

# Dental Health Aide Therapist



**SAVANNAH BONORDEN**

**WASHINGTON, DC**

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Sitka High School  
graduate, 2005

Assistant 1 year before  
entering the  
Educational Program



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**Raised in Sitka, AK**



Two year program;  
Anchorage and Bethel  
Preceptorship



**Dental Health Aide Therapist Educational Program  
class of 2013**

# Let's Talk Words



- Dental Health Aide Therapist

-DHAT

-Dental Therapist

-Dental Therapy

- Primary Dental Health Aide

-PDHA

-DHA

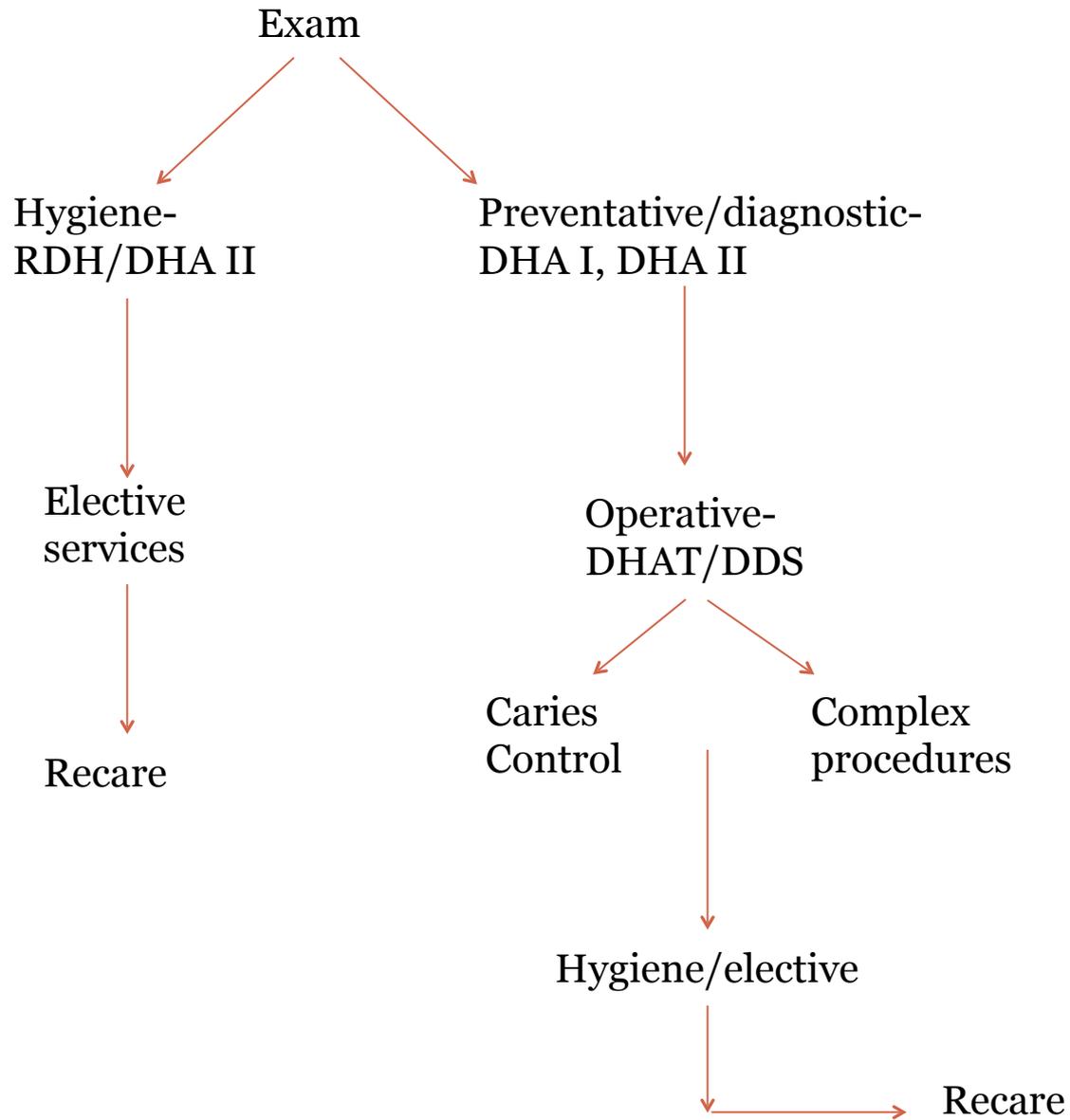
-DHA II

-Dental Health Aide

# Explaining DHAT



- Like a Physician's assistant (PA)  
-Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- One part of the dental team
- Providing routine services vs. DDS/ DMD able to focus on the higher level services
- Local community member; from area
- Culturally competent





Angoon

Haines

Kake

Sitka



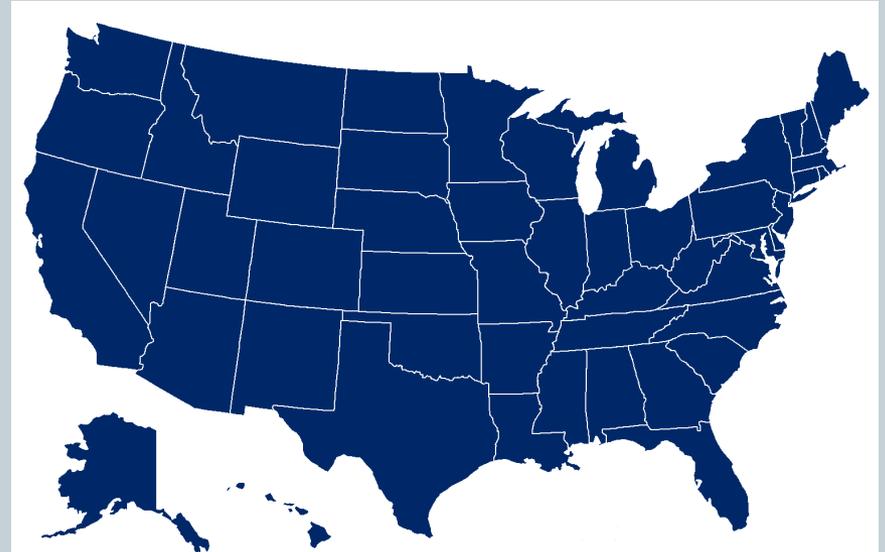
**Kake Village Travel**

# Changes/Positive Impact



- Appointments more available
- Completing purposed treatment in half the time
- DDS can focus on more complex procedures
- Less OR referrals for pedo
- First implant clinic
- More frequent village travels
- Provides jobs: DHAT, assistant, receptionist
- Good role model for the community

# It Works In Alaska It Can Work Anywhere Else



# Sitka, Alaska



# Thank You

