

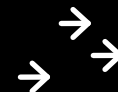


Robert J. Gianinni, DDS

OBSERVATIONS ON THE ALASKA COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM

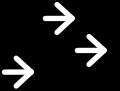
Robert J. Gianinni, DDS


August 2010 in Alaska




Mary Williard, DDS

Director of the Alaska Community Health Aid Program – formerly practiced in New Mexico with the Indian Health Service. Three dentists oversee the didactic and clinical training of Dental Health Aid Therapists.





The Position is a Federal Job Title


- Dental therapists exist in over 50 countries worldwide, from New Zealand to Nepal to the United Kingdom, and have been providing quality preventive and restorative services to their patients for nearly 100 years.
 - There are “therapists” in medicine and behavioral health in addition to DHATS
- 

Therapists Are Commonly Referred to as “DHATS”

- They are trained in Alaska according to a proven worldwide model: a two-year, post-high school competency-based primary care curriculum, incorporating innovative preventive and clinical strategies. Alaska Tribal Health Organizations sponsor students with financial aid and a guarantee of employment.
- A New Mexico model, with education fitted to our population’s needs can be developed

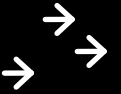


Selection Factors for DHATs

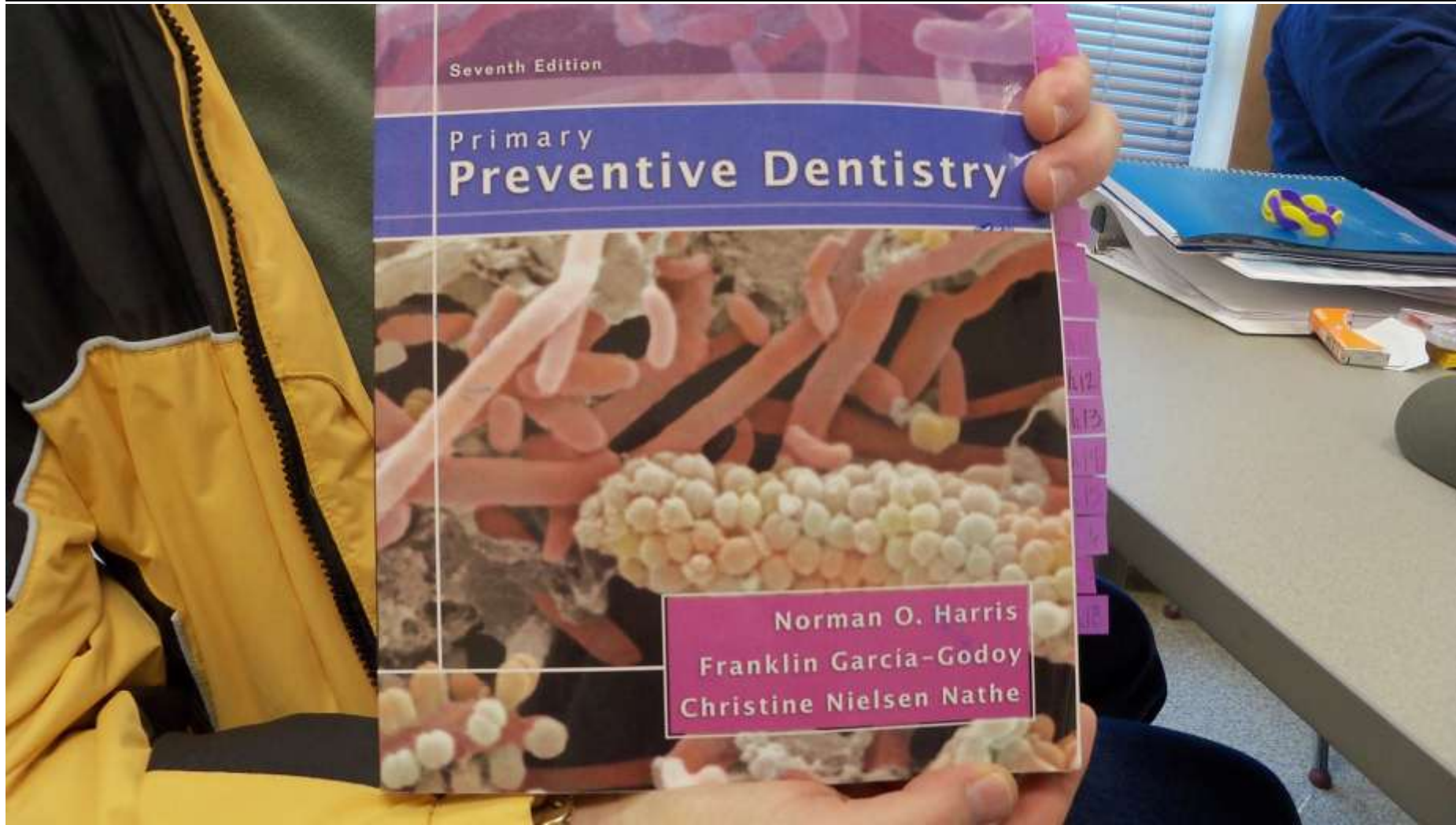
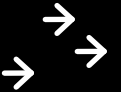
- Students are selected for successful completion
 - 5 – 7 annually enter the program, some fail
 - Positive academic record
 - Positive employment record
 - Positive family life
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DHATs experience a year of academic training in Anchorage

Followed by a year of clinical training in Bethel, AK

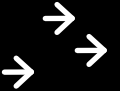


Academic materials are those commonly in excellent training programs.



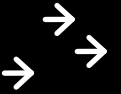
Alaska DHATs have increased access to care to rural and frontier communities.

Training site in Bethel, AK, population, ca. 7,000, 500 miles west of Anchorage.



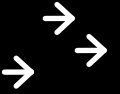
Classroom, Bethel, AK

Students experience classes early in the morning, see patients during the day, and then must prepare operatories for the next day.



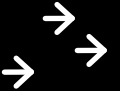
One of the highest ranking Dental Hygienists in Indian Health Services is engaged in the Bethel clinical training program

As is a dentist who is a WREB examiner and who has practiced in AK for over 30 years



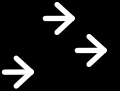
Facilities and equipment match, or exceed, the quality of those in NM.

Indian Health Service quality assurance programs are used to monitor all oral health providers, including DHATS.



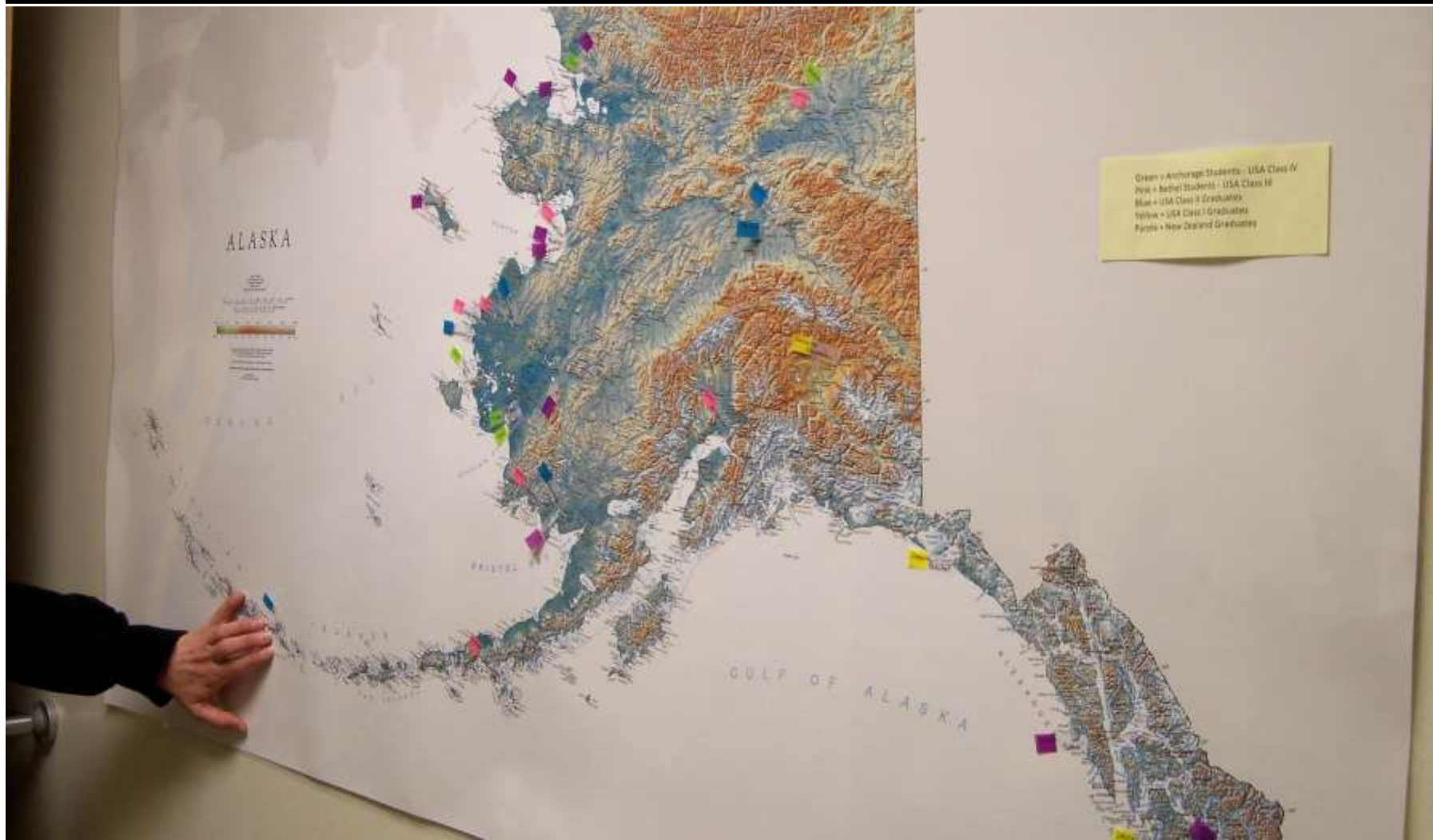
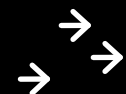
DHATs are supervised by Indian Health Service Dentists

With Dr. Williard is Dr. Dezbaa Daman, a New Mexican fulfilling an Indian Health Service educational dental school obligation. Dr. Daman supervises DHATs in person and via telehealth applications, as do her colleagues.



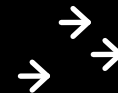
DHATs practice in all both the most northerly parts of AK

In August 2010 24 DHATs were in practice.



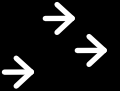
Approaching St. Mary's, AK

On the Yukon River

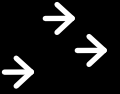


DHATs practice in community clinics – St. Mary’s, AK

They are not alone – physicians, emergency medicine technicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other Indian Health Service health professionals practice in one location.

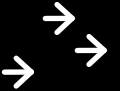


Dezbaa, Bob, Mary, David and Jerry in St. Mary's



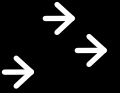
“Bush” pilots and 40 year old airplanes.

Ferry dentists and patients between villages and regional communities for supervision and treatment.

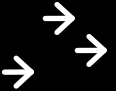


The young man in the center will be practicing 1,500 miles west of Anchorage upon completion of the DHAT training program.

Grandson of a dentist who practiced in the community. Students often are not able to visit their home communities and families during the course of training.



Active recruitment of potential students occurs throughout Alaska.



distracting. The requirements include the knowledge, skill, and/or

and retrospective review of third party payer patients. To be eligible for services furnished by Sub-Regional Clinic while maintaining established by the Business Office.

and sometimes stressful work environment, under supervision; uneven flow of incoming workload while still meeting specified time goals; and be able to set timelines and goals to see that all things get done. Must have the ability to communicate with other health professionals, team co-workers in a friendly and cooperative manner. Teamwork ability to work independently with little supervision, set own goals and work in conjunction with others. Accuracy and dependability is required.

2 yrs. or CEO equivalent. College level courses in dental assisting, dental radiology, and dental hygiene.

Must be able to type at least 40 wpm. Ability to deal with problems involving a few different standardized situations.

Call, if you have trouble applying online, call Human Resources at 1-800-478-3373 or visit our website at <http://www.ykhc.org>.

*K - but is available in ALL Regional Clinic locations **
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YKHC Dental Dept.

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

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- ...An individual who cares about the oral health of their community
- ...An individual who has a passion for a health career



It's a great experience, an exciting program and an incredible one.
 — Rosalinda Flores, DHA/Assistant

"Please do the job well!"
 — Dr. David Hildbrand, Dental Director

QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Interest in working with children
- Hard working and ambitious



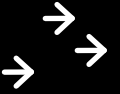
Samuel N. Ching, DHA/Assistant, Aurora Center, DC, of EastHaven with Dental Assistant Rosa, New Athol, Alaska

Apply to YKHC
www.ykhc.org
 1-800-478-DENL



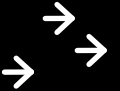
Indian Health Service dentists often visit communities only once a year.

Some communities only are accessible by air or water part of the year. Port in Bethel, AK.

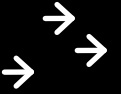


It is time to consider new models of oral health care to meet the needs of New Mexicans who do not have access to dentists, hygienists or to dental assistants

Selection of participants, education, training and adequate clinical experience are key.



Alaska or New Mexico?



Alaska or New Mexico?

