



January 30, 2013

### Overview of Blood Bank of Alaska New Facility Project

Blood Bank of Alaska first began providing blood services on July 26, 1962. In the last 50 years, the organization has witnessed the evolution of blood banking in Alaska and across the nation. Blood Bank of Alaska employs over 100 staff members in order to maintain the blood supply needed for the state of Alaska. To keep up with demand, 700 volunteer blood donors come through the doors each week. Currently, there are two fixed site locations in Anchorage and one in Fairbanks where donations are collected. In addition to these locations, there are two mobile blood units, called LIFE-mobiles that service the hundreds of mobile drives conducted across the state. The mobile drives represent 60% of the total units collected in Alaska. Blood Bank of Alaska supplies blood and blood products to more than 200 communities across Alaska and 21 medical centers including Alaska's native and military hospitals.

Blood Bank of Alaska built the Laurel center in Anchorage prior to the regulation of the blood supply and at that time only four tests were conducted on each sample. The prevalence of blood-borne pathogens and development of Food & Drug Administration (FDA) regulations have increased the number of tests required for each blood sample from 4 to 16. The combination of the regulatory changes and the growth of the Alaska population prompted the organization to re-evaluate the current facility capacity and consider a new expansion project to provide consistent support for Alaska patients in need.

As stewards of the public and private resources committed to the project, BBA's Board of Directors and staff commissioned, in 2012, a Northern Economics feasibility study to analyze the facility's structural design, construction cost and operational sustainability. The Northern Economics analysis validates a four year process to develop a sustainable project that will enable BBA to meet Alaska's changing healthcare needs in the coming decades. The report concludes that the project size, cost and sustainability are feasible.

The new facility, located adjacent to Alaska Regional Hospital at the corner of DeBarr Rd. and Airport Heights, will provide the consolidation of the satellite collections and warehouse offices in Anchorage. The 57,000 square foot, two-story building will include a modern laboratory and collection facility that enables expansion of the current services offered. The increased efficiencies created with the new development will improve responsiveness in times of disaster and allow more patients to remain in Alaska for treatment.

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Blood Bank of Alaska has embarked on an ambitious campaign to generate support for this critical project for the Alaska community. Currently, BBA received \$19.2 million in state funding for the new facility. This year, Governor Parnell included an additional \$7 million in capital appropriations FY2014 budget for the construction of the new facility and is under review by the legislature. The total facility project is estimated to cost \$50 million.