

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST TRAINING PROGRAM

October 2010 Monthly Report



The Dentex Training center hosted the annual meeting of the American Association of Dental Health Aide Therapists. This picture represents most of our certified DHATs from around the State of Alaska. Pictured left to right-Back row: Ben Steward of TCC in Fairbanks, Stephanie Woods Maniilaq Dental Clinic Manger in Kotzebue, Conan O'Brien of YKHC in Aniak, Bobby Curtis of NSHC in Shismaref, Brian James of SEARHC in Sitka, and Daniel Kennedy of SEARHC in Klawock. Middle row: Bernadette Charles of YKHC in St. Mary's, Alicia Active of BBAHC in Togiak, Aurora Johnson of NSHC in Unalakleet, Tammy Gologergen of NSHC in Nome, Lillian McGilton of Metlakatla. Front row: Tatiana Barraclough of APIA in Atka, Marian Petla of BBAHC in Dillingham and Ooyuan Nagaruk of TCC in Fairbanks.

Anchorage - ANTHC/ UW DENTEX Training Center

Classes this month were:

- Diagnosis and Treatment planning was presented by Dr. Susan Eberling. This was also a continuing education course for the DHAT's who were in for the Annual DHAT meeting.

- We had a 3 days videoconference class on Principles of Ethics and the Dilemmas that DHAT's will experience, presented by University of Washington professor Dr. Tilby Coolidge.
- Then most of the month was spent working hard on their skills consolidation as their major competency exam will be in November

Bethel - Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic



Pictured here is left to right, Phylicia Wilde, Ferdella Sharp, Dr. Sarah Shoffstall, Bonnie Johnson, Chelsea Shoemaker, Alison Kaganak, Corrina Cadzow, and Erik Linduska. Seated in front are our visitors, last year Dental Students from Sweden, Filippa Lowlund, and Joakim Berggren.

- On Monday, October 4, the DHAT students, Dr. Robert Allen, Dr. Sarah Shoffstall, and Kathy Balasko went to the Bethel Water Treatment Plant for a tour of the facility and to learn about water fluoridation in Bethel.
- Two dental students from Sweden visited the YEDTC to learn more about the Dental Health Aide Therapy program in Alaska.
- At the end of the month, Friday and Saturday, October 29 and 30, Dr. Mary Williard, Dr. Sarah Shoffstall, Dr. Louis Fiset, Dr. Robert Allen, Dr. Anthony Brusca, Dr. K. Anthony Bolin, and Kathy Balasko met at the YEDTC in Bethel to discuss the DHAT training program, the DHAT curriculum, and the YEDTC training schedule for 2011. On Saturday morning, Dr. Tom Beckman joined the meeting telephonically for a discussion of training as it relates to Pediatric Dentistry.

- Bonnie Johnson, DHAT student, has been working with Dr. Olivia Hougen, the Pediatric Dentist at YKHC this year as part of her community dental health project. They have been planning activities to provide follow-up care for patients who receive dental treatment in the operating room. On Wednesday, October 27, Bonnie went to speak with the operating room staff at YKHC to present her program ideas and gather suggestions from staff. The operating room staff was very receptive to the ideas Bonnie presented and made several suggestions for additional program ideas

Profiled this month is Tatiana Barraclough new DHAT from Aleutian Pribilof Island Association from Atka



“I have enjoyed being able to work back in Atka. Working in my hometown is something I have always wanted to do. A new school year has started just started and I am getting my first fluoride and oral hygiene program started at the school!

On the other hand, starting up a new dental program in Atka has been somewhat of a slow going process. Since Atka is so isolated, airplanes that come in with my supplies, materials, and equipment come in about once a week. So, patience has been very important in my role as the new DHAT.”

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