

63rd Pacific Island Health Officers Association Executive Board Meeting

American Samoa

March 27-29, 2018



PACIFIC BASIN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

ESTABLISHED IN 2001

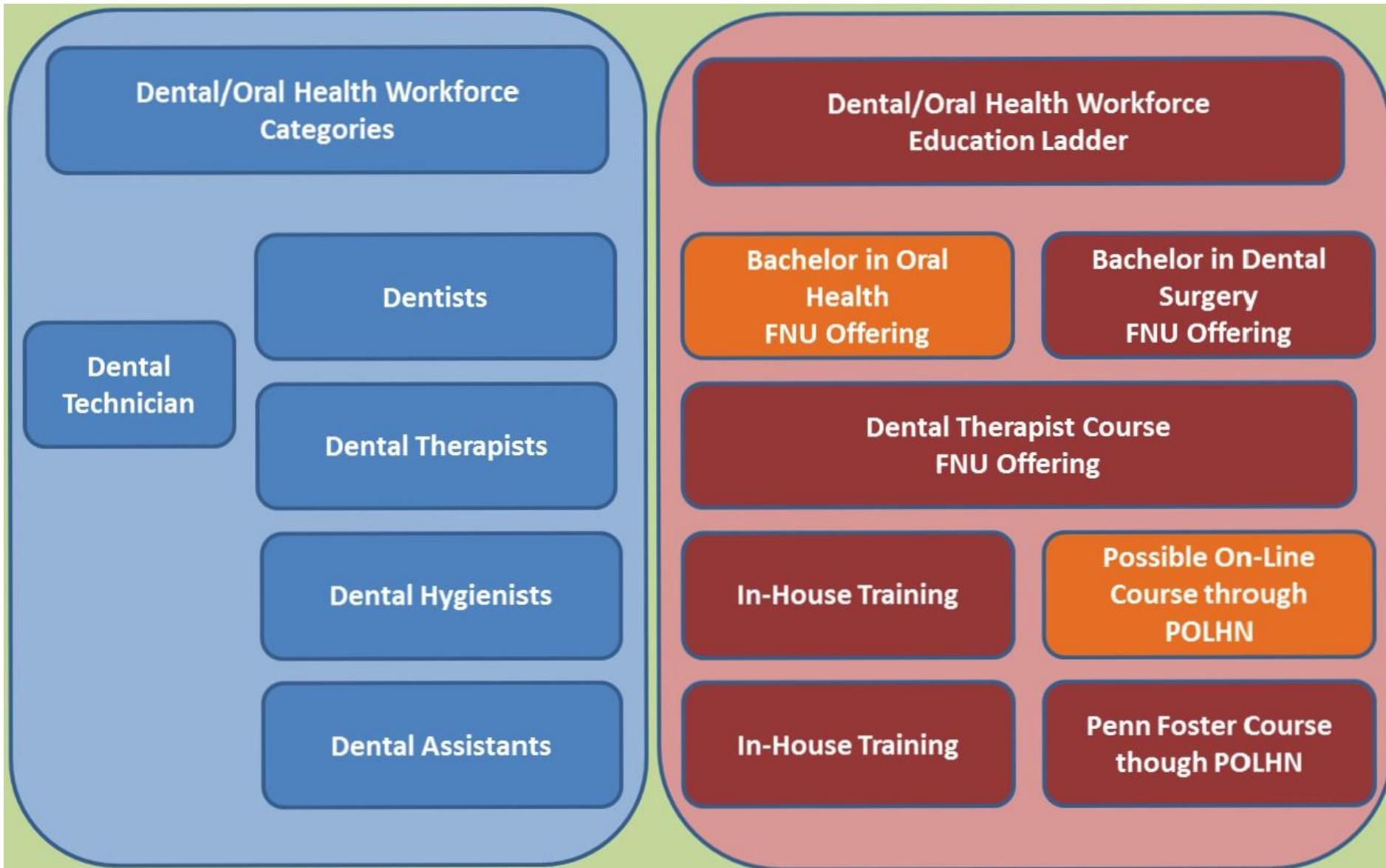
ORAL HEALTH

A WINDOW TO OUR OVERALL
HEALTH

PBDA MEETINGS

- December 2012 –
KOROR, PALAU
- January 12-14, 2015 –
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Dental/Oral Health Workforce CPD Framework





Dental Assistant Career Diploma

POLHN through **PENNFOSTER**
improving Pacific Healthcare Through Learning CAREER SCHOOL

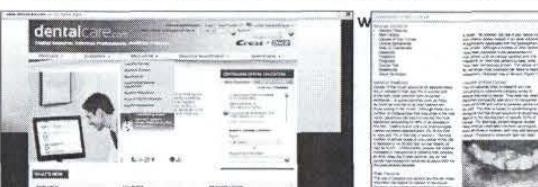
Background



- Interest from American Samoan oral health staff for dental assistants to participate in the Penn Foster program.
- Discussed with POLHN in early 2013.
- POLHN Secretariat liaised with Penn Foster to arrange a pilot offering with 13 dental assistant participants.
- WHO/POLHN covers the cost of tuition for each participant and holds regular teleconferences with dental assistant learners and supervisors to monitor learner progress.
- Plans for face-to-face skills validation in early 2014 and formal presentation of certificates.

Before Learners Start: Dental Care

- Successful applicants through POLHN need to complete 5 online courses before starting the diploma program.
- Recommended courses through www.dentalcare.com
- Over 100 1- 3 hour courses for dental assistants and dentists.



Penn Foster Diploma objectives

Penn Foster's Dental Assistant Career Diploma helps learners gain knowledge and skills to:

- Assist dentists with lab tasks and procedures
- Communicate with and instruct patients in proper dental hygiene
- Disinfect dental tools properly
- Manage a dental office

Dental Assistant Training in American Samoa – A Model for the Region

<http://courses.polhncourses.org/course/category.php?id=39>

Through this pilot program, POLHN is sponsoring 13 dental assistants in American Samoa to take Penn Foster Career School's Dental Assistant Diploma. While the Diploma can be delivered entirely online, through POLHN the dental assistants will also undergo in-country, face-to-face skills validation. The dental assistants will be actively supported through their studies by their supervisors and the POLHN Secretariat. The aim of the pilot is to assess the curriculum's appropriateness and relevance to Pacific contexts. The pilot is also part of POLHN's transition from focusing on online learning to a blended learning approach.

This is an online 1 year program – paid for by WHO

PBDA PRIORITIES

- Hire more Dental Assistant Trainees.
- Funding
- Conduct trainings
 - Fissure Sealants, Fluoride applications, Dental Materials on Oral Health Education.
 - Collaboration with NCD Programs, Cancer Programs, etc
 - Improve Salaries for all Oral Health Staff

PBDA SUCCESS STORY

- Collaboration with Pacific Basin Medical Association
- PBDA – member of the Medical Society
- Penn Foster training Program (American Samoa)
- Oral Health continuing Education on Dentalcare.com
- Dental Hygienist Training Program (Palau)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
KOM KMAL MESULANG!

