

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST
TRAINING PROGRAM

January 2010 Monthly Report



Cohort IV: Pictured above is our new group of First Year DHAT Students. Front L-R: Trisha Patton-Bethel, Shannon Hardy-Ft. Yukon. Back Row L-R: Kate Kohl-Bethel, Tony Stevens-Hydaburg, Jana Schuerch-Kiana and Elsie Patrick-Toksook Bay

Anchorage - DENTEX - DHAT 1st year Student activities included:

The fourth cohort of DHAT Students started their first week of training with a five day Pre-session course in which they reviewed: program expectations, medical math, and Anatomy & Physiology.

Regular Classes began January 18th with:

- Infection control
- Introduction to Dental Health Aide
- General Health Sciences

They also participated in the Project Homeless Connect in downtown Anchorage at the Egan Center with the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Clinic Dental Staff. The students interacted with participants by providing free oral health screenings. They also distributed toothbrushes, tooth paste and floss.

The new students seem eager to study hard and participate in school activities. During the first week of class they practiced doing head and neck cancer screenings. They also practiced giving each other oral hygiene instruction and doing a number of prevention services during week two.

Bethel - YEDTC: DHAT 2nd year Students activities included:

The third cohort of DHAT students transitioned to Bethel and started class on January 11, 2009. They started treating dental patients on January 19th.



Cohort III Back Row L-R: Dr. Sarah Shoffstall- YEDTC Clinic Director, Ferdella Sharp -Manokotak, Corrina Cadzow-Fort Yukon; Erik Linduska-King Cove, Alison Kaganak-Scammon Bay, Chelsea Shoemaker-Sand Point. Bottom Row L-R: Phylcia Wilde-Mountain Village, Bonnie Johnson-Unalakleet, and Kathy Balasko RDH-YEDTC Clinic Manager.

The DHAT Students along with dental staff from YKHC participated in the annual Mushing for Brushing activity associated with the Bogus Creek 150 dogsled race on January 15th.

Dr. Sarah Shoffstall (YEDTC Clinical Director) and Dr. K. Anthony Bolin from Texas provided clinical instruction and supervision during January.

Profiled this month is Dr. Mary Williard



Dr. Williard graduated from Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 1994. She then went to North Carolina and completed a two-year residency at the Carolina Medical Center. She entered the Public Health Service in 1996 and began working in Shiprock, NM. Her adventurous spirit later led her to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation's Dental Clinic in Bethel, AK. Throughout her career she has been very committed to improving access to care. This is demonstrated by her commitment to the Dental Health Aide Program. Since her early involvement she has worked tirelessly to support the program, recruited students for the program, and acted as the preceptor for the first New Zealand

trained therapists returning to the YKHC region. Dr. Williard has been involved with the Dental Health Aid program since organizational meetings were first held in 2000. She now heads the Alaska based DHAT Program at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and works closely with our partners at the University of Washington's MEDEX program. She is always encouraging to those around her. Staff and students deeply respect her and she is often receiving phone calls or emails from past graduates. When not working, Dr. Williard enjoys spending time with her three children, biking, hiking and cross country skiing.

For more information, please contact Dr. Mary Williard, Clinical Site Director
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