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DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

FROM THE DESK OF THE STATE DENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

As the fiscal year races to a close, the Oral Health Program(OHP) comes one step closer to completing year long projects and turns its sights to strategies that build upon successes and lessons learned. Since the last AC4OH meeting, Ms. White and I have had the opportunity to be a part of both the Nevada Dental Association and the Community Coalition for Oral Health Legislative days. In addition, we have met with national partners and been encouraged by the cutting-edge work being done by other state dental teams during the National Oral Health Conference.

As the program continues to develop, we sadly must say goodbye to two important team members. Mr. Chuck Damon has accepted a position within the Aging and Disability Services Division and will no longer be working with us to reform dental Medicaid benefits. In addition, our DPBH trainee Ms. Kristen deBraga has accepted a position with the Washoe County Health District in their environmental health department. We are very sad to see these valuable members of our team leave but wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

In the spirit of informational transparency, I would like to present our latest projects and update you on our progress.

2016-2017 Head Start Basic Screening Survey

Ms. White will provide an update on the progress of the Head Start BSS project.
The Oral Health Program has entered into an agreement with the Nevada Department of Education's Head Start Collaboration Systems Office to conduct a basic screening survey. The primary purpose of this project is to gather data on the oral health status of Head Start children in Nevada. The screening also allows the OHP to provide fluoride varnish applications, disseminate oral hygiene information and materials, and inform parents of community dental providers through a resource inventory. Urgent dental issues when identified during the screening will be entered into a spreadsheet. Parents of the children with urgent dental issues will be called by Dr. Capurro to answer oral health questions and identify any barriers to dental care. If the parents refuse to seek dental care, the case will be referred to the Division of Child and Family Services for case management. Through this project, we will visit 19 of the 38 Head Start sites.

By the time this letter is read, we will have completed the basic screening survey for all rural Head Start sites except for three migrant sites that begin their session in June. We have been able to see first-hand the needs of this population and the barriers many in rural communities face to receive adequate dental care. We have met with partners across the state including Owyhee Community Health Facility,

PACE Coalition, Nevada Health Center's Elko, WIC office Ely, and William Bee Ririe Hospital. Common issues include limited funding, patient education and health literacy, and access to qualified dental providers.

79th Legislative Session

Dr. Capurro and Ms. White attended the Nevada Dental Association Legislative day on March 1st and the Community Coalition for Oral Health Legislative day with Northern Nevada Dental Coalition for Underserved Populations and Oral Health Nevada on March 23rd. Dr. Capurro and Ms. White presented an overview of the Oral Health Program and current activities at the March 23rd Legislative day.

Bills being reviewed and tracked:

AB-193	**Assemblywoman Joiner** Requires the fluoridation of water provided by certain public water systems and water authorities in certain counties.	Failed Deadline of Friday, April 14, 2017. (Pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.3.1, no further action allowed.)
AB-213	**Assemblymen Ohrenschall** Revises provisions relating to dental care	Failed Deadline of Friday, April 14, 2017. (Pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.3.1, no further action allowed.)
SB-256	**Legislative Commission (NRS 218E.150)** Revises provisions relating to the Board of Dental Examiners of Nevada. On Behalf of the Sunset Subcommittee (NRS 232B.210)	Amended and passed as amended.
SB-444	**Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs (NRS 218E.750)** Makes an appropriation to the Department of Veterans Services to support certain dental programs for veterans. An act making an appropriation to the Department of Veterans Services to provide financial assistance and support for the Adopt a Vet Dental Program.	Declared exempt
SB-139	**Senator Hardy** Revises provisions relating to patient-centered medical homes.	Amended and passed as amended.
SB-69	**Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy**. Summary—Revises provisions governing state agencies, boards and commissions that regulate occupations and professions. (BDR 54-229)	Amended and passed as amended.
SB-101	**Committee on Health and Human Services**. Summary- Restricts the authority	Amended and passed as amended. Assembly Committee on Health and

	to administer botulinum toxin to certain medical professionals	Human Services work session item.

Joint Projects with Medicaid Office

We welcome Debbie Fazzino who will be assuming oversight of the Policy Development and Program Management-Dental Program responsibilities.

- RFP 3290 Dental Benefits Administrator
  - Implementation date is scheduled for October 1st.
  - Communication of the administrative change will be sent to all Medicaid providers and recipients on June 5th.
  - Hewlett Packard Enterprise will oversee the Medicaid contract on July 1st until the new dental benefits administrator begins on October 1st.
- Medicaid Chapter 1000 Dental
  - Dr. Capurro and Mr. Damon have collaborated in reviewing and rewriting the Medicaid Services Manual 1000 Dental. The goal of the revision was to increase preventative dental services while identifying options to reduce orthodontic costs.
  - The final document will be available on the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy website on May 28th.
  - Public hearing will be held June 28th when the Chapter will be read into public record.
- Research on Orthodontic Claims Data
  - Nevada has been selected as a participant in a research project being conducted by Dr. Greg Oppenhuizen of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) in conjunction with the Angle Society-Midwest and the University of Detroit/Mercy. This is a unique opportunity to be part of a research study that may solidify or alter the AAO Committee on Medically Necessary Orthodontic Care's decision. In addition, participation allows Medicaid to assure providers that Nevada is associated with an investigation to determine the necessity of auto-qualifiers and whether the criteria is onerous to access to orthodontic care for medically necessary patient cases.

Dental Workforce Survey for 2017

The Oral Health Program is collaborating with the DPBH Primary Care Office, UNLV School of Dental Medicine's Special Care Dental Clinic, and the Medical Education Council of Nevada to design a workforce survey that will be distributed to all licensed dentists and hygienists in the state. A letter of introduction with the survey link will be mailed to all Nevada dental professionals and will be followed by a reminder postcard. The results of this study will be compared to Nevada's 2007 workforce survey and a portion of the results will be compiled into a presentation for the 2018 Nevada Public Health Association Annual Conference.

Rural Dental Clinic

Due to the delay in hiring the State Dental Health Officer and State Public Health Dental Hygienist positions, the Oral Health Program has a small pool of resources available for FY 16-17. We have elected to use these finances to purchase portable dental equipment that can be used either on a mobile van, in outreach clinics, or through a lending library model. Ms. Phinney, Dr. Capurro, and Dr. Iser, District Health Officer of the Southern Nevada Health District, have entered into conversation

regarding possible staffing of a dental professional on the Southern Nevada Health District's mobile health van that will be traveling through rural Nevada.

Health Assessment Before School Entrance Policy

Based on the proposal presented at the Dec. 2nd AC4OH meeting, Dr. Capurro is currently developing additional documentation to support the health assessment before school entrance policy. Please see the attached policy overview. Dr. Capurro will be working with Division of Public and Behavioral Health to build the necessary application for submission and approval by the State Board of Health.

Dental Services for Adults with Special Healthcare Needs

Interlocal agreement created between DPBH and UNLV School of Dental Medicine (UNLV SDM) Special Care Dental Clinic. With funding and administrative oversight from the DPBH Oral Health Program, the UNLV SDM Special Care Dental Clinic has expanded hospital and non-hospital services for adult patients with special healthcare needs, provided public health dental services to patients in vocational training centers, and increased the dental workforce to serve this population through educational clinical rotations. In addition, this partnership has resulted in Nevada's first Special Olympics Special Smiles. Dental screenings, oral hygiene instruction, mouthguards, and oral hygiene kits are provided to Special Olympic athletes during these events. A total of three successful events have been completed and an Oral Health Program representative has volunteered at each. The next Special Olympics Special Smiles event is scheduled for June 8th to the 10th.

Support for Those Entering the Nevada Dental Workforce

The Oral Health Program is aware that program visibility and participation from dental professionals will come from supporting the accomplishments of the Nevada's dental and dental hygiene students. A certificate of achievement and letter from the DPBH NV Oral Health Program has been provided to each 2017 dental/dental hygiene graduate at the UNLV School of Dental Medicine, Truckee Meadows Community College, and the College of Southern Nevada. A formal presentation was made to the UNLV School of Dental Medicine's Class of 2017 during their senior gala.

Dental Resource Inventory

Ms. White has revised and updated the state's inventory of community resources offering dental services. This comprehensive inventory provides information on community clinics across the state that offer free, sliding scale, or Medicaid dental services to adults and children. This resource is categorized by location and services offered and is formatted as a user-friendly handout that can be

used by both the public and dental professionals alike. (Document available upon request and obtainable on the OHP website).

Partnerships

Special thanks to Young Dental who provided 25 boxes(1,250ct) of Fresh Melon D-Lish 5% Sodium Fluoride Varnish for OHP partners. Community Health Alliance, Dental Care International, Future Smiles, and Nevada Health Centers have received boxes of fluoride varnish.

Nevada Women's Infant and Children Program

Ms. Aquino will provide an update on the Oral Health Program's agreement with the Nevada Women's Infant and Children's (WIC) Program to provide oral health brochures, oral hygiene supplies, and educational materials for Medicaid enrollees, including pregnant women and infants. It is estimated that WIC serves nearly 18,000 pregnant women in Nevada through 16 local WIC agencies which operate 45 clinic locations.

Dr. Capurro and Ms. White Projected Plans for FY17-18

1. A state policy will be written regarding procedural directions that should be taken when an urgent dental issue is identified in a child's mouth during a screening, community event, health fair, RAM event etc.
2. A protocol will be written to outline the necessary information and immunization requirements of researchers when launching a state project that involves data collection and individual protected health information.
3. Basic Screening Survey Training Continuing Education Course will be offered by the Oral Health Program through the UNLV School of Dental Medicine's Office of Continuing Education. Date to be announced.
4. State Oral Health Leadership Institute will begin in August. Dr. Capurro and a Nevada Medicaid representative will attend.
5. In-depth review of Medicaid policies and procedures as well as support for the implementation of the dental benefits administrator will be provided.
6. Results of 2017 Rural Nevada Head Start Basic Screening Survey will be analyzed and compiled.
7. Outline for Oral Health Program surveillance plan will be completed.
8. Analyze and complete paper based on 2017 workforce survey.
9. Build rural portable equipment pilot program with partners within Southern Nevada Health District.
10. Submit design for 2018 childcare facility oral health training and tooth brushing regiment.
11. Continue to build health assessment before school entrance policy.
12. Remote Area Medical mobile outreach clinic in Reno with the Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities on September 29-October 1.
13. Nevada Health Conference in Las Vegas Nov 13-15th. Tentative presentation will discuss health assessment before school entrance policy- proposal for Nevada and review of policies in place in other states and/or emergency department visits for non-traumatic dental visits in Nevada. Conference is in collaboration with Immunize Nevada.

14. Abstract submitted for Nevada Public Health Association Annual Conference September 28th and 29th. Topic: attitudes and comfort levels of dental providers to treat adults with special healthcare needs. Partners include Medical Education Council of Nevada and UNLV School of Dental Medicine's Special Care Dental Clinic.

Sincerely,
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Nevada State Dental Health Officer