



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Commissioner Click Bishop

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Johnson Youth Center Honored For Worker Safety Achievement

JUNEAU – Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop approved Juneau's Johnson Youth Center for the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program award as a result of outstanding employee safety and health programs.

"The recognition of the Johnson Youth Center's safety and health programs by the Department of Labor, through SHARP is an honor," said Dennis Weston, JYC's superintendent. "Our SHARP achievement denotes the continued development and ongoing implementation of an exemplary safety management system. The JYC facility staff have worked hard to make this possible and their consistent support is appreciated.

"Throughout the review process, the Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Labor and Division of Juvenile Justice have reinforced the concept that workplace safety is primarily about employees and their families," Weston said. "This awareness has helped JYC staff create policies and practices that correct deficiencies and has improved the lines of communication related to workplace safety.

"The Department of Labor has given JYC a clear direction when working to maintain the high standards outlined by the SHARP program and the process leading up to this award has been a win-win situation for everyone involved," he said.

SHARP, a federal recognition program, is administered by the Department of Labor's office of Alaska Occupational Safety and Health, which is a part of the department's Labor Standards and Safety Division. Participating employers are excused from scheduled AKOSH enforcement inspections during the recognition period, which, in JYC's case, is two years. Enforcement regulations remain in effect, however, in cases of employee complaints, accident investigations or other significant incidents.

Companies that partner with AKOSH and achieve SHARP status are likely to experience fewer workplace accidents and reduced workers' compensation insurance costs. For more information and to see a list of participants, visit the SHARP Web page at labor.state.ak.us/lss/OSH-SHARP.htm, call SHARP Program Coordinator Bill Nickerson at (907) 269-4948 or email him at Bill.Nickerson@alaska.gov.

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