

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST
TRAINING PROGRAM

Report-August 2007

Four students returned from summer break on July 30th. One student didn't complete the remediation work, and was dismissed from the program. The second student requested a LOA for medical reasons and will return with the next class in January of 2008.



The week of August 6th saw the return of Dr. Phil Weinstein of the University of Washington's Dental Fear Clinic. A well respected psychologist, Dr. Weinstein works with our students imparting the Fear Clinic's philosophy of developing trusting relationships with one's patients in order to enhance lifestyle modification behavior changes and encouraging frequent return visits.

One of the projects he and the students undertook was to make the DENTEX office more child-friendly. Hand-painted cartoons created by the students have gone up on several of the walls in the reception area as you see pictured in this report.

Dr. Todd Smith, DDS and Agnes Spadafora, RDH arrived to teach a periodontal/ dental hygiene course the week of August 13th. Dr. Smith is the periodontal consultant for all of the I.H.S. Mrs. Spadafora is a hygienist with over 30 years of experience in practice, teaching and research.

The students have been seeing 4-6 patients most days this quarter. The University of Washington has added an hour, in class study period at the end of the day which has been well utilized by the students.

Recruiting for the next class is continuing with appearances at meetings such as Tribal Health Directors by Dr. Nagel and Rotary International by Carol Odinzoff. Internal meetings have been held to brainstorm other creative ways to get the message out about our efforts to recruit high quality candidates for the class of 2008-2009. Letters were sent to for-profit native organizations such as Doyon and Calista asking for student support. We look forward to a visit later in September by a representative from the Murdoch Foundation regarding our application for funds.



For more information, please contact Dr. Mary Williard, Clinical Site Director, 907-729-5600, mewilliard@anmc.org.

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