

CHAP Expansion: Opportunities for Best Possible Outcomes in Lower 48

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NPAIHB QBM

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IHS Draft Policy Statement Creating a National Community Health Aide Program

June 1, 2016

Indian Health Service (IHS) released a Dear Tribal Leader Letter and a policy statement titled, "Creating a National Indian Health Service Community Health Aide Program." Their goal is to see community health aides utilized to the fullest extent permissible in IHS and tribally run hospitals and clinics



What is CHAP?

The Community Health Aide Program is a tribally-created, tribally-run healthcare delivery system in Alaska that uses a series of practitioners, recruited from their communities, to improve oral, behavioral, and overall health outcomes. They have served as the frontline of healthcare in their communities since the 1960s.



Certification

CHAP Certification Board

Federal Authority, 11 members

Standards and Procedures

Individuals, Training Centers, Curricula

468 individuals certified

357 CHA/Ps certified

63 Dental Health Aides certified

48 Behavioral Health Aides certified



Community Health Aides and Community Health Practitioners

There are 5 levels of
Community Health Aides
that build upon each
other:

Community Health Aide
I, CHA II, CHA III, CHA IV
and the top level,
Community Health
Practitioner (CHP).





What can CHA/P's do?

Depending on their level of certification, CHAs can provide
services such as:

- Emergency first aid
- Patient examinations
- Carrying out treatment recommendations
- Patient and family focused education and instruction
- Preventive health programs
- Infection and disease control
- Immunizations
- Store and dispense prescription drugs (with physician instructions)



eCHAM

Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual





- Village-based counselors to provide culturally-informed, community-based, clinical services
- Provide behavioral health prevention, intervention, aftercare, and postvention
- Training and practicum requirements
- On-the-job training
- Four levels of certification



BHA Scope of practice

BHA-I

- Screening
- Initial intake process
- Case management
- Community education, prevention, early intervention

BHA-III

- Rehabilitative services for clients with co-occurring disorders
- Quality assurance case reviews

BHA-II

- Substance abuse assessment and treatment

BHP

- Team leadership
- Mentor/support BHA-I, II, and III



Who do BHAs provide services to?



Elders



Youth



Families

Individuals



BHAs also serve their communities



Alaska Dispatch



Cricket.com



Alaska Dispatch

Types of Dental Health Aides (DHA)

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



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

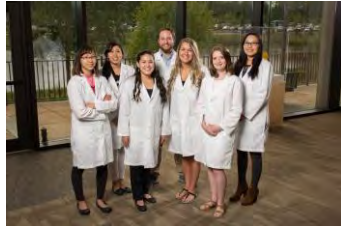
Supervised providers

Teams led by
Licensed Dentists



DHA Success

- 51 certified DHA
- DHAT in 80+ communities
- 40,000+ access to direct care



2016 Transitioning Class of DHAT.



Expansion of CHAP Would Benefit the Tribes in the Lower 48

- Provides routine, preventive, and emergent care within the community;
- Respects the knowledge and resources in the Tribal community and grows providers from that source through accessible and achievable training programs;
- Delivers patient-centered quality care that comes from providers that understand the history, culture, and language of their patients;
- Fosters a team approach to delivering health care services, increasing the efficiency of the entire healthcare team;
- Provides continuity of care in communities that face recruitment and retention challenges;
- Results in cost savings to Tribes and individuals that no longer have to travel long distances or receive care outside of the IHS system.



DHATs are critical to CHAP Expansion





Legislative Fix needed to expand DHAT to lower 48

After losing its court battle in Alaska to prevent DHATs from providing services to Native Villages, the following language was inserted in the re-authorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (as part of the Affordable Care Act):

Expansion of the Indian Health Service Community Health Aide Program “shall exclude dental health aide therapist services from services covered under the program...” Unless requested by “an Indian tribe or tribal organization located in a State (other than Alaska) in which the use of dental health aide therapist services or midlevel dental health provider services is authorized under State law to supply such services in accordance with State law.”



Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

On January 4, 2016, Daniel Kennedy, an experienced DHAT, joined the Swinomish Dental Team in making history by becoming the first Tribally licensed Dental Therapist providing services in the lower 48 states.





DHATs coming to Oregon Tribes



Naomi Petrie, Conf. Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Class of 2017

Oregon Class of 2018



Alexandria Jones
Coquille Indian Tribe
Jason Mecum
Coquille Indian Tribe
Marissa Gardner
Certified, Tribes of Coos,
Lower Umpqua and
Siuslaw Indians



Behavioral Health Aides Can Play a Key Role in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Care

Native communities face behavioral health service delivery issues that are complicated by personnel shortages, limited health care resources, and distances to obtain services. There also are other issues that inhibit access to appropriate behavioral health services. These include referrals from school, detention, court, housing, primary care, child welfare, and other systems.





Suggested process comments

- IHS must consult and work with each Area to establish regional Federal CHAP Certification Boards.
- Tribal participation in the CHAP program is optional



Suggested Process Comments

- IHS should host a 2-3 day national conference and workshop to educate tribal and health leaders about the CHAP program and start the dialogue for national expansion.



Suggested Process Comments

- IHS should convene a CHAP expansion workgroup with representation from those with experience and expertise in the areas of the providers, certification process, and legal issues

8/4/2016

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Suggested Process Comments

IHS Must Foster an Internal Culture that Supports Mid-Levels to Ensure the Success of an Expansion



Next Steps

- Encourage your Tribe to send a letter of support. Template letter available
- **Comments Due October 27, 2016**
- IHS telephone consultation October 4, 2016 at 12pm PST
- In person consultations:
 - NIHB ACC in Scottsdale on September 19th
 - NCAI's Annual Convention in Phoenix, October 9th.



QUESTIONS?