



Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist Education Program

Summer Quarter Newsletter

July-Oct 2012



Welcome DHAT Class of 2014



*1st Year DHAT Students Front Row: L-R, Angelica Afcan, Samantha Brown.
Back Row L-R: Lauren Reed, Shawn Martin and Renee Cheemuk*

Dental Health Aide Therapist Education Program Activities:

1st Year- Anchorage

The sixth group of Dental Health Aide Therapy (DHAT) student started classes in Anchorage in July of this year. The five students have two years of education ahead of them. Currently there are 27 certified DHATs working in Rural Alaska.



The five Alaska Native students who started the program in July are: Lauren Reed from Noatak (sponsored by Maniilaq Health Corporation); Samantha Brown from Kotzebue (sponsored by Maniilaq Health Corporation); Renee Cheemuk from Kotlik (sponsored by Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation); Angelica Afcan from Emmonak (sponsored by YKHC); and Shawn Martin from Bethel (sponsored by YKHC).

Prior to arriving in Anchorage, the students completed an on-line Anatomy & Physiology course through the University of Washington. Soon after arriving in Anchorage the students became certified in Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers. Some of the first quarter courses include: Dental Assisting, Infection Control, General Health Sciences, Radiology, Primary Dental Health Aide, Community Based Dental Prevention and Behavioral Sciences, and Tobacco Cessation.

UW DENTEX gets new on-line presence

For many years, ANTHC has partnered with the University of Washington (UW) School of Medicine Physician Assistant Training Program, MEDEX Northwest. The result of the partnership is DENTEX, the first year of the DHAT education program based in Anchorage. The UW DENTEX website recently re-launched with a new look and new features, including short profiles of working DHATs. The site is targeted at many audiences: prospective DHATs and students, partners around Alaska, the public, the media, and potential funders and advocates. The site will also be used by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as a resource for other states considering implementing dental therapist programs.

Visit the new DENTEX website at <http://depts.washington.edu/dentexak/>

Recruitment Announcement for DHAT Class of 2015

Recruitment activities are underway for the seventh class of DHAT Students which are scheduled to begin courses in July 2013. ANTHC and the University of Washington DENTEX Program are issuing recruitment information to all Alaska Tribal Health Organizations, Tribal Council Offices, and Post-Secondary Learning Facilities and all of Alaska's School Districts.

Applications are available on line at <http://depts.washington.edu/dentexak/>

Please feel free to contact us at 907-729-5600 for more recruiting information.

2ND Year-Bethel, Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic Activities:

DHAT Class of 2013 is in their second year of the educational program

We are pleased to announce four students have completed the Summer Quarter in Bethel at the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic (YEDTC). Those students are: Savannah Bonorden from Sitka (sponsored by Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium); Melanie Kerschner from Burnville, PA (sponsored by YKHC); Elsie Pelowook from Savoonga (sponsored by Norton Sound Health Corporation); and Cora Roberts from Hoonah (sponsored by SEARHC). We are proud of the continued efforts our students are making to complete their DHAT Education.



DHAT 2nd Year Students. L-R: Cora Roberts, Melanie Kerschner, Savannah Bonorden, and Elsie Pelowook

YEDTC daily student schedule

DHAT students in Bethel are scheduled to participate in daily classroom instruction in the morning. The following courses were taught through the summer quarter: Cariology, Preventative Dentistry, Community Prevention Projects, Diagnosis of Dental Pain, and Exodontia. After the morning lectures students are scheduled to see patients throughout the remainder of the day.

Electronic Dental Charting and Imaging

Our program will soon be switching over to electronic dental charting and imaging. This will improve our efficiency and make managing our dental records easier. Over the last five years 1250 patients have come to YEDTC to get their oral health care needs met. Some of the services we provide are: dental exams, preventative procedures, dental cleanings and restorations.



DHAT Tours



Two W.K. Kellogg Foundation tours of the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training facility took place over the summer quarter. Our DHAT Students gave presentations to the tour groups and shared their stories of what life as a DHAT student has been like for them. Their stories are also full of hope and strength- hope for a better life for their children and families and strength to persevere against many challenges. The students made a strong impression on many of the visitors who commented on how impressive it was to hear the students talk so passionately about returning home with new skills to make a positive impact in their communities.

Community Projects

The DHAT Students have been working hard on planning and implementing their community projects. This year's class project will take place in the community of Pilot Station. The students worked with Dr. Suzanne Eberling to develop four projects using the POARE model. The ideas were then presented in the spring to the dental staff at the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, the LYSD Pilot Station School Principle, health aides and the teachers at the local Head Start Program. With input from all these individuals it was decided that the students will work to get fluoride varnish applications four times a year on children ages 0-5. The DHAT students will begin implementing this project in November 2012.

For more program information, please contact:

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