

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium DENTAL HEALTH AIDE - UPDATE

February 2007

Dental Health Aide Therapist - Training Center

- The training program has been going well with many University of Washington professors making the trip to Anchorage to teach different modules, including a well respected professor, Dr. Phil Weinstein.

Dr. Weinstein has had a long-standing interest in prevention and patient management. Much of his research has focused on children. He conducts NIH-funded oral care research and has published over 150 journal articles, and books about the practical application of psychological principles to the practice of dentistry. He is co-founder of the University of Washington Dental Fears Research Clinic and has co-authored *Treating Fearful Dental Patients* with Peter Milgrom, Tracy Getz, and Ronald Kleinknecht, *Oral Self Care: Strategies for Preventive Dentistry* with Tracy Getz and Peter Milgrom and *Early Childhood Caries: A team approach to prevention and treatment* with Peter Milgrom.

Dr. Weinstein lectures widely in North America, Europe and Japan on fear, pain, behavioral change and motivation, and Early Childhood Caries. He also teaches dental behavioral science at the University of Washington's Summer Research Institute. The students are doing well and are looking forward to instruction from more visiting professors.

The new training clinic is near completion with the flooring going in this week. The dental operatories will be installed by March 16th. Dr. Mary Williard will then have the clinic fully operational by March 28th.

- The students are expected to begin seeing a limited number of patients in early April after their spring break.
- The Grand Opening of the clinic is scheduled for **April 11, 2007 at 4 p.m.** The ANTHC board of directors will be in Anchorage for meetings and will participate in the ceremonies. All partners are invited to attend.



Above: The future operatories.

Left: The future classroom space.