

STATE OF NEVADA

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE
STATE DENTAL HEALTH OFFICER**

“Life must be lived forward, but can only be understood backwards.” Soren Kierkegaard

As we look back on the last year, the Oral Health Program has steadily moved forward through an ever-changing environment. One of our biggest developments occurred this summer when it was decided that the program should be relocated from Carson City to 3811 W. Charleston Blvd. Suite 205, Las Vegas. This resulted in the program manager’s decision to transfer to a different department. We are happy to announce that after a long search the position has been filled. Danielle Cooper will join our team on December 4th as the new Oral Health Program Manager.

The Oral Health Program has also worked with three administrative assistants this year, Kristen deBraga, Rosemary Orantes, and Alexis Craven, and has said goodbye to each as the fiscal year or grant funding ended. Through negotiations we have secured a new funding source, reopen the position, and are now interviewing potential candidates.

Our leadership team has also evolved over the past year. We are thankful for the guidance and encouragement of the program’s supervisors, Ms. Cody Phinney and Dr. John DiMuro. It was under their direction and through their shared vision that the Oral Health Program was revitalized and the Dental Health Officer and Public Health Dental Hygienist positions reinstated. Ms. Cody Phinney and Dr. John DiMuro were true friends of the program and will be missed. In their place, we welcome the new Division Administrator, Ms. Amy Roukie. We are looking forward to working with her and continuing to improve oral health in Nevada.

Transition seems to be the hallmark of this year and through that experience we have learned to remain flexible in our approach while staying steadfast in our vision. We have mastered a level of patience that is necessary to implement change. It is with great optimism that we enter the next year with a program whose infrastructure is more secure, whose stakeholders trust the program’s direction, and whose reputation is built upon our unwavering commitment to successfully complete our grant and project obligations.

However, Dr. Capurro and Ms. White cannot carry the oral health baton alone and are thankful to you, our partners, for your insight and continued support. In the spirit of informational transparency, I would like to present our latest projects and update you on our progress.

Oral Health Program Vision: To improve the oral health of underserved and marginalized populations including the elderly, adults with special healthcare needs, and rural residents through health promotion and disease prevention programs, activities, and collaborations.

2016-2017 Head Start Basic Screening Survey

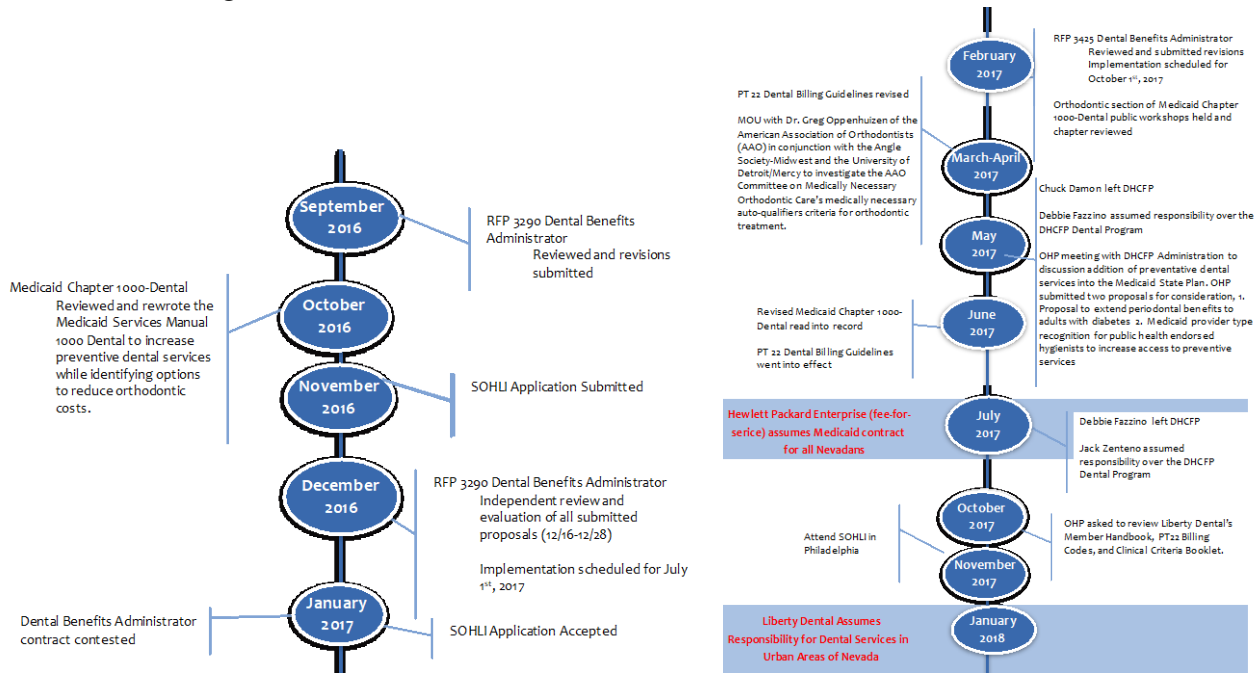
Ms. White will provide an update on the progress of the Head Start BSS project. The dataset has been successfully submitted for analysis to ASTDD.

Joint Projects with Medicaid Office

We welcome Dr. Todd Gray who will be assuming oversight of the Liberty Dental Program in Nevada.

- Liberty Dental
 - Onboarding begins January 1, 2018. The Oral Health Program will be on call to provide subject matter expertise during the first two weeks of the onboarding process.
 - The Liberty Dental Member Handbook (for enrollees) and Clinical Criteria Guidebook (for dentists) have been reviewed and revisions submitted.
- Coverage, Limitations, and Prior Authorization Requirements for the Nevada Medicaid and Nevada Check Up Dental Program Update
 - CDT codes and service limits have been reviewed and changes submitted
 - Regarding a question from the 9-8-17 AC40H meeting: D1354 is an eligible service for reimbursement in Medicaid enrollees under 21 years of age. The service limit was based ASTDD Silver Diamine Fluoride Fact Sheet and American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) guideline on the use of silver diamine fluoride which recommends re-application twice a year for sustained effect.
- State Oral Health Leadership Institute
 - Dr. Capurro and Mr. Zenteno have the support of their respective departments to attend the 12-month professional development program. The Institute will not only provide direction for Medicaid and oral health teams to develop stronger collaborative relationships, but will also assist the teams in producing a joint oral health transformational state project. The Institute began October 2017.
 - The joint pilot project is a medical-dental integration which focuses on access to dental care for pregnant women. A pivotal component of the project is the recognition by Medicaid of dental hygienists with a public health endorsement(DHPHE) as a reimbursable provider type. The DHPHE will rotate between four types of Ob-Gyn practices whose patient pool consists of at least 50% Medicaid patients: the University Medical Center's Wellness Center (to serve Ryan White women previously cared for by UNLV Nevada Care Program), an FQHC, a private Ob-Gyn office, and a midwife's office. The dental hygienist will be placed in each of these offices for a few hours a week to educate pregnant Medicaid recipients on oral health and Medicaid dental benefits, conduct a dental screening, assist in referrals to dentists, and collect data on the barriers to dental care. The project will be evaluated for success and will be potentially expanded through future WIC funding.

- Research on Orthodontic Claims Data
 - Nevada was selected to participate 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. Nevada cases are continuing to be submitted and analyzed.
- Timeline of Changes to Medicaid Dental Benefits in Nevada




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 was mailed to all Nevada dental professionals. The results of this study will be compared to Nevada’s 2007 workforce survey. The program is awaiting financial approval to launch the second mailing which is a reminder postcard.

Reminder from the State Oral Health Program

2017 Dental Professional Workforce Survey



This postcard is a follow up to a letter you should have received from Dr. DiMuro, Chief Medical Officer, asking for your participation in the Nevada 2017 Dental Workforce Survey.

If you have already completed this survey, please consider this a “thank you” for your promptness.

If the questionnaire link has been set aside to finish later, please follow the link below and complete the survey as soon as possible. We realize this is a busy time of year and appreciate your assistance in answering this survey.

Survey for Dentist:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/Dentists-2017
 Survey for Dental Hygienist:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/DentalHygienists-2017

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 had a small pool of resources available for FY 16-17. The program 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.

- The Oral Health Program has drafted an agreement to place a dental hygienist with a public health endorsement on the Southern Nevada Health District mobile health van to provide dental services throughout Southern Nevada. This agreement also contains the framework for a dental hygienist to provide services throughout the Southern Nevada Health District offices.
- Pathfinder 1 and Pathfinder 2. The Oral Health Program has taken possession of two trailers which will be used to house mobile dental equipment. While the exact structure of the program is still under legal review, the purpose of the project is to promote access to oral healthcare services for residents throughout the state. By eliminating at least one of the barriers to care in rural communities—equipment—the Oral Health Program hopes to inspire communities to identify their oral health needs and bring together local dentists and volunteers who will provide services and oversee communication with and training by the Oral Health Program.



Dental Services for Adults with Special Healthcare Needs

Although the interlocal agreement created between DPBH and UNLV School of Dental Medicine (UNLV SDM) Special Care Dental Clinic has expired, the DPBH Oral Health Program continues to support the UNLV SDM Special Care Dental Clinic which 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 four 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 November 18th and 19th.

Presentations

- Dr. Capurro and Dr. Gewelber, Director of the UNLV SDM Special Care Dental Clinic, presented a lecture on access to care for adults with special healthcare needs with an emphasis on oral health. The work completed through the interlocal agreement between OHP and UNLV SDM and preliminary results on provider attitudes and level of care available to this population from the 2017 Workforce Survey were discussed.
- Ms. White provided a lecture on the basic screening survey method for Truckee Meadows Community College hygiene students.

FY18 Memorandums of Understanding

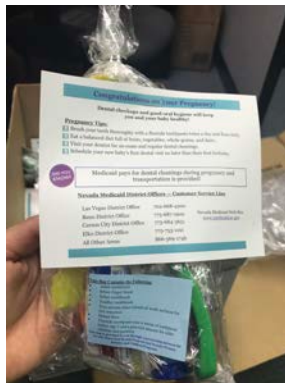
- Women, Infants, and Children's Program (WIC)
- Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH)

Nevada Women's Infant and Children Program

The Oral Health Program completed an agreement with the Nevada Women's Infant and Children's (WIC) Program to provide oral health brochures, oral hygiene supplies, community dental resource list, and educational materials for Medicaid enrollees, including pregnant women and infants. In total, the Oral Health Program provided 5,195 individually packaged oral hygiene bags. This number was based on the number of pregnant women enrolled in WIC centers throughout the 45 clinic locations in Nevada.

We would like to recognize our partners who assisted Dr. Capurro in completing 3,340 of the WIC packets. Special thanks to AC40H members, Cathie Davenport and Cathie Carriero, community hygienists, Katie Lucdetti, Ann Tillman, Annette Lincione, Lea Rudner, and Heather Rodgers, and UNLV dental students, Ryan Ellis, Justin Fang, Justin Vo, and Katherine Sonoda. Thank you for donating your time and lending a helping hand.

(Below: One of the WIC shipments, contents of a completed box, and packaging of boxes)





Birth of a Future Dentist

Special thanks to all for your kind words and generous outpouring at the birth of Nora Elouise Capurro. She has already attended a health fair and a continuing education course and is on her way to learning public health dentistry.



Attachments

- Policy for Urgent Dental Issues Identified During Community Screening
 - Statewide policy was written to guide professionals when conducting an oral health screening. This is a draft version of the policy. Comments and suggestions are welcomed. Upon administrative approval of the final policy document, a separate flowchart will be created to illustrate protocol implementation. This policy and flowchart will be made available on the Oral Health Program website.

Sincerely,
Antonina Capurro, DMD, MPH, MBA
Nevada State Dental Health Officer