



Office of Clinical and Preventive Services
Division of Clinical and Community Services



2019

**NATIONAL
&
COMMUNITY-BASED
SERVICES**

CONFERENCE

Brighter Futures through Brighter Smiles-

Dental Health Aide Therapist Best Practices

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August 27, 2019, Tigard, OR



Resiliency:
Alaska Native people
and communities thrive



Denali dominates the landscape around it NPS Photo / Nathan Kostegia
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/denali.htm>

The Alaska Community Health Aide Program (CHAP)



Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
web: www.akchap.org | www.anthc.org

CHAP History

1950s Chemotherapy Aides (Volunteers)

- Direct Observed Therapy for TB patients

1960s Formal Training/Federal Funding 1968

1975 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (PL 93-638)

1998 CHAPCB Standards and Procedures Authority:

Act of November 2, 1921 (25 U.S.C. § 13, popularly known as the Snyder Act) pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 1616l

(Section 119 of Public law 94-437, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, as amended)

2005 Dental Health Aides Certified

2009 Behavioral Health Aides Certified

2014 Distance Learning Network Launches Blended Session IV

2016 iPad app for CHAM- Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual



Dr. Walter Johnson, MD
(1922-2015)

<http://jukebox.uaf.edu/CHA/htm/wjohnson1.htm>

Community Health Aide Certification

CHAP Certification Board

Federal Authority, 12 members

Standards and Procedures

Individuals, Training Centers, Curricula

499 individuals certified (August 2018)

391 CHA/Ps certified

53 Dental Health Aides certified

55 Behavioral Health Aides certified

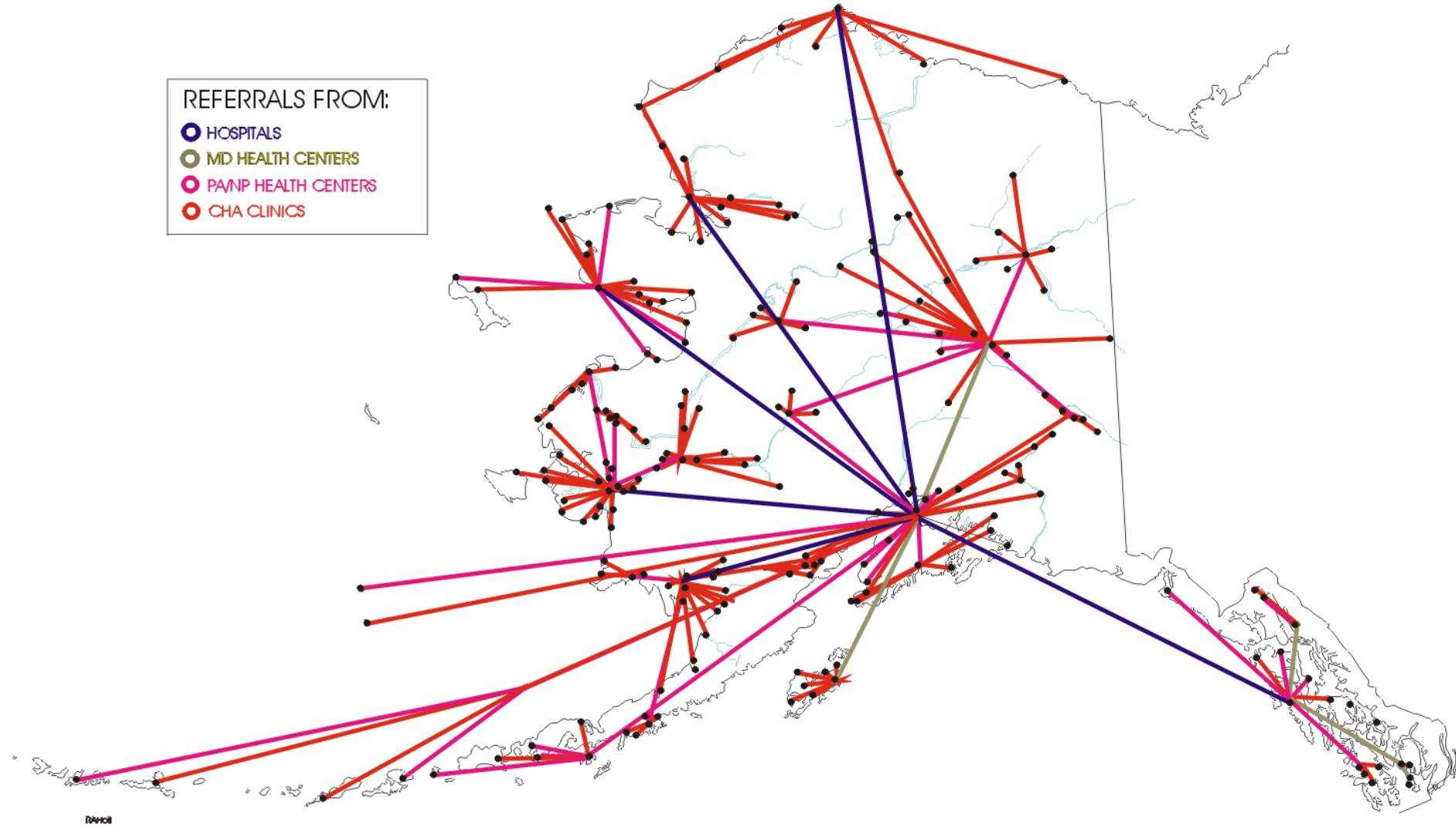
**COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM
CERTIFICATION BOARD
STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES
AMENDED January 25, 2018**

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THE ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Typical Referral Patterns



The Alaska native health care systems typical referral patterns map

Health Aide Program Key Components

- **Community's** Role in Selection
- Culturally Competent Care and Curriculum
- Competency Base Curriculum
- Part of a Team



Types of Dental Health Aides (DHA)

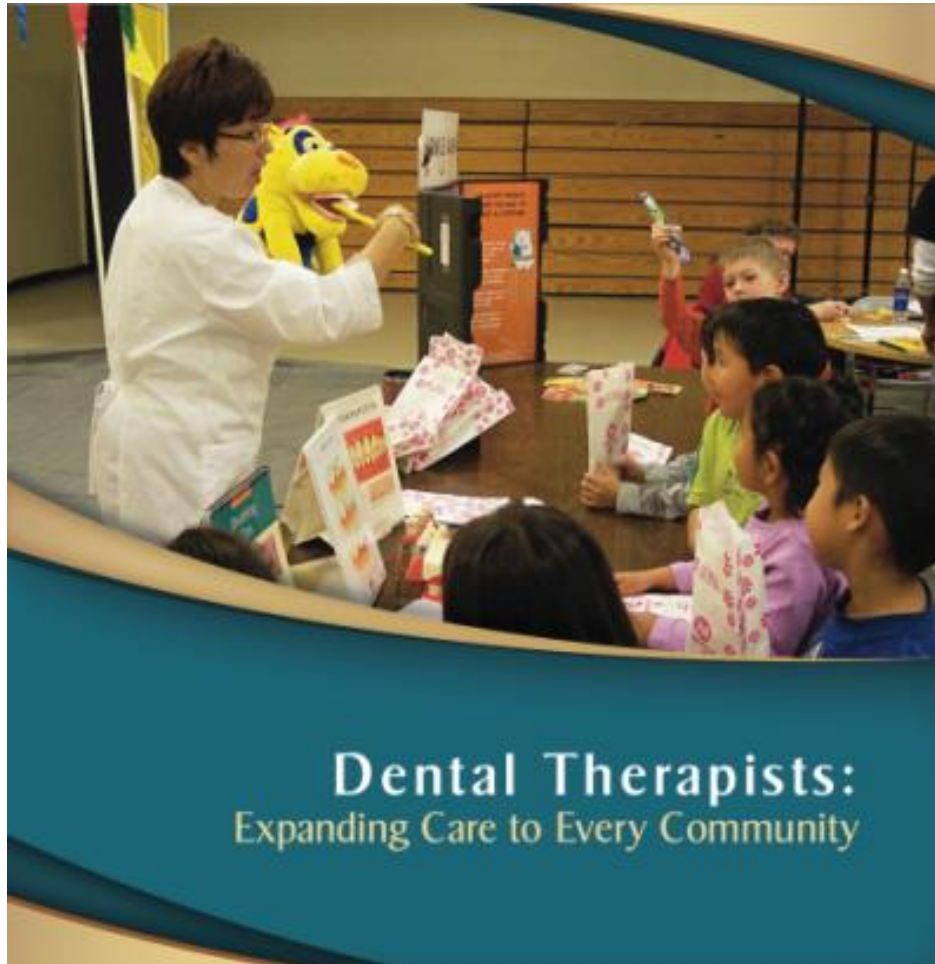
- **Primary DHA (CDHC)**
 - Oral Health Educators
- **Expanded Function DHA**
 - Restorations, cleanings, temporary fillings
- **DHA Hygienist**
 - Local anesthesia
- **DHA Therapist (DHAT)**
 - Prevention, operative, urgent

Supervised providers
Teams led by Licensed Dentists



Chelsea Shoemaker, Bonnie Johnson, Corrina Cadzow (DHAT students) providing fluoride varnish treatment for a Head Start student.

Dental Therapists: A Definition



- **Primary oral health care professionals**
- Basic clinical dental treatment and preventive services
- Multidisciplinary team members
- Advocate for the needs of clients
- Refer for services beyond the scope of the dental therapist's practice.*

WK Kellogg Foundation,
<http://www.wkkf.org/resource-directory/resource/oral-health-resources/dental-therapists-expanding-care-to-every-community>

*SASKATCHEWAN DENTAL THERAPISTS ASSOCIATION

Alaska Native Health Aide Education: Self-Determined

Based in community, place and culture
and nurtured by the belief that
excellent health is a basic human right

Resiliency:

Knowing you deserve the best,
and not accepting anything else

“The Equity Model”

Alaska Dental Therapy Educational Program (ADTEP)

Associate of Applied Science at Iḷisagvik College
Administered by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium



ILISAGVIK COLLEGE

Alaska's Only Tribal College



Mission, Vision, Core Values

MISSION: Educate dental therapists to meet the oral health care needs of Alaskan Native people living in rural communities.

VISION: Alaska Native people receive culturally appropriate, excellent oral health care in the communities where they live.

CORE VALUES:

Achieving excellence

Native self-determination

Treat with respect and integrity

Health and wellness

Compassion

-73% student retention
-69% DHAT retention
over 15 years

First long-term study of oral health outcomes in communities served by dental therapists

Dental Utilization for Communities Served by Dental Therapists
in Alaska's Yukon Kuskokwim Delta: Findings from an
Observational Quantitative Study

August 11, 2017*

Principle Investigator: Donald L. Chi, DDS, PhD,
Associate Professor, UW, School of Dentistry

* Published by the University of Washington <http://faculty.washington.edu/dchi/files/DHATFinalReport.pdf>

Findings

Communities with the most DHAT coverage:



Extractions

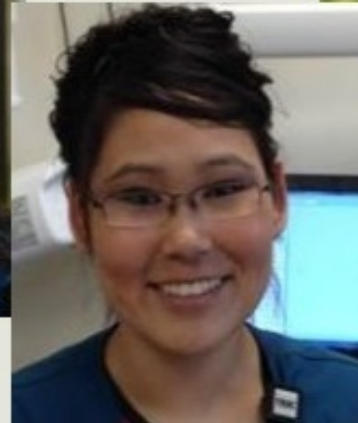
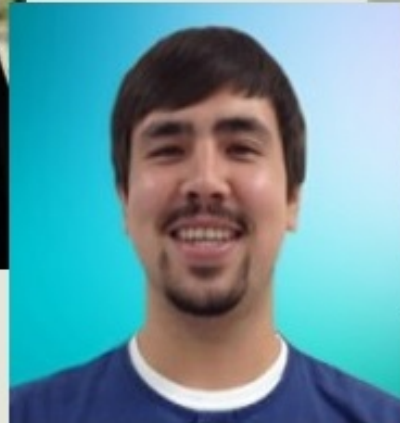


Prevention

Community Prevention Engagement: Building Resilient Communities



DHAT role models: Resiliency Ambassadors

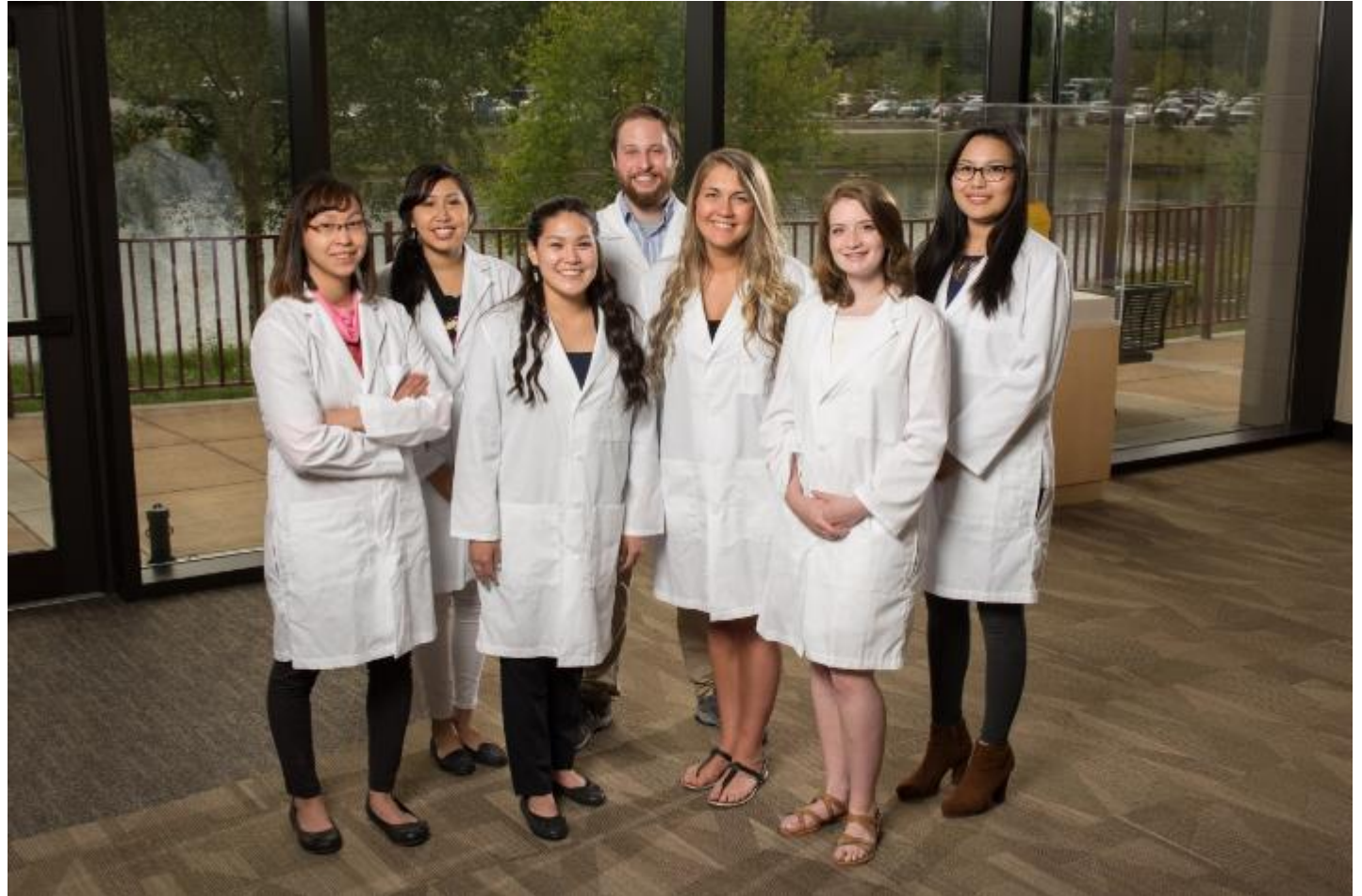


WESTERN Education blended with Traditional Ways



DHA Success

- 53 certified DHA
- DHAT in 80+ communities
 - 50,000+ access to direct care
- Continuity of care
 - Higher level of care
 - Working to full extent of licensure



2016 Transitioning Class of DHAT.

Native heroes in oral health

Celebrating Native Heroes In Oral Health

**“In one generation, we are
changing the smiles of
Alaska Native children.”**

VALERIE DAVIDSON

Commissioner, Alaska Dept. of Health and Human Services



W.K.
KELLOGG
FOUNDATION™

#NativeHeroes



Thank you!

OUR VISION:

Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.



**ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM**

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