

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST
TRAINING PROGRAM
Report-September 2007

Dr. Tom Beckman, Pediatric Dentist from the University of Minnesota arrived in September and spent 2 weeks teaching tooth preparation. Following this instruction, the students are preparing for competency evaluations, which will be done using plastic teeth in dental mannequins. By the end of the last quarter of the first year, they will be expected to have satisfactorily completed competency exams on the skill sets pertaining to a variety of different tooth preparation and restoration techniques.

Mrs. Jan Kennedy from the Murdock Foundation's office in Vancouver, Washington toured the DHAT training facility on September 20th. She met with Paul Sherry, Valerie Davidson, Dr. Nagel, Trena Reardon, Carol Odinzoff, and the staff and students at the DHAT training center. The Murdock Foundation is considering a grant proposal that we submitted in March of 2007. Mrs. Kennedy got answers to many of her questions regarding the Alaska Tribal Health System and DHAT program to support this application.

Dr. Ted Mala, Director of the Traditional Healing Department at South Central foundation, and Dr. Cynthia Lindquist Mala, President of Candeska Cikana Community College in South Dakota payed a visit to the DHAT training center. Dr. Cynthia Mala expressed her interest in developing DHAT as a tribally run school. During her trip to Alaska, Dr. Lindquist had also toured the Ilisagvik Tribal College in Barrow.

DHAT Program Facilitator Carol Odinzoff traveled to view the new Yuut Elitnaurviat (the People's Training Center) accompanied by retired Senator Pat Thibaudeau of Washington State. They met with Dr. Edwin Allgair, Kathy Balasko, RDH, and Jack Crow, Vice-President of Hospital Services at the

Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel. Many thanks to Yuut's Executive Director Lamont Albertson and Program Manager Tiffany Longan-Tony for their kind attention and for showing off the YK Region's many assets.



YUUT Training Center, Bethel, Alaska

There is increased activity in the program as we anticipate applications for next year's DHAT class. Several potential students have inquired here at ANTHC, and applications are being received at MEDEX office in Seattle. Applications are due October 1st, and interviews will be conducted October 20, 2007 in Anchorage. Beginning this year there is a requirement that each potential student

take, and pass, the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) test prior to acceptance into the program. The TABE is used to verify that the applicant meets the minimum requirements for academic abilities and is currently in use the CHAP program.

The students ended the month by taking competency examinations on their simple tooth preparations following Dr. Beckman's instruction. Dr. Beckman will return in October to continue tooth preparation instruction.

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

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