

## PROFESSIONAL/ BOARD EXPERIENCE

**Foundation Health Partners**- Trustee Executive Committee member of Fairbanks health system including leading Quality efforts and credentialing (current)

**Latitude 64 North**- Owner retail antiques business operating at retail outlet Blue Door Antiques and other venues (current)

**University of Alaska Board of Regents**- appointed in 2016. Chair the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and chairing an ad hoc committee on improving recruitment, retention and graduation (current)

**President/CEO, Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association**: 2010-2014 Represented the hospital and nursing home industry in Alaska with Governor, Cabinet, State Legislature and key stakeholders. Supervised Association staff and managed budget.

**Lead Investigator, The Forgotten Alaskans: The Morningside Hospital Project**: Reconstructed the history of the care of mentally ill in Alaska from 1898 to statehood including the history of the Morningside Hospital where as many as 6,000 of Alaska's mentally ill were served from 1901-1967. Project received awards from the National Association of Rural Mental Health and the Alaska Historical Society

Associate Vice President, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK Health Programs: 2001-2010 Responsible for developing health and social sciences capacity throughout the university system. Member of the university's executive administration playing key role in strategic planning for degree expansion and program development.

United States Representative, Arctic Council, Sustainable Development Working Group: 2001-2009 On behalf of the US State Department, represented USA at the Arctic Council, an eight nation government to government forum on arctic issues. Responsible for US representation on human and economic issues and other business conducted in the sustainable development dimension.

**Eight Stars of Gold, Principal Investigator**: Led a multi-year project to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Alaska Statehood. Included collecting historic materials for libraries and museums and creating a finding aid, producing two public television documentaries and many other activities. Two Emmy's for documentary.

Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services, Juneau, AK 1994-2001 Cabinet level appointment overseeing 2,200 employees and a budget of \$1.2 billion. Longest serving DHSS Commissioner since statehood. Led the state's efforts in welfare reform, health care expansions, child protection, juvenile justice, public health, mental health and initiatives in primary care and fetal alcohol syndrome.

Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services, Juneau, AK 1985-1990. Provided overall direction for the state's public health, medical assistance (Medicaid) and public assistance programs, as well as the state's health planning efforts. Also responsible for the department's personnel management, independent audit, budget, and fiscal management services. Worked extensively with federal officials, congressional delegation.

Independent Consultant, Northern Research and Planning/Chena Consulting Fairbanks, AK Developed robust company providing health and social services system development, planning and evaluation services to non-profit and public agency clients. Projects focused on development of standards and other aspects of quality improvement and in development of community-based health systems for children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities and state legislative delegations, citizen groups and municipalities throughout Alaska.

**Director, Division of Community Development, Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Juneau, AK** 1982-1985 Directed five major statewide programs that promoted economic self-sufficiency with 80 employees in five separate offices across the state. Developed and implemented the Statewide Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). Restructured and implemented Alaska's Low-Income Weatherization Program. Formulated Lighting and Thermal Standards for energy-efficient residential construction. Administered Alaska's Day Care and Head Start Programs, and promoted involvement of the private sector in addressing child care needs of employees.

Congressional Aide US Senator Ted Stevens, Washington DC Congressional Aide in the Minority Whip Office of the US Senate and Press Aide. 1978-1982

## **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (1982-2025)**

Trustee Foundation Health Partners, Fairbanks Alaska

Board of Regents University of Alaska, 2016-present

## Alaska Women's Hall of Fame

American Hospital Association Trustee Governance Committee & University of Alaska Press & Commonwealth North Board of Directors & National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services & University of Washington School of Medicine Admissions Committee- Alaska, current & Ted Stevens Foundation, Board member & American Public Television Board, Lay member & Providence Health Systems, Board member & Alaska Society of Circumpolar Health, Board member & Hospice of Tanana Valley, Board member, & National Center for Excellence in FAS, Steering Board & Alaska FAS Steering Committee & Alaska Suicide Prevention Council &

Alaska Telemedicine Advisory Council & Arctic Council, United States Representative, Sustainable Development & Alaska Human Resource Investment Board, Board Member & Alaska Council on Domestic Violence, Board Member & Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Board Member & Alaska Public Health Association, President 1994,member & Alaska Center for Rural Health, President of the Board, 1990-member & American Public Human Services Association, Executive Board member 1994-2001

## **HONORS**

Alaska Women's Hall of Fame 2022

**Honorary Doctorate University of Alaska Fairbanks 2017** 

**Commencement Speaker UAF Graduation 2017** 

Distinguished Citizen of the Year, Midnight Sun Boy Scouts

Woman of Distinction Farthest North Girl Scout Council, 2012

A Victor I Howery Lifetime Achievement Award for Rural Mental Health, National Rural Mental Health Association 2012 & Award of Achievement, Alaska Historical Society, Forgotten Alaskans, 2011 A Resolution of Appreciation, University of Alaska Board of Regents 2010 A Esther Billman Award for Historic Achievement, Alaska Historical Society 2006 A Telly Awards, Bronze Level-Vital Signs and Creating Alaska-the 49th Star, 2006, Mr Alaska, 2009 & Friend of Nursing Award, March of Dimes Alaska 2006 & Dot Truan Disabilities Family Advocacy Person of the Year Award, 2001 & Alaska Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Person of the Year Award 2001 A National Association of Social Workers, Alaska Chapter Appreciation Award 2001 & Friend of Emergency Medical Services Award, Governors Council on EMS 2001 & Honorary Alaska Public Health Nurse, Alaska Public Health Nurses Association 2001 & Award of Appreciation, Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Health 2001 ♣ Outstanding Service Award, University of Alaska Anchorage Social Workers Club 2001 A Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Award of Appreciation 2001 Good Nutrition for Alaskans Award, The Alaska Food Group 2001 A Alaska Native Health Board, Award of Recognition 2001 A Resolution of Recognition, Alaska State Legislature 2001 Alaska Juvenile Justice Award 2001 & Early Intervention Appreciation Award 2001 & Alaska Center for Rural Health Award 2001, 1999 & Denali Kid Care Achievement Award 2000 & Alaska Psychological Association, Contribution Award 1998 - Alaska Public Health Association Meritorious Health Service Award 1998 - Alaska Press Club, Best Reporting 70, Best Weekly Section 71, Best Non-Daily Personal:

Married to Charles Bettisworth—four children and six grandchildren

Collector of Alaska Historical Material

**Graduate of Stanford University**