



Portland Area Dental Meeting May 7th-9th, 2024

Welcome

Xaa-wan'-t'i

Salishan Coastal Lodge
7760 North Highway 101
Glenden Beach, OR 97388



NPAIHB

**Member Tribes of
the Northwest
Portland Area
Indian Health
Board:**

Burns Paiute Tribe
Chehalis Tribe
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Colville Tribe
Coos, Siuslaw & Lower
Umpqua Tribe
Coquille Tribe
Cow Creek Tribe
Cowlitz Tribe
Grand Ronde Tribe
Hoh Tribe
Jamestown S'Klallam
Tribe
Kalispel Tribe
Klamath Tribe
Kootenai Tribe
Lower Elwha
Klallam Tribe
Lummi Tribe
Makah Tribe
Muckleshoot Tribe
Nez Perce Tribe
Nisqually Tribe
Nooksack Tribe
NW Band of
Shoshone Tribe
Port Gamble S'Klallam
Tribe
Puyallup Tribe
Quileute Tribe
Quinalt Tribe
Samish Indian Nation
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock
Tribe
Siletz Tribe
Skokomish Tribe
Snoqualmie Tribe
Spokane Tribe
Squaxin Island Tribe
Stillaguamish Tribe
Suquamish Tribe
Swinomish Tribe
Tulalip Tribe
Umatilla Tribe
Upper Skagit Tribe
Warm Springs Tribe
Yakama Nation

2121 SW Broadway
Suite 300
Portland, OR 97201
Phone: (503) 228-4185
npaihb.org

May 6, 2024

Re: Portland Area Dental Meeting

On behalf of the Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center (NTDSC), a project at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), I welcome you to our annual gathering of the Portland Area Dental Meeting. We are grateful and honored to be in the homelands of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

This gathering has been convened to share the stories and experiences of successful oral health strategies and interventions led by Northwest Tribes for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities across the Portland Area (OR/ID/WA) and to provide another opportunity for continuing education for oral health providers. Education presentations at this gathering include specific clinical practices, intervention strategies, technology developments, team building, cultural awareness and adaptation of practices/strategies for local settings.

As we recognize successes and face the challenges ahead, we are pleased to have assembled a diverse group of providers along with those we collaborate with to improve oral health of AI/AN in the Pacific Northwest. My hands go up to you all in gratitude for your voices and participation in this important gathering.

Yours in health,

Tacey Mason (*The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians*), MAOL
Tribes/Bands of Siletz: *Sixes (Kwatami)*, *Mikonotunne*, *Joshua (Chemetunne)*, *Chasta Costa*, *Tututni*

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Project Director, Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

We would like to recognize ARCORA-The Foundation of Delta Dental of Washington for sponsoring the food and beverages for the reception and the Annual Dental meeting.



Sarah Borgida

Director, Children's Programs and Tribal Partnerships

Sarah Borgida serves as the Foundation's Director of Children's Programs and Tribal Partnerships. She is thrilled to work to improve oral health—an issue she's passionate about because oral disease is so common, yet almost 100 percent preventable. Sarah has experience in strategic and program development, philanthropy, K-12 education, early learning, partnering with Native communities, and working with immigrant and refugee populations. Prior to joining the Foundation, Sarah was a Program Officer at the Foundation for Early Learning and Chief Academic Officer at the Center for Native Education.

Sarah holds a Master in Education in Educational Policy and Management from the University of Oregon. In her spare time, Sarah loves skiing, hiking, camping, and traveling with her husband and two children. She also loves reading, though she doesn't read nearly as many books as she should. She has a dog, Alvin, who is soon to be an Instagram sensation.



Alia Katabi

Data and Evaluation Analyst

Alia Katabi joined the Foundation in 2013 as the Data and Evaluation Analyst. Alia provides a wide variety of quantitative analysis expertise in the areas of program evaluation, tracking oral health status, cost/benefit analysis, and population oral health measurements to enhance the effectiveness of the Foundation's policy-related initiatives and projects. Alia is dedicated to ensuring the Foundation makes data-informed decisions to achieve collective impact on improving oral health in Washington.

Prior to joining Arcora Foundation, Alia worked for a social services nonprofit organization holding multiple positions in program evaluation and research development. She was the Evaluation Manager for Chicanos por la Causa (CPLC), a prominent social change and community development organization in Arizona. Alia also worked as a data analyst at O'Neil Associates Public Opinion Research Firm and the Ethics & Compliance Initiative (ECI).



Heather Knaplund

Program Manager, Operations and Communications

Heather Knaplund has been an integral part of the Foundation since 2002. In her current position as Program Manager, Operations and Communications, she strives to advance the performance and efficiency of the Foundation operations and align them with strategic goals. She also supports internal data management, finances, and communications. Her passion is improving health by creating better communications and technology systems.

Heather received her Master of Business Administration from Western Governors University. She also has an undergraduate degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Human Resources. When Heather isn't working hard to improve oral health, she likes to travel, read, and take lots of pictures.



Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center

Portland Area Dental Meeting

May 7-9, 2024

Salishan Coastal Lodge

Tuesday, May 7, 2024:

Dental Directors Meeting | Location: Gallery Room

7:30 a.m.	Registration Opens	
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast (Provided)	
8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Sean Kelly, DDS, Clinical Consultant Miranda Davis, DDS, NPAIHB
9:00 a.m.	NTDSC and IHS Updates	Sean Kelly, DDS, Clinical Consultant Miranda Davis, DDS, NPAIHB
9:30 a.m.	Policies, Procedures, and Protocols	Sean Kelly, DDS, Clinical Consultant
10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:30 a.m.	Data and QI/QA (Dental Dashboard)	Sean Kelly, DDS, Clinical Consultant
11:00 a.m.	Conflict Management and Resolution	Sean Kelly, DDS, Clinical Consultant
12:00 p.m.	Final Comments/Closing	Miranda Davis, DDS, NPAIHB
12:15 p.m.	Lunch (Provided)	

Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center Orientation | Location: Gallery Room

12:45 p.m.	Welcome, and Opening Exercise	Alfred "Bud" Lane III, Siletz Tribal Council Vice-Chair
1:00 p.m.	Introductions and Opening Exercise	Ticey Mason (Siletz), NPAIHB
1:15 p.m.	Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center and IHS	Ticey Mason (Siletz), NPAIHB Sean Kelly, DDS, Clinical Consultant
2:15 p.m.	Break	
2:30 p.m.	Cultural Considerations in Working Indian Country	Danica Love Brown (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), MSW, PhD, Vice President for Resilience and Healing, Kauffman and Associates, Inc.
3:30 p.m.	Adjourn	Ticey Mason (Siletz), NPAIHB



Wednesday, May 8, 2024:

Portland Area Dental Meeting | Location: Long House

7:00 a.m.	Registration Opens	
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast (Provided)	
8:15 a.m.	Tribal Welcome	Selene Rilatos, Siletz Tribal Council No Tell Ridge, Siletz Drummers
8:30 a.m.	NTDSC Welcome and Overview	Ticey Mason (Siletz), NPAIHB
8:45 a.m.	Prevention: What's New	Miranda Davis, DDS, NPAIHB
9:45 a.m.	Infection Control	David L Carsten, DDS, OHSU, Kathleen Mills, RDH, WA DOH
10:30 a.m.	Break	
10:45 a.m.	Infection Control	David L Carsten, DDS, OHSU, Kathleen Mills, RDH, WA DOH
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (Provided)	
1:00 p.m.	Wellness in the Workplace	Jillene Joseph, Executive Director, Native Wellness Institute
2:30 p.m.	Break	
2:45 p.m.	Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)	Sean Kelly, DDS, Clinical Consultant
3:15 p.m.	Assessing the Oral Health Status of AI/AN Children and Adults	Kathy Phipps, DrPH, Surveillance Consultant, Indian Health Service
4:15 p.m.	Closing Remarks/Adjourn for the Day	Ticey Mason (Siletz), NPAIHB
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Reception Dinner	



Thursday, May 9, 2024:

Portland Area Dental Meeting | Location: Long House

7:30 a.m.	Registration Opens	
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast (Provided)	
8:15 a.m.	Opening Welcome	Delores Pigsley, Siletz Tribal Council Chair
8:30m a.m.	Dental Emergencies	Jesse Brannan, DMD, Puyallup Tribal Health Authority
9:30 a.m.	Dental Health Aide (DHA) Update/ CHAP Update	Miranda Davis, DDS, NPAIHB Pam Ready (Puyallup), MSDH, RDH NPAIHB Kari Ann Kuntzelman (Chickasaw Nation), LDT, NPAIHB
10:00 a.m.	Break (Extended for Room Checkout)	
10:30 a.m.	Tribal Community Outreach	Miranda Davis, DDS, NPAIHB
	☞ Lummi Nation Angela Johnson, DT	
	☞ Couer d'Alene Tribe Taylor Wilkens, DDS	
	☞ Puyallup Tribe Jesse Brannan, DMD Ann Wagner, EFDA	
	☞ Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Sarah Chagnon, DT Asiah Gonzalez, DT Laura Kasayuli, RDH	
	☞ Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Sheila Blacketer, RDH, Dental Department Manager	
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn - Box Lunches (Provided)	



NORTHWEST TRIBAL DENTAL SUPPORT CENTER

MEETING PRESENTERS



Sheila Blacketer

RDH, Dental Department Manager, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Sheila Blacketer, RDH graduated from OHSU in June of 1998 and started working for the Tribe in July 1998. My career was mainly clinical with some outreach at that time. In 2010 I became the Prevention Coordinator and started developing outreach programs. The ideas and approach were informed by clinical practice, Native American Culture and Tribal history, in which I'm constantly learning. Outreach resonated with me and while developing programs, we as a department, realized it was more than providing prevention services outside of clinical practice. In 2015 I became supervisor for the Dental Assistants and in 2020 I became the Dental Clinic Manager. My goal for our department is to keep making connections for outreach and to support the staff in a way that makes everyone know their worth.



Dr. Jesse Brannan

Dental Director, Puyallup Tribal Health Authority

Dr. Brannan is a general dentist and has been the Dental Director for the Puyallup Tribal Health Authority since September of 2021. At PTHA, Dr. Brannan oversees a busy urban clinic with 19 chairs and over 34 employees. He began his education at The University of Washington, earning a BS in zoology and a BA in psychology. He then spent 6 years working on a transplant tissue procurement team before attending Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, where he graduated with high honors; earning numerous awards and election into Omicon Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society. Dr. Brannan continued his training, completing a Certificate of Residency at the VA Puget Sound Health Care Center in 2014. After residency, he was asked to stay on at the Veteran's Administration hospital as a staff dentist, where he spent 6 years working in a multidisciplinary setting. He left the VA in early 2020 to join the team at Puyallup Tribal Health Authority.

A life-long learner, Dr. Brannan attends many conferences and continuing education courses throughout the year. Although not a content expert on treating dental emergencies, Dr. Brannan is well versed in current guidelines, and his experience working in a busy urban tribal clinic has allowed for extensive experience in this aspect of dentistry. He offers a real-world perspective on a subject where no two scenarios will be alike. When not focused on dentistry, Dr. Brannan enjoys camping and boating with his wife and three children.





Dr. Danica Brown

Vice President for Resilience and Healing, Kauffman & Associates, Inc.

Danica Love Brown, MSW, CACIII, PhD, is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma born and raised in northern New Mexico. Danica is the Vice President for Resilience and Healing at Kauffman and Associates, Inc. and has worked as a mental health and substance use counselor, social worker, and youth advocate for over 20 years. Danica is an Indigenous Wellness Research Institute ISMART fellow alumni, Council of Social Work Education, Minority Fellowship Program fellow alumni, and Northwest Native American Research Center for Health fellow alumni. Her research has focused on Indigenous Ways of Knowing and decolonizing methodologies to address historical trauma and health disparities in Tribal communities.

Danica is faculty for the Harm Reduction ECHO, Journey to Health ECHO, NW Elders & Knowledge Keepers ECHO, Substance Use Disorder ECHO, and Trans & Gender-Affirming Care programs, which are designed to provide comprehensive information for behavioral health specialists to effectively integrate services and promote healing so that our communities thrive.

"I love supporting providers in doing challenging and impactful work. The sharing of space and knowledge that occurs during virtual clinics inspires me. You can see that our communities benefit from them. This is sacred work that I am honored to be a part of."



Dr. David Carsten

DDS, Oregon Health Sciences University

David Carsten, DDS, is a dentist anesthesiologist. He has a BS in Biochemistry from Washington State University with background in Medical Bacteriology and virology. At WSU he researched E coli and their bacteriophages. His DDS is from the University of Washington. He has 8 publications in the scientific literature. He received the Award of Distinction in Continuing Education from the Academy of Dentistry International.

He is an Assistant Professor in Hospital Dentistry at Oregon Health Sciences University. He is Course Director for OS725, Anesthesia and Sedation in Dentistry for DS2 students at OHSU. This course utilizes an OSCE final examination designed much like the DLOSCE. He was on the ADA Steering Committee for the DLOSCE. He was a member of the Technical Advisory Group through the Council of State Governments to set up an interstate dental and hygiene licensure compact. He mentors the interdisciplinary learning group at OHSU, the Tilikum Crossing Seminars.

Dave is the two-time Chair of the Washington State Dental Commission, also chairing the Infection Control Committee. This committee rewrote the infection control regulations for Washington state dental settings, working to meet the CDC guidelines. After 30 public meetings over four years, the regulations passed the dental commission, including regulations on waterline safety, sterilization of handpiece motors, and many other aspects of infection control. Dave is a member of the CDC committee that is revising the 2003 infection control guidelines, primarily related to waterlines. Dr Carsten spoke at the OSAP annual meeting in 2020 and 2022. Dave and his residents provided care through the Emergency Dental Care Clinic during the pandemic shutdown for the region. Dave lives in Vancouver with his wife, Sharon, his son, Davin, and their dog, Kiki. He has been a member of the Spiritual Care Team at Salmon Creek Legacy Hospital since 2012.





Sarah Chagnon

Dental Therapist, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Sarah Chagnon is a practicing dental therapist for her tribe, Swinomish, in LaConner, Washington. Sarah is the past president of the American Dental Therapy Association (ADTA), the student section liaison for the American Public Health Association (APHA), a lead for the Swinomish Health Promotion Disease Prevention (HPDP) team, and works as adjunct faculty/instructor for the dəx̣əỵəbus - Dental Therapy Program at Skagit Valley Community College. She is attending school and getting her master's degree in health administration from the University of Phoenix. Sarah is committed to her community. Her passion is ensuring her patients feel safe and comfortable in her care. She wants everyone to like their smile. She is committed to providing oral health education and tools to her community and positively impacting their oral health. Sarah has three children, Takeo, Junami, and Theodore; her favorite activities are traveling, dancing, playing soccer and making art.



Dr. Miranda Davis

Prevention Consultant, NW Tribal Dental Support Center, NPAIHB

Dr. Miranda Davis (she/her) has worked at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) since 2019 where she serves as the Prevention Consultant for the Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center (NTDSC). Dr. Davis also directs the Dental Health Aide Program at NPAIHB, which includes the Native Dental Therapy Initiative. The Dental Health Aide Program assists tribes in implementing innovative workforce models to address social determinants of health and expand access to high quality oral health care.

Dr. Davis has been working in the dental field for 25 years. She first worked as a dental office and chairside assistant, then as a dental clinical research assistant at the University of California, Los Angeles. After earning her doctorate, Dr. Davis worked with Tribal clinics in Washington and Oregon for eighteen years, in private practice for five years, and she has worked as a volunteer in nine countries. She especially loved her many years working with a Tribal school-based sealant program.

Dr. Davis earned a DDS from the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry in San Francisco, and a Masters in Public Health from the University of Washington School of Public Health. Her undergraduate thesis focused on dental fears and phobias.

While working with Tribal clinics, Dr. Davis participated in many activities offered by the NTDSC, including the Baby Teeth Matter initiative, continuing education courses, and annual area dental meetings. She is now honored to work with the NTDSC!





Asiah Gonzalez

Licensed Dental Therapist, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Asiah Gonzalez is a Licensed Dental Therapist, is an enrolled Tribal member of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. She grew up on the Reservation where she attended and graduated from the La Conner School District and is an involved member of the community. Asiah began as an Intern Dental Assistant in May 2016 while also attending a Dental Assisting Foundations Class at Skagit Valley College, then went to Alaska to pursue Dental Therapy and graduated in June 2019.

She is part of the Swinomish Canoe family and participates in events like Canoe Journey with her family where she sings, dances and would pull canoe. A common barrier for mistrust and doubt is an unfamiliar face put into the position of care where patients feel vulnerable and struggle with historical trauma. The benefit of being a native mid-level provider who is from the community is truly understanding the culture and first handedly relating to those around and creating a comfortable, trusting environment while providing the best quality of dental care and advocating as a role model for the youth. She strives to be the best for her community and pushes every day to help everyone meet their goals and love their smiles.



Angela Johnson

Dental Health Aide Therapist, Lummi Nation

My name is Tat'sem'maat, Angela Johnson. My dad's name is Sem-la nough, given name is Vernon Johnson jr. My grandpa is Vernon Johnson (Crittter) from Lummi and Quinalt. My grandma is Taitla, Cecilia Johnson, originally Genge, from Tsawwassen First Nations. My biological mom is Caucasian and her name is Shelia Jacobson. My step mom is Elizabeth King-George (Betty), originally Swanaset, from Nooksack. I come from a family of 6 kids known as the Betty bunch.

There a few reasons I chose this career. I was watching a movie called Horrible Bosses. One of the main characters' job was as a dental assistant. I thought that looks fun, so I quit my job of serving and started school that Monday to join the dental world. I was a dental assistant for about 3 years at Sea mar Community Health Center. I started feeling like I was not contributing enough to the world. I learned of the Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) position and became interested. I drove down to Swinomish dental clinic to shadow their dental therapist, Daniel Kennedy. Dr. Hogan informed me I would have a better chance at getting the opportunity through my own tribe, Lummi. So I put in my notice at Seamar CHC in hopes of joining Lummi dental to become a DHAT. Dr. Dubek, the dental director, hired me right away and from there I proactively pushed to become the dental health aide therapist for my community. I have always wanted to help in some way and now this is my chance to prove I can. In Tsawwassen First Nation, there is no dental clinic on the reservation, so I would also like to start a mobile dental van for the kids and possibly involve the elders and eventually anyone who can qualify for dental services in my scope. One last thing on my career bucket list is international volunteering. I would love to travel to countries that do not have dental access and provide as many services as I can.

I have many dreams, goals and aspirations, especially with my new career position. I would love to help my community achieve healthy oral cavities as well as over all health. I want to do as much as I can for as much people as I can. This is just the beginning to an innovative dentistry approach.





Jillene Joseph

Executive Director, Native Wellness Institute

Jillene Joseph is an enrolled member of the Gros Ventre or Aaniiih people from Fort Belknap, Montana. She lives in Oregon with her life partner and children. She is the Executive Director of the Native Wellness Institute and helped to found the national non-profit organization in 2000. She has a Bachelors of Science degree in Community Health Education and has served Indian Country for 30 years providing training and technical assistance in a variety of areas. Jillene has traveled to hundreds of Native communities and interacted with and learned from thousands of people. Whether she is providing youth leadership training, assisting women heal from childhood trauma or helping to bring wellness to the workplace, Jillene shares her passion for being positive, productive and proactive. She enjoys beading, reading, pow wowing and spending time with family and friends.



Dr. Sean Kelly

Clinical Consultant, NW Tribal Dental Support Center, NPAIHB

Dr. Sean R. Kelly served as a Commissioned Corps Officer within the Indian Health Service of the United States Public Health Service from 2003 to 2017. He retired as a Captain on August 1, 2017, with 26 years of combined active-duty service with the U.S. Navy. Starting as a Staff Dentist for the Puyallup Tribal Health Authority Dental Clinic, Dr. Kelly became the Dental Director in 2008. WA. Dr. Kelly resigned from his dental director position in September 2021.

Dr. Kelly graduated from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry with Cum Laude honors in 1990. In 1991 he completed the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program at the University Of North Carolina School of Dentistry, Chapel Hill. Prior to the USPHS, Dr. Kelly served over 11 years in the United States Navy Dental Corps. During this time, he received two years of training in Comprehensive Dentistry at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School and earned a Master of Science in Health Science (Oral Biology) degree from George Washington University.

Dr. Kelly has worked with numerous other tribes throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho with the Baby Teeth Matter, We Smile and the Wee Smile collaboratives directed by the Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center and the Arcora Foundation. In 2020 Dr. Kelly joined the Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center as Clinical Consultant.



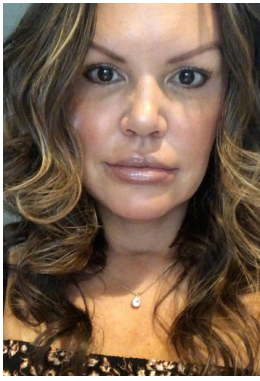
Kari Ann Kuntzelman

Dental Health Aide Education Specialist, Tribal Community Health Provider Pro-

Kari Ann Kuntzelman (she/her/hers) is a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma and graduated from the Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program earning an Associates of Applied Science, Dental Health Aide Therapy in 2019. Kari is a Dental Health Specialist within the Tribal Community Health Provider Project at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, and state Licensed Dental Therapist in Oregon where she resides. She is the President of the American Dental Therapy Association and continues to advocate for Dental Therapy on a national level.

Kari hopes to inspire others to become interested in oral health and to represent American Indian/Alaska Native communities in the dental field. She is passionate about Minimally Invasive Dentistry as it uses evidence-based research to practice good dentistry.





Ticey Mason

Director, NW Tribal Dental Support Center, NPAIHB

Ticey Mason (Siletz) (she/her) is the Director of the NW Tribal Dental Support Center (NTDSC), at the NW Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB). She has worked for the NTDSC for over 17 years. She is a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (Sixes, Shasta-Costa, Maquanutna, Joshua and Tututni bands) and grew up in the Yachats/Waldport and Siletz area of the Oregon coast. Prior to her joining NPAIHB, she worked for her tribe in social services, as well as the State of Oregon in workforce development. She has a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership Studies and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology. Ticey has three boys who are 25, 22 and 13 years of age. She loves to hike anywhere near water, visit the ocean, rivers and creeks! She and her boys love attending cultural functions, and especially love their tribe's trail of tears "Run to the Rogue".



Kate Mills

Healthcare Investigator, Washington State Department of Health

Kate Mills (she/her/hers) has worked as a Healthcare Investigator at the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) since 2012. She began her career as a dental hygienist in 1972 and has worked in a variety of settings - in private practice, at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, as a clinical instructor, in public health and nonprofit school dental sealant programs, and as an ABCD provider in HeadStart and ECEAP programs. In her role at DOH, she conducts inspections and investigations of complaints against healthcare providers. The majority of cases assigned to her relate to allegations against dentists, dental assistants, and dental hygienists. She has conducted countless numbers of infection control inspections and welcomes opportunities to educate and encourage providers' compliance with current infection control regulations and CDC guidelines by suggesting practical and systematic solutions to keep patients, as well as providers and their staff safe.



Dr. Kathy Phipps

Surveilliance Consultant, Indian Health Service

Dr. Kathy Phipps is an oral epidemiologist with considerable experience in caries research and the development and implementation of oral health surveillance systems. Currently, she is the Data and Surveillance Coordinator for the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors and the oral epidemiology consultant for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. She is the primary consultant for the Indian Health Service's oral health surveys of the American Indian and Alaska Native population. Kathy and her husband, Gordon, live in Morro Bay, CA. When not working, she can be found at the gym or behind her camera capturing images of wildlife and nature.



Pam Ready

Dental Health Aide Education Manager, NPAIHB

Pam Ready, RDH, MSDH, is an enrolled member of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and a registered dental hygienist with experience as a clinician and clinical instructor. She currently works as the Dental Health Aide (DHA) Education Manager, in the Tribal Community Health Provider Program (TCHPP) at Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB). She completed her BSDH and MSDH at Eastern Washington University where she discovered her focus and passion of understanding the origins of oral health disparities for the AI/AN population and providing pathways and interventions to treat, prevent, overcome and heal. Pam is working with the TCHPP team developing and implementing the Dental Health Aide (DHA) discipline of the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) in the Portland Area (WA, OR, ID).





Ann Wagner

Lead Dental Assistant, Puyallup Tribal Health Authority

Ann Wagner (she, her, hers) CDA, RDA and Lead Dental Assistant for Puyallup Tribal Health Authority. I graduated from Bates Technical College in Tacoma, WA in 1998. I have worked for PTHA for 26 years. My community involvement includes STEM program, Dental screenings at Chief Leschi School, and Grandview Early Learning Center. I assist chairside with the General dentists, Orthodontist, Pediatrics dentist. I am an Expanded functions DA and Advanced Periodontal Expanded functions DA.

I am very passionate of helping our patients to achieve that perfect smile. I participate in many community events with the Puyallup Tribe. I attended the OSAP 2024 boot camp training for Infection Control. My role as the Lead DA is assisting in the daily operations, scheduling, training new DA, helping with equipment repairs and x-ray support for staff. I was born and raised in Tacoma/ Puyallup area. I have two grown children and five fur babies (Puck, Chimichanga, Kane, Meeska, and Princess fluffy butt).



Dr. Taylor Wilkens

Dental Director, Marimn Health, Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Dr. Taylor Wilkens (he/him/his) was born in Orlando, FL and soon after moved to Spokane, WA where he grew up.

He attended Walla Walla University where he earned his undergraduate degree in biology. He took a year off from college in 2006 and taught English in the Czech Republic. He then moved to California to attend dental school at Loma Linda University. He received his Doctor of Dental Surgery in 2012. He has worked at Marimn Health since 2013 and has served as the Dental Director since 2017. His primary focus at Marimn Health is improving the overall oral health of the community by emphasizing prevention practices as well as treating disease by providing the highest quality dental care possible.

He and his wife just celebrated their 15th anniversary and enjoy spending time in the outdoors with their two boys, 7 and 8 years old. He enjoys running, biking, swimming, and camping.



Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center Clinics



The overall goals of the NTDSC are to provide training, quality improvement, and technical assistance to the 43 IHS/ Tribal dental programs in the Portland Area, and to ensure that the services of the NTDSC result in measurable improvement in the oral health status of the AI/AN people served in the Portland Area.



The Story of Changing the Course of the River

A Grandfather took his Grandson fishing with a plan to teach him a life lesson. After completing their fishing, he asked if his Grandson wanted to see him change the course of the river.

Not believing this to be possible, the Grandson watched as his Grandfather reached out along the sandy bank of the river and removed a rock the size of his fist. Pretty soon a small stream from the river broke away from the fast-moving river and filled the hole where the rock had once been.

The Grandfather said, “You see, Grandson, there may be things that happen in your life that are not what you had hoped. But realize that if you make one small, positive change — you can change the entire course of your life or another person’s life.”



An excerpt from a traditional native story as told by Jamestown S’Klallam Storyteller Elaine Grinnell, adapted by Loni (Grinnell) Greninger.





NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD
Indian Leadership for Indian Health

