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ANCHORAGE-BASED ORGANIZATION SHARES ITS TRADE SECRETS FOR HEALTH CARE SUCSESSES WITH INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Details How Alaska Native People Transformed Health Care Into Award-Winning System

(Anchorage, AK)– Southcentral Foundation is hosting 280+ delegates from the Indian Health system and Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) on the Alaska Native Health Campus today as a component of an ongoing health care collaborative called Improving Patient Care (IPC). **A photo opportunity with the entire group will take place today, Oct. 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Anchorage Native Primary Care Center located at 4320 Diplomacy Drive.**

The aim of IPC is to improve health and promote wellness for Alaska Native and American Indian people across all ages through a redesigned system of care grounded in the values and culture of the community served. Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal and Urban Indian Health programs participating in IPC focus on strengthening the positive relationships between the health care system/care team and the community, family and individual. Improving Patient Care is a partnership between frontline health care workers, community members, and Area and Tribal health program leaders, supported by IHS with assistance from IHI.

While national leaders look to cure the current health care systems nationwide, SCF already has huge success stories to share. The delegation will spend the entire day studying the Alaska Native-owned primary care system, known as SCF's Nuka Model of Care, as a model for success.

"I can't overstate the importance of the site visit," said IHS Chief Medical Officer Susan Karol, M.D. "We expect that it will crystallize learning for the Improving Patient Care teams as they recognize their potential in the journey that SCF has made toward a world class system of care for Native people."

The Indian Health Service is the federal agency with primary responsibility for the health care of Alaska Native and American Indian people, in fulfillment of trust and treaty obligations of the U.S. Government. Alaska assumed the governance role of health care service provision for Native people from the government in 1999, becoming the first state to entirely do so.

Based in Cambridge, Mass., IHI is an independent not-for-profit organization that leads the improvement of health care throughout the world. IHI works to accelerate improvement by building the will for change, cultivating promising concepts for improving patient care, and helping health care systems put those ideas into action.

"Southcentral Foundation's Nuka Model of Care is the result of a partnership with the Alaska Native Community," said SCF President and Chief Executive Officer Katherine Gottlieb. "With a decade of results, we're learning a village can lead a nation."

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Established in 1982, SCF's mission is to work together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services. The nonprofit health care affiliate of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., SCF has grown in its 27 years, from a single dental clinic to an internationally recognized, award-winning health care organization that employs more than 1,400 people and administers a budget of more than \$181 million annually to manage more than 60 health care programs and services.

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