

Meet Four A's New Staff!

We are so pleased to share the happy news that Four A's has a new Executive Director, Ms. Robin Lutz. Robin comes to Four As with over 15 years of experience in HIV community-based organizations including her most recent role with the New York State Department of Health and previously serving as the Director of Client Services at Four A's. Robin brings a comprehensive understanding of the changing climate for AIDS service organizations, recognition of the life-saving benefits of harm reduction, and a commitment to Alaskans living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. "I am thrilled for the opportunity to work alongside the Four As clients, staff, and community as we work towards for fulfilling the mission" - says Robin. Already Robin has demonstrated exceptional leadership, compassion and tenacity and we cant wait to see what the future holds!

Four A's is also excited to welcome Elizabeth Ditzler, David Shane and Randy Knepp to the team!

Beth has been an exceptional addition to our case management team currently serving both clients in Southeast Alaska and the greater Anchorage bowl. Beth comes to Alaska by way of Arkansas with her spouse, sons two dogs, Otis and Cayenne. Beth was drawn to the Four A's because of the mission the organization holds, "I feel like this role was placed before me by the universe. I'm not one to fight the grand plan! I love this work and am proud to now serve my new community of Alaska!" And we are so excited to have Beth on!

David is originally from Saint Paul Island, and has resided in Alaska his whole life. A new position for Four A's, David works as a financial and records coordinator helping the agency accomplish the everyday critical financial and operational tasks that our clients and our agency depends on. David says, "I cannot put into words how grateful I am to be working with Four A's!! I look forward to a great future with Four A's and helping our community."

Randy joined Four A's as an HIV Prevention and Risk Reduction Specialist. His primary roles are assisting with HIV and Hep C testing/outreach, education on disease prevention, and operation of Four A's Syringe Access Program. In addition to his position, Randy has been a client of Four A's since March of 2018. Having been a client of ours Randy was motivated join the cause in a time in his life where it's time to give back. "I'm really glad to be a part of this great organization, and look forward to this experience."



Robin with Four A's Board Chairs Hope McGratty & Nick Whitmore



Our Mission: To support and empower people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and to work toward the elimination of HIV infection and its stigma in all Alaskan communities.

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Proud to be an Agency Member of
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Service in Changing Times

“Our mission to reduce the impact and incidence of HIV/AIDS and other serious medical and social conditions has never been more important. Even as the world around us may seem uncertain, we are steadfast in our support and committed to doing all we can.” - Four A's Executive Director, Robin Lutz

Four A's is honored to continue serving communities across the state of Alaska in the best way we know how. **When COVID-19 hit Alaskan communities Four A's knew our clients could be some of the hardest hit**, with that in mind we immediately worked to adjust our operations such that we could continue to both serve all our clients and keep staff, peers, partners and communities that much safer. Immediately Four A's HIV Case Managers identified 15 clients who were known to not have safe/accessible housing. The team worked hard to connect with these clients and resources in the communities and we were able to successfully all 15 persons. While case management services are temporarily being served utilizing telephonic methods; our hard working case managers connect with clients, every day, to assess how a service plan is going, to see if they need food boxes and to simply check in. Additionally, Case Managers have been working hard to assure that our clients living with HIV/AIDS have a reliable source of pantry safe healthy foods. Excited to share that over the past month Four A's has delivered over 100 food boxes to persons living with HIV/AIDS!



Sonny, Four A's Case Manager, prepping food boxes



Randy, Four A's HIV Prevention/Education specialist, prepping FASAP grab bags

Meanwhile our prevention team is also hard at work continuing to operate FASAP in the safest most effective way possible. For the time being Four A's has been operating out of the mobile health unit practicing physical distancing and still operating our programming, patrons of FASAP are very appreciative one said **“you're really making a difference. I don't have any other option besides FASAP. Thank you for being here, this program is a lifesaver.”** In Juneau Four A's is proud to be partnering with Front Street clinic to continue essential syringe access services. Thank you so much Front Street Clinic!

HIV/HCV testing continues to be available through unique solutions. Four A's is working closely with agency partners to make at home testing kits available to all.

Your support makes this incredible work possible. Thank you. In these uncertain times Four A's is committed to continuing to serve some of the most vulnerable persons and that is because you are as well. Thank you.

Moments of Joy

In these past months Four A's work has not been easy, we have had to adjust to a new reality of service provisions, have been disconnected from our team and worry about the health and wellness of every person impacted by Four A's program adjustments, but there have also been many moments of joy and we wanted to share some here with you.

In response to COVID-19 Four A's food pantry has gone mobile in delivering these food boxes we get many responses noting how grateful folks are for the food and the how nice it is to be seen. Jaclyn, a Case Manager at Four A's, recounts “I left the food box outside the client's door and knocked then went back in my car. The client came out super happy and smiling and she didn't remember she requested a box. She said smiling “what is this food about?.” She was so grateful and she was safe in her own home enjoying her day. With every client I've handed a box to, it's more personal & it's building rapport, I love to see the difference were making in our clients lives and across the community.”

As Four A's prevention team works hard to keep up with increasing demand for clean syringes, those in the greatest need offer kind words and the greatest support. We often hear how appreciate folks are for us keeping operations going and sometimes we get notes like these that make it all worth it! “I used to use your service when I lived in Anchorage and I've been clean for 5 years now! I recently saw someone speaking about the program, and it reminded me of how grateful I was for your service. Thank you, I am so grateful to your help when I was in such a dark place!”

Thank you, to you! Your contributions, your support, your advocacy and your compassion make this possible. Thank you.