



Native Dental Therapy Initiative

Oregon Tribes Dental Health Aide Therapist Pilot Project

What is a Dental Pilot Project?

Dental Pilot Projects are an Oregon state initiative to encourage the development of innovative practices in oral health care delivery systems with a focus on providing care to underserved populations.

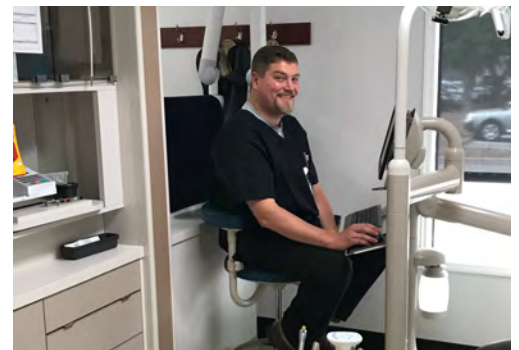
The Oregon Tribes Dental Health Aide Therapist Pilot Project is demonstrating how this primary oral health care provider can increase access and quality of care to Oregon's AI/AN population.



Naomi Petrie, DHAT, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.

What is a DHAT?

Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHAT) are primary oral health care providers that are recruited from their communities and after completing an intensive education program, go back to their communities to provide routine preventive and restorative oral health care. Alaska Natives introduced this provider over 10 years ago, and since have increased access and improved oral health care in their tribal communities.



Ben Steward, DHAT (Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians) at Native American Rehabilitation Association Dental Clinic

Where are Oregon DHAT's practicing?

The pilot project, sponsored by the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board has three current sites: The Coquille Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, and Native American Rehabilitation Association. All three sites have students in training, and there are two DHATs currently in practice (see right).

For more information contact:
Pam Johnson, Northwest Portland Area's Native Dental Therapy Initiative: pjohnson@npaih.org, 206-755-4309, www.npaihb.org/ndti

Participating Tribes and Tribal Organizations:

