

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, DPBH

Oral Health Program

Program:

The mission of the Nevada Oral Health Program is to protect, promote, and improve the oral health of the people of Nevada across their lifespan. The Oral Health Program is authorized under NRS 439.2791 to increase public knowledge and raise public awareness of the importance of oral health and to educate the residents of Nevada on matters relating to oral health, including, without limitation: 1) proper oral hygiene; 2) the factors that increase the risk of a person developing oral diseases; and 3) the prevention and treatment of oral diseases. Please refer to the Legislative Brief about the Oral Health Program for perspective on Nevada’s oral health status and needs.

In accordance with NRS 439.272 and NRS 439.279, a State Dental Health Officer and State Public Health Dental Hygienist were hired in FY17. With this addition, Nevada joins 46 other states with a “full-time dental director” (or equivalent).

Key Projects and Partnerships:

Division of Health Care Financing and Policy

RFP 3290—RFP was reviewed and revisions submitted. Six applications (~3,000 pages) were thoroughly studied and scored.

RFP 3425—RFP 3425 replaced RFP 3290 after its retraction. Verbiage of 200+ page RFP again reviewed and amended.

Medicaid Chapter 1000-Dental—Medicaid Chapter 1000 was revised and rewritten in collaboration with DHCFP to increase preventative dental services while identifying options to reduce orthodontic costs. Feedback/complaints were individually addressed in writing or via telephone calls.

State Oral Health Leadership Institute—The Center for Health Care Strategies accepted Nevada’s application for professional developmental and technical assistance to strengthen Nevada’s dental Medicaid program. The Institute will assist in producing a joint oral health transformational state project. Dr. Capurro and Mr. Zenteno will attend the Institute in October 2017.

Research—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 research study may solidify or alter the AAO Committee on Medically Necessary Orthodontic Care’s decision to standardize qualifying medically necessary criteria for orthodontic cases.

Nevada Women’s Infant and Children Program

40% of pregnant women in the US suffer from some form of oral disease whether it is periodontitis, gingivitis or active decay. (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists). The oral health of the mother is strong predictor of the dental condition of her children. Because prevention of dental disease is paramount to the health of both mother and child, the Oral Health Program entered into an 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 eligible pregnant women, infants, and children. The Oral Health Program is providing these materials to 5,000 WIC recipients in Nevada through 16 local WIC agencies which operate 45 clinic locations.

Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development

The Oral Health Program conducted an open mouth basic screening survey of 405 Head Start children in 16 Head Start sites throughout rural Nevada. This project was conducted in collaboration with the Nevada Department of Education’s Head Start Collaboration Systems Office. The primary purpose of this project was to gather data on the oral health status of Head Start children in Nevada. As part of this study, Head Start children received fluoride varnish applications and oral hygiene information and materials while parents received a resource inventory of community dental providers. Parents of children with urgent dental issues received additional information and a follow-up phone call. The results of the 2017 Head Start basic screening survey will be compared to the 2007 Nevada Head Start basic screening survey.

UNLV School of Dental Medicine’s Special Care Dental Clinic

According to Disability Rights and Resources in Nevada, “In the last ten years, Nevada has posted a 157% increase in the number of people with disabilities, compared to a 2% decrease in the nation as a whole.... In 2000, the total number of Nevadans with disabilities was estimated at 375,000.” (Disability Rights and Resources in Nevada cdclv.unlv.edu/healthnv/disabilities.html). To compound this issue, Medicaid eligible adults are not provided with routine dental care. With funding and administrative oversight from the DPBH Oral Health Program, the UNLV SDM Special Care Dental Clinic expanded hospital and non-hospital clinical 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 four successful events have been completed and an Oral Health Program representative has volunteered at each.

2017 Dental Workforce Survey

The Oral Health Program in collaboration with the DPBH Primary Care Office, the UNLV School of Dental Medicine’s Special Care Dental Clinic, and the UNR School of Medicine Office of Statewide Initiatives designed and disseminated a 2017 workforce survey to all licensed dentists and hygienists in the state (~3,000 dental professionals). The results of this study will be compared to Nevada’s 2007 workforce survey.

Additional Material Distribution:

Written Materials	11,264 copies of oral health educational materials. Of this, 4, 230 copies were written in Spanish
Oral Health Products	2,921 toothbrushes 1,283 ct 5% sodium fluoride varnish 788 tubes of toothpaste 721 boxes of dental floss
Recipients	Carson Nursing and Rehab, Ormsby Pots Acute Rehab, Mountain View Health and Rehab, F.I.S.H. (Friends in Service Helping), Community Health Nurse for Lyon County, Community Health Alliance, Dental Care International, Future Smiles, Nevada Health Centers, Southern Nevada Health District - Kids Clinic, Owyhee Community Health Facility, PACE Coalition, Rural Mental Health Program, and Carson City Health and Human Services.