

## **Alaska Dental Health Aide Program**

### Overview of Process for Dental Health Aide Therapist Practitioner Credentialing

#### Introduction

A person with 6 consecutive years of practicing as a certified DHAT may have the ability to apply to become a certified DHATP.

The benefits of becoming a DHATP are:

- Direct supervision requirements will only need to be done every 6 years instead of every 2.
- Recognition that DHAT has proven over time to be a trusted member of the healthcare team who reliably provides high quality dental care to their patients.

The requirements to become a DHATP are:

- Earning a DHATP Credential from the Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program (ADTEP)
  - o Has to be renewed every 6 years
- Maintaining current certification from the Community Health Aide Certification Board (CHAPCB)
  - o Has to be renewed every 2 years

#### Goal

The goal of the DHATP certification is to recognize Dental Health Aide Therapists who have proven over time that they are reliably providing competent care for their patients and lowering their supervision requirements to allow them to practice more efficiently, while putting other safety mechanisms in place to ensure that these providers continue to deliver high quality dental health care to Alaska residents accessing dental care through Tribal Health Organizations.

#### Objective

The objective of this document is to outline the process required to obtain and maintain ADTEP DHATP credentialing. A current ADTEP DHATP credential document is a requirement on the CHAPCB application when applying to be certified as a DHATP or to renew certification as a DHATP.

#### Timeline

3-4 Months prior to the expiration date of the DHATs 3<sup>rd</sup> or greater consecutive CHAPCB DHAT Certificate, a DHAT can submit the required documents for initial DHATP credentialing to ADTEP to verify they meet the requirements for initial DHATP credentialing. ADTEP will make a decision and if warranted, will get the DHAT an ADTEP DHATP credential document for them to submit with their next CHAPCB application.

The ADTEP DHATP credential document will expire 6 years after the date of issue. At that 6 year mark, the DHATP will need to submit the required documents for renewal of the ADTEP DHATP credentialing

to ADTEP for review 3-4 months prior to the expiration of their current CHAPCB DHATP certification. If they qualify for renewal, ADTEP will issue a new DHATP credential document to the DHATP for them to submit with their next CHAPCB application.

#### Required Documents to Submit to ADTEP for Initial DHATP Credentialing

1. Current BLS certification.
2. Copies of CHAPCB certificates showing 3 consecutive certifications as a Dental Health Aide Therapist.
3. Procedure log with de-identified patient information showing satisfactory performance (in the 24 months prior to CHAPCB recertification date) under the direct supervision of a dentist, a minimum of:
  - a. 80 hours, demonstrating competence in each procedure for which the dental health aide is certified, or
  - b. 8 of each procedure for which the dental health aide is certified. [CHAPCB 3.10.050 (a) (1) (B)]
4. Letter of Recommendation by the applicant's Supervising Dentist that is also signed by the THO's Dental Director\*.
5. Current Standing Orders in accordance with employer's policy.

#### Required Documents to Submit to ADTEP for Renewal of DHATP Credentialing

1. Current BLS certification.
2. Copy of current CHAP CB DHATP Certificate.
3. Copy of current ADTEP DHATP Credential document.
4. Procedure log with de-identified patient information showing satisfactory performance (in the 24 months prior to CHAPCB recertification date) under the direct supervision of a dentist, a minimum of:
  - a. 80 hours, demonstrating competence in each procedure for which the dental health aide is certified, or
  - b. 8 of each procedure for which the dental health aide is certified. [CHAPCB 3.10.050 (a) (1) (B)]
5. Letter of Recommendation by the applicant's Supervising Dentist that is also signed by the THO's Dental Director\*.
6. Current Standing Orders in accordance with employer policy.

#### Roles and Responsibilities

##### Role of ADTEP

1. Accept submitted documentation from potential DHATP applicants
2. Review the documents and assess:
  - a. If all the required documents have been submitted

- b. If the information provided on the documents makes sense and is adequate for DHATP credentials
3. Correspond with the candidate and/or the employer with regards to any questions, comments or feedback related to the documentation that was submitted
4. Make a decision on whether or not the candidate qualifies for the DHATP credential
5. Send candidate ADTEP DHATP credential document, if indicated, prior to the deadline for the candidate to submit their next certification document to the CHAPCB
6. Maintain records of all DHATP credentialing

#### Role of Employer

1. Help candidates meet requirements for ADTEP DHATP credentialing
2. Help candidates gather needed documentation
3. Have the candidate's Supervising Dentist and\* Dental Director discuss whether or not candidate meets the requirements for the DHATP credential and make a decision about whether or not they want to recommend the candidate for ADTEP DHATP credentialing.
  - a. If they decide that the candidate is a good fit, the Supervising Dentist must write a letter of recommendation for the candidate that is signed by both\* the Supervising Dentist and the Dental Director.
4. Respond to any communication from ADTEP in a timely fashion
5. Be receptive to feedback from ADTEP

#### Role of DHAT/P

1. Complete requirements for ADTEP DHATP credentialing
2. Help employer gather needed documentation
3. Submit documents to ADTEP in the appropriate time frame
4. Respond to any communication from ADTEP in a timely fashion
5. Be receptive to feedback from ADTEP

\*If Supervising Dentist and Dental Director are the same person, it is acceptable for this person to sign as both the Supervising Dentist and the Dental Director.