to differentiate from other organizations--especially the Alliance.

### AWC Priorities:

Based on the themes pulled from the McKinley Research Group and further analyzing of the discussion data, the following areas were identified as priorities for the Alaska Wellness Coalition:

- AWC Infrastructure & Capacity Building to further define & prioritize:
  - Sharing current initiatives of AWC with existing coalition members,
  - Outreach and engagement with outlying communities in rural Alaska, and
  - Identifying communication strategies within the coalition.
- Advocacy & Policy Development
- Resource Hub Development: Sharing the information
- Data Stewardship: Dissemination of current data
- Training Collective: Offer/facilitate awareness of trainings to encourage sustainability & support for organizations and coalitions statewide specifically prioritizing Alaskan developed educational opportunities

### AWC Initiatives:

Based on the themes collected, the following clarifying statement of AWC initiatives has been crafted:

Alaska Wellness Coalition is a statewide coalition that connects Alaskan coalitions, organizations, and individuals together with the purpose of establishing a statewide prevention & wellness network that focuses on strengthening existing efforts, networking, sharing resources and identifying opportunities for collaboration and alignment to improve health and wellness in Alaska.

The coalition supports local prevention efforts by providing coalition backbone support & networking, prioritizing advocacy & policy work, facilitating data and resource sharing and training opportunities.

The Alaska Wellness Coalition encourages communities across Alaska to participate, and actively engages in outreach to rural Alaska to ensure that all Alaskan voices are heard.

### Next Steps:

Based on the findings from the executive summary, the following prioritized next steps with timeline have been established:

#### AWC Infrastructure & Capacity Building:

- AWC will begin to focus on bringing this conversation to the monthly coalition meetings to:
  - Continue to have a strong coalition foundation that ensures all current members understand and can communicate the current initiatives of the AWC
  - Explore communication and outreach strategies,
  - Increase AWC membership from diverse communities to ensure that all Alaskan voices are represented.

The other priority areas identified will be explored via work groups. Work groups will further analyze data collected, formulate partnerships & solutions for moving forward and making recommendations to the coalition at large.

The following work groups will be strategically rolled out throughout 2021, with the following timeline:

- Advocacy & Policy Development Work Group- February 2021
- Resource Hub Work Group- estimated launch April 2021
- Data Stewardship Work Group- estimated launch June 2021
- Training Collective Work Group- estimated launch August 2021

AWC will continue to have monthly coalition meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 11:00am-12:00pm via zoom, as well as twice monthly Coffee Klatch open forum meetings hosted by AWC on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays from 9:30-10:30am