

Established in 1968, Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) serves as the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues. ANHB is a 28-member representing tribes and tribal organizations carrying out health services on behalf of the 229 federally recognized Tribes in Alaska, and works on behalf of over 166,000 Alaska Native People. ANHB's purpose is to promote the spiritual, physical, mental, social and cultural well-being and pride of Alaska Native people. As the statewide tribal health advocacy organization, ANHB assists tribal partners, state and federal agencies with achieving effective communication and consultation with tribes and their tribal health programs.

Verné Boerner is the President and CEO of the Alaska Native Health Board. She is Iñupiaq and an enrolled tribal member of the Native Village of Kiana. She is a Native American Research Center on Health (NARCH) Fellow and received her Master of Public Health from Oregon Health and Sciences University. She has over 23 years' experience in tribal health including 13 years serving on a tribal institutional review board including primary reviewer responsibilities and has served as a co-lead investigator.

Her passion is addressing health disparities in indigenous populations through health research, policy development, education and outreach. She is a firm believer in community-based approaches to best tap the existing strengths and resources these resilient populations already possess to garner a greater understanding of the overall health needs and priorities of indigenous peoples. She believes that culturally intelligent approaches are needed to build, and build upon, evidence-based approaches.