

# ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST TRAINING PROGRAM

January 2009 Monthly Report



Pictured left to right are back row: Corrina Cadzow, Fort Yukon, Alison Kaganak, Scammon Bay, Chelsea Shoemaker, Sand Point, Anjanette Norton, Kotzebue, Erik Lunduska, King Cove, bottom row: Ferdella Sharp, Manakotak, Phyllicia Wilde, Mountain Village and Bonnie Johnson, Unakleet.

School started with a 5 day Pre-session course. Some of the topics covered were: study skills, medical terminology, review of anatomy and physiology, BLS certification, library skills, technical writing skills and professional role development. The students jumped right in and demonstrated the energy and willingness to learn all they could.



We also welcome a new staff member Dr. Sarah Shoffstall, who joined Dr. Williard in teaching the Introduction to “The Dental Health Aide 1” course. Dr. Shoffstall will also join the Bethel faculty as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dental Clinical Instructor. She has previously worked in Bethel at the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation’s Dental Department, and has worked with several Dental Health Aide therapists over the years. We are excited about her joining our team and extend a “big welcome” as she assumes her duties as a clinical instructor in the program.

We also welcomed UW’s Dr. Phillip Weinstein back at the end of January as he taught the principles of his course on Community Based Dental Prevention Projects. Dr. Weinstein’s course guides the students as they learn motivational interviewing techniques which help immensely in working with children, and their community projects such as Head Start.

## Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic



“L to R” Ooyuan Nagaruk, Marian Petla and Bernadette Charles speaking to the Head Start Class

Dental Health Aide Therapy training classes started for the second year at the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic in Bethel, Alaska on January 12, 2009. Six students made the transition from the first year of training in Anchorage to the second year in Bethel. The students are Tatiana Barraclough from Atka, Bernadette Charles from Mountain Village, Tambre Guido from Anchorage, Ooyuan Nagaruk from Elim, Marian Petla from New Stuyahok, and Ben Steward from Seward.

The first week of student instruction consisted of orientation to the training clinic, dental materials, forms, and student evaluation methods. On Sunday, January 18, the students had the opportunity to participate in “Mushing for Brushing”. This is the second year that the students assisted with this dental promotional event that is conducted during the Bogus Creek 150 dog sled race. The Bogus Creek 150 is held in conjunction with the Kuskokwim 300.

The first dental patients for this class were scheduled on Wednesday, January 21st. The students completed dental exams and treatment plans as well as provided oral hygiene instruction to primarily young children.

During the second week of classes, one of the two Head Start teachers called to ask if the new students would be continuing the Community Project started last year at the Bethel Head Start. She wanted the students to visit the school as soon as possible to provide screening exams and preventive services, such as fluoride varnish and Povidone-Iodine. The students were able to visit both the morning and afternoon classes of Head Start during the third week of training to provide services. The students enjoyed this experience and look forward to continuing the program throughout the year.

Dr. Anthony Brusca, a general dentist from Arizona, is the first of three instructors providing clinical instruction in Bethel this year. His primary focus is Local Anesthesia, Dental Anatomy, and Diagnosis and Treatment Planning.

Four of the six students are staying at the Yuut Elitnaurviat dormitory and all six of the students seem to have integrated themselves into the Bethel community. The weather has been quite mild here this January, so the students do not seem to be overwhelmed by the ice, wind, and snow. However, classes were delayed during the first week due to rain on the icy roads.

Our second instructor, Dr. Robert Allen, will start his clinical rotation with the students on February 5th. Dr. Allen's primary focus of instruction will be Primary and Permanent Tooth Extraction.

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