

Oregon Tribes Dental Health Aide Therapist Pilot Project

BRINGING ORAL HEALTH CARE INTO THE 21ST CENTURY



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Background

Oregon Dental Pilot Projects were authorized by state legislation in 2011 to increase access and improve quality to oral health care by:

- Teaching new skills to existing providers,
- Developing new categories of dental providers, and
- Accelerating and expanding the training to current providers.



Last year, legislation was passed to:

- Extend the sunset date from 2018 to 2025-- acknowledging the slow start and lack of funding to the program since 2011
- Ensure new providers and services would be covered by Medicaid
- Oregon Health Authority funded for upcoming year to administer the program



In 2015, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) and the Coquille Indian Tribe submitted a dental pilot project to the Oregon Health Authority to train and employ DHATs at Tribal Health and Dental Clinics.

The project was approved February 2016, making it the first dental pilot project approved by the state of Oregon!



Pilot Project Goals



- Expand access to consistent, routine, high quality oral health care in tribal communities;
- Grow the number of AI/AN oral health care providers available to tribal communities;
- Bring culturally competent care into tribal communities;
- Create a more efficient and effective oral health team that can meet the needs of the tribal communities;
- Establish cost effective solutions to oral health challenges in tribal communities;
- Bring care where it is needed most.



Initial Pilot Sites

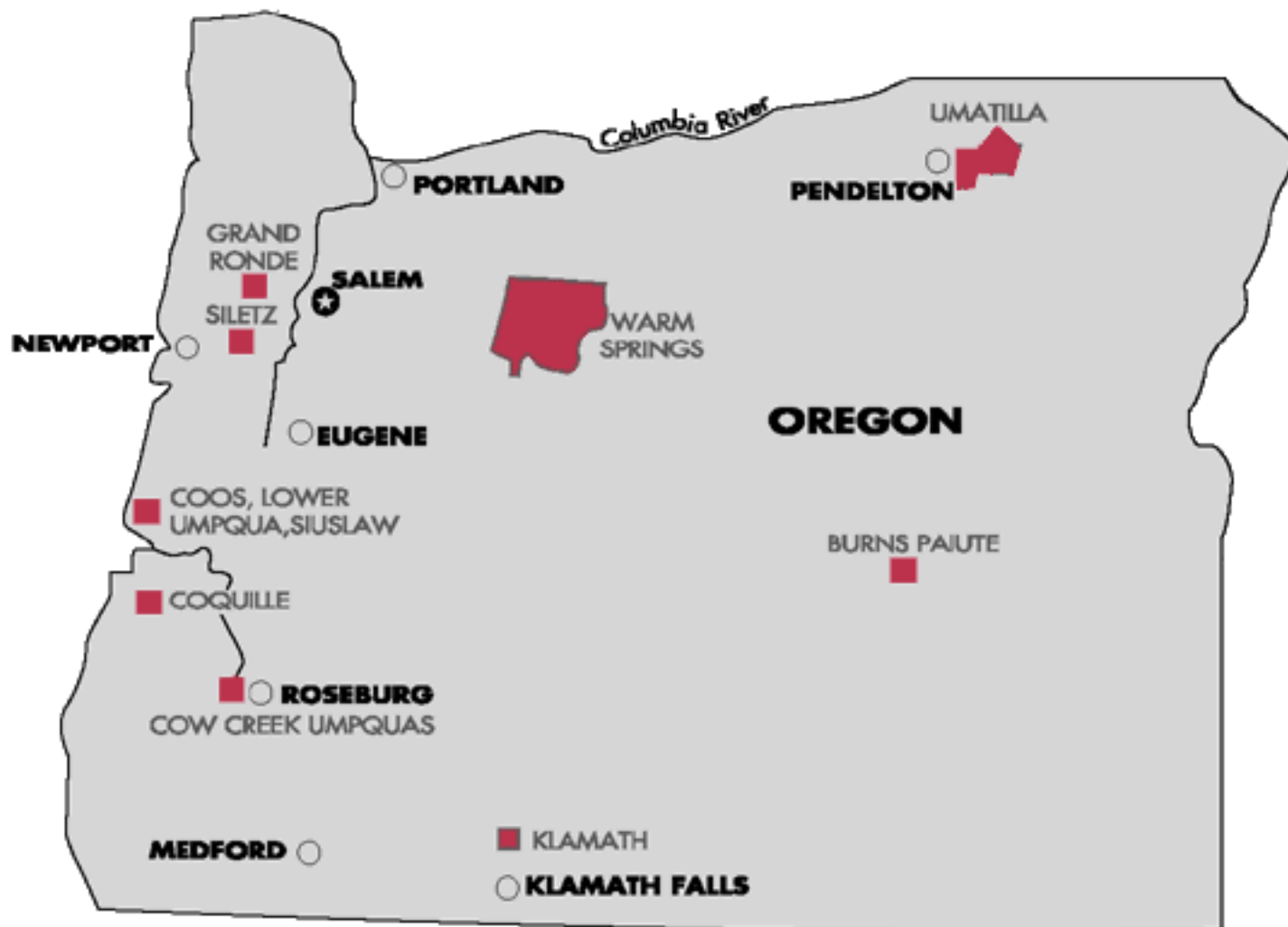


- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians



- Coquille Indian Tribe





About CTCLUSI

- The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians are made up of 3 tribes (4 Bands): 2 bands of Coos Tribes: Hanis Coos (Coos Proper), Miluk Coos ; Lower Umpqua Tribe; and Siuslaw Tribe.
- Our historic homelands extended from the Coastal Range in the East to the Pacific Ocean in the West, a vast region of some 1.6 million acres.
- Even though the U.S. government officially terminated the tribe in 1954, we continued to fight for restoration, and recognition as a sovereign nation. We were restored as a federally recognized tribe on October 17, 1984.



CTCLUSI Dental Clinic

- Dental Clinic serves tribal members/families and community members in the 5-county service area. We also provide services to Coquille Indian Tribe—in a reciprocal arrangement Coquille serves CTCLUSI members at their Community Health Center.
- One full time and two part-time dentists, one dental hygienist, and two dental assistants.
- Like many rural dental clinics, we have had challenges with dentist retention, making a DHAT a smart solution. Recruiting providers from the community increases the likelihood of those providers staying in the community. This provides both stability to the team and culturally competent, consistent care to the community.



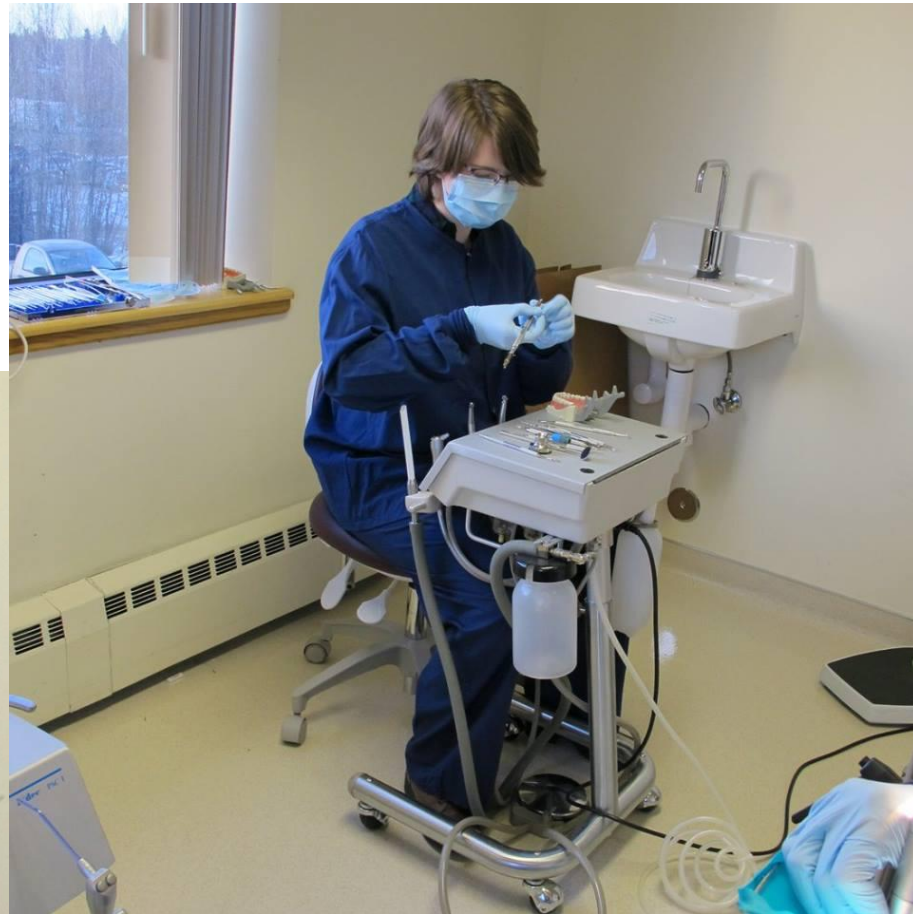
CTCLUSI Dental Team!



Current Status of Project

- In preparation of fall 2016 arrival of an experienced DHAT at dental clinic, supervising dentist will go to Alaska for training and lead integration efforts in dental team
- Experienced DHAT search is underway
- Community outreach and education is happening to prepare current and future patients for new provider
- Evaluation plan is being designed, with baseline data collection scheduled for this summer
- First student entered Alaska DHAT Educational program summer of 2015, one more student being recruited for this year





Naomi Petrie, CTCLUSI
Class of 2017

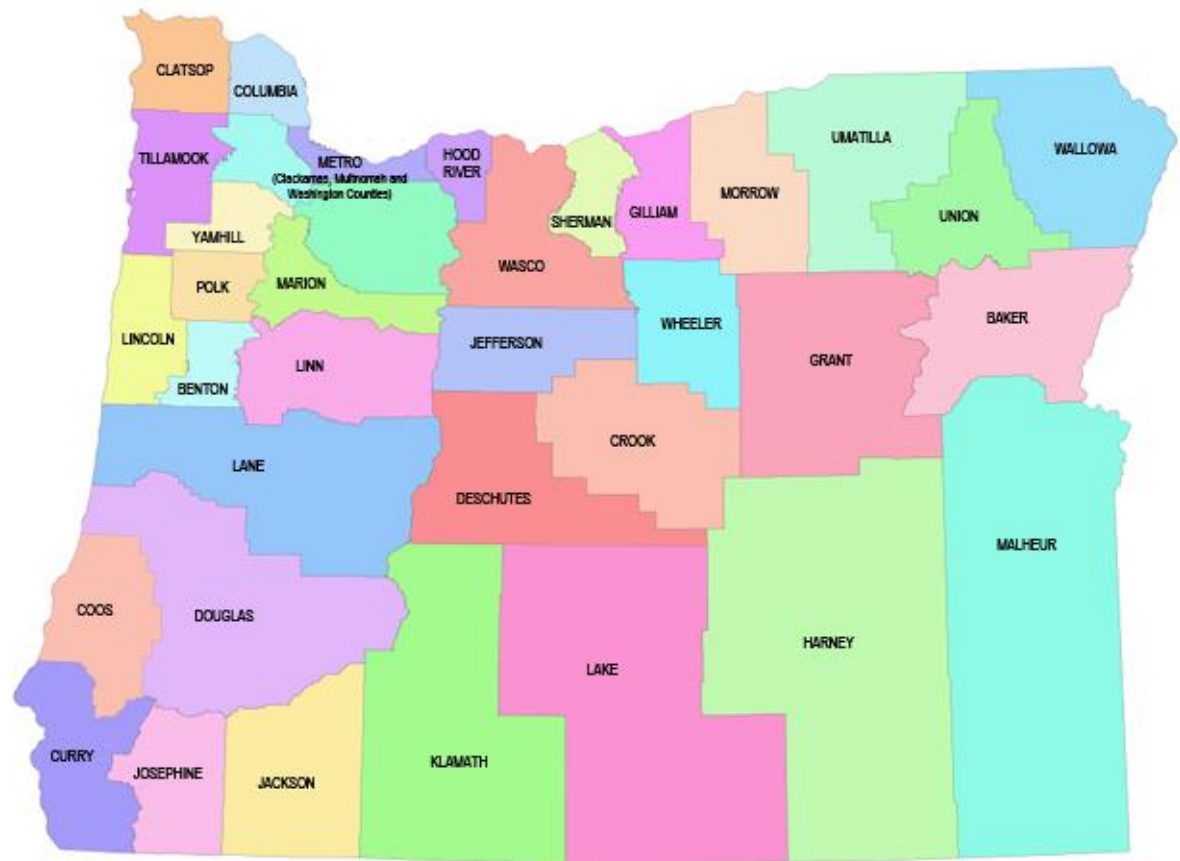


Looking ahead in Oregon...





Exploring
feasibility
of a mobile
unit to
increase
access at
pilot sites.



CTCLUSI and Coquille each have 5
large counties in our service areas



Coquille
Indian Tribe
currently does
not have a
dental clinic or
dental team,
allowing
conversations
about
alternative
delivery
systems.



Coquille Community Health Center



Tribal and non-tribal stakeholder education, engagement and support started through the pilot application process and will continue in earnest.

Letters of Support for Pilot :

- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium
- National Indian Health Board
- US Senator Jeff Merkley
- DENTEX
- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Umatilla Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- Klamath Tribe
- Siletz Tribe
- Warm Springs
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe
- State Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
- State Sentaor Jeff Kruse
- Lane Community College Dental Hygiene Program
- Nara



Successes
from the
pilots will
inform future
legislation to
authorize
DHATs
permanently,
statewide.





But most
importantly,
successes from
the pilots will
result in
improved oral
health and
overall health in
our
communities!



Thank you

