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**Individually we are one drop, but together we are an ocean.**

It has been said that change is the only true constant and within the Oral Health Program that appears to be very evident. However, we have a strong group of advocates, coalition leaders, and oral health champions that encourage us to continue in our commitment to improve the oral health of the underserved and underrepresented citizens within our state. Over the last two years, the Nevada Oral Health Program has experienced several periods of transition. The Oral Health Program Manager, Ms. Cubit, was reassigned in May to work with the Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology (OPHIE), and Ms. White's position as the State Public Health Dental Hygienist was eliminated but has since been reinstated.

Under the administration of Drs. Kotchevar and Azzam, the Oral Health Program is beginning to form deeper relationships within the Division and with sister agencies. Through these collaborations, we are finding the support to remain flexible in our approach while staying steadfast in our vision and acquiring a level of ingenuity that is necessary to introduce innovative solutions.

When compared to other state oral health programs, Nevada's Oral Health Program is not unique in its challenges and in our aim to become sustainable. To this end, the internal infrastructure of the program may shift slightly as funding sources are explored. The Program has been reassured that we are an integral and valued component of the Division. Any forthcoming structural changes will be made with long-term sustainability and stability in mind and will ensure that the Program's direction aligns with both the Division and the Governor's priorities.

As we enter the next chapter in the history of the Oral Health Program, I thank 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.

## **Oral Health Program Updates Since June 1<sup>st</sup> AC4OH Meeting**

### **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.

### **Older Adults Survey**

Ms. White worked with the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance (HCQC) to develop a survey for residential care administrators that assessed their perceptions of the importance of oral health, resident access to oral health care, and staff training and resultant daily care provided. A thorough literature search was also conducted, along with conversations with states where similar surveys had recently been completed. This is part of a larger strategy to positively impact the oral health status of this population group. This strategy will be completed and discussed at the next meeting.

### **Joint Projects with Medicaid Office**

- Liberty Dental
  - Provide consultation for the management of the contract with the dental benefits administrator.
  - Review and assess access to care, utilization of services, and reporting data using quality measures endorsed by national entities.
- Periodicity Schedule
  - Examine Nevada Medicaid and CHIP dental fee schedule and payment policies against pediatric dental periodicity schedule. Provide recommendations to align dental payment policies in Nevada Medicaid and CHIP Program with established pediatric dental periodicity schedules.
- Ambulatory Surgical Centers(ASC)
  - Investigation continues to determine the impact in access to care following alignment of ASC rates with Medicare fee schedule for code 41899 in Nevada
- 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
- Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP Services Dental Association (MSDA)
  - Dr. Capurro and Ms. Tavcar attended the MSDA annual symposium in Washington, D.C. in June. The Symposium provided state Medicaid and oral health teams with a current review of policy changes within CMS, HRSA, and CDC, discussed value-based Medicaid dental programs, provided a clinical and policy perspective of silver diamine fluoride and dental sealants, and presented methods to increase efficiency in oral health service delivery.
- State Oral Health Leadership Institute
  - Dr. Capurro, Mr. Zenteno, and Ms. Shauna Tavcar completed the 12-month professional development program in July. Nevada was selected along with Medicaid and oral health teams from Rhode Island, Minnesota, and Louisiana. The Institute provided support for the Medicaid and oral health teams to develop a stronger collaborative relationship and assisted the teams in producing a joint oral health transformational state project. The Institute began October 2017 and Dr. Capurro and Ms. Tavcar provided a formal presentation on the effects of the Institute on their state systems in July.

- The joint pilot project was a medical-dental integration which focuses on access to dental care for Nevadans living in dental health professional shortage areas (HPSA) and includes a state plan amendment for Medicaid recognition of public health endorsed dental hygienists. See Medical Miles for Rural Smiles for more information on project design.
- <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/download/boh18/20180426/X-Medical-Miles-for-Rural-Smiles-Comments.pdf>
- <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news18/20180420-Southern-Nevada-Health-District-Opens-Dental-Health-Clinic.php>
- State plan amendment language which will provide official recognition of public health endorsed dental hygienists as a reimbursable Medicaid type is currently ongoing.



**Pictured:**

Ms. Shauana Tavcar, Dr. Antonina Capurro, Mr. Brandon Bueche, Ms. MeChaune Butler, Dr. Linda Maytan, (Ms. Prasida Khanal not pictured), Ms. Sadie DeCourcy, and Dr. Samuel Zwetchkenbaum

- **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. The final results of the cases submitted by Nevada and other states is currently being analyzed and results should be available soon.

**Dental Workforce Survey for 2017**

The Oral Health Program collaborated 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 was distributed to all licensed dentists and hygienists in the state. A reminder postcard with the survey link was mailed to all Nevada dental professionals in March and the survey link was published in the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners 2018 newsletter. The survey closed July 1<sup>st</sup> and current analysis of the data is underway. A full report should be available for the December AC4OH meeting.

## Community Service

### • **Special Olympics, Healthy Athletes, Special Smiles**

Since January of 2017, the Oral Health Program has worked with Dr. Civon Gewelber, Director of the UNLV Special Care Dental Clinic, to strengthen her program and expand dental services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the state. As part of our collaboration, Dr. Gewelber completed the training required to become Nevada's first Special Olympics, Special Smiles Director and brought oral health into the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program in Nevada. The Oral Health Program has volunteered at each event and will continue to build our relationship with both Dr. Gewelber and Special Olympics.

- Ms. White attended the July Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle. These events are held every four years.
- Special Olympics, Special Smiles Event in Reno, Nevada June 2
  - Special Thanks to all the volunteers and Oral Health Nevada who provided valuable oral health visuals and take-home information to the athletes at the Special Olympics event in Reno.
  - 86 Special Olympic athletes received services ranging from a dental screening, fluoride varnish application, oral hygiene instruction, oral hygiene supplies, and an opportunity to play a fun oral health matching game for a chance to win one of ten electric toothbrush prizes.



### **Pictured:**

Dr. Richard Reich, Ms. Wendy Cook, Dr. Civon Gewelber, Dr. Antonina Capurro, Ms. Angie Cook, Ms. Kristin Milis, Ms. Malia Milis, Ms. Syd McKenzie, Ms. Caryn Solie, Ms. Jenniffer Guinn, Ms. Abigail Guinn, Ms. Judy White(not pictured).



- **Tonopah Social Services Fair, July 27<sup>th</sup>**

The Medical Miles for Rural Smiles team was invited to be a part of the Tonopah Social Services Fair. As the funding period for the project had ended, Dr. Amy Tongsir, Nevada Dental Director for Liberty Dental Plan, offered to support the trip. Dr. Amy Tongsir, Dr. Antonina Capurro, and Ms. Anita Garcia traveled to Tonopah to join DHCFP, DPBH, and other social service organizations in providing information and services to local residents.

The trip successfully delivered 13 preventive dental sealants, 6 fluoride varnishes, 6 dental screenings, 5 periodontal assessments, 6 dental cleanings, oral cancer screenings, oral health and nutritional information, Medicaid enrollment paperwork, and oral hygiene supplies. Due to the shortage of both supplies and personnel, 5 patients completed paperwork but were unable to be seen.



- **Medical Miles for Rural Smiles**

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) - Oral Health Program (OHP) in partnership with the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) are visiting Esmeralda, Nye, and White Pine Counties to much needed dental services and immunizations to rural communities in Southern Nevada. The team consists of Antonina Capurro, DMD, MPH, MBA, Nevada State Dental Health Officer, Jessica Woods, RDH, Public Health Dental Hygienist, Sarah Lugo, MSN, RN, Senior Community Health Nurse, Judith Flores, RN, Community Health Nurse II, Lizette Enzenauer, Senior Administrative Assistant II, and Lester Rossi-Boudreaux-Thibodeaux, Administrative Assistant.

**The following trips were completed this quarter:**

- June 5<sup>th</sup> Mesquite
- June 13-15<sup>th</sup> Beatty, Goldfield, and Tonopah
- June 18<sup>th</sup> Ely
- June 26<sup>th</sup> Pahrump

During the three-month rural clinic project 11 clinic sessions were held and the team successfully delivered 219 preventive dental sealants, 117 fluoride varnishes, 121 dental screenings, 16 dental cleanings, oral cancer screenings, oral health and nutritional information, Medicaid enrollment paperwork, and oral hygiene supplies. In addition, oral hygiene education, nutritional information, and dental health education was provided to 131 students at McGill Elementary School. Nutrition, oral hygiene information, and oral hygiene supplies including denture cleaning kits were provided for 50 seniors in Ely. 1 emergency intervention and parent consultation for Division of Child and Family Services was provided in McGill and 1 emergency incision and drainage was provided for an adult patient in Tonopah.

Additionally, 102 immunizations were provided to 57 clients.

Needs assessment data is still being analyzed. However, preliminary data indicates that more than half of the patients traveled over 100 miles for healthcare access, and all participants ranked dental care and access to chronic diseases services as their number one priority.

Project updates have been presented to the Board of County Commissioners in Esmeralda, Nye, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties by Drs. Capurro and Iser and Ms. Budahl. In addition, discussions continue with Public Health Officers, County Health Nurses, and local officials to explore innovative methods that will lead to an expansion of medical and dental services to these counties.

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<b>Medical Miles for Rural Smiles, Rural Mobile Health Clinic Collaborative with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Oral Health Program and the Southern Nevada Health District, April-June 2018 (11 treatment days) Report Card</b>							
<b>Dental Service Locations</b>	<b>No. of Clients</b>	<b>No. of Screenings</b>	<b>No. of Fluoride Varnish</b>	<b>No. of Sealants</b>	<b>Cleanings</b>	<b>Other Services</b>	<b>Additional Services from Community Providers</b>
Tonopah-04/09/2018	16	16	15	43	n/a		
Goldfield-04/10/2018	15	15	15	57	n/a		
Pahrump-04/11/2018	21	21	20	15	n/a		
Ely 05/22/2018	7	7	7	15	n/a		
McGill 05/23/2018	4	4	4	7	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 emergency parent consultation for DCFS</li> <li>• Nutrition and oral hygiene instruction to 131 children</li> </ul>	
Mesquite 06/05/2018	2	2	2	0	n/a		
Beatty 06/13/2018	10	10	10	37	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Periodontal Assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optical Exams: 7</li> </ul>
Goldfield 06/14/2018	6	6	6	4	n/a		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optical Exams: 3</li> </ul>
Tonopah 06/15/2018	17*	11	13	6	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Periodontal Assessments;</li> <li>• 1 incision/drainage</li> <li>• 6 pts returning</li> <li>• 5 no shows</li> <li>• 3 same day cleaning and screening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optical Exams: 10</li> </ul>
Ely 06/18/2018	4	4	3	0	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition and oral hygiene instruction to 50 seniors</li> </ul>	
Pahrump 6/26/2018	27	25	22	35	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 returning patients</li> </ul>	

						• 1 same day screening and cleaning	
Total	129	121	117	219	16		

**Dental Services**

**\*6 clients were returning clients from the last Rural Mobile Health Clinic held in April and May 2018**

**\*\*cleanings were only provided for the June trip**

**\*\*\* 14 Fluorides administered by RN**

**Immunization Services**

	No. of Clients	No. of Vaccines	Notes
Tonopah 04/09/2018	12	19	11 50+ yo, 1 child
Goldfield 04/10/2018	3	6	3 50+ yo
Pahrump 04/11/2018	6	8	5 50+ yo, 1 child
Ely 05/22/2018	6	9	All adults; 5 insured, 1 uninsured
Beatty 06/13/2018	8	14	All adults; 7 insured, 1 uninsured
Goldfield 06/14/2018	6	10	All adults; 6 insured, 0 uninsured
Tonopah 06/15/2018	9	18	All adults; 7 insured, 2 uninsured
Ely 06/18/2018	7	18	All adults; 4 insured, 3 uninsured
Total	57	102	

**\*7 clients were returning patients from the last Rural Mobile Health Clinic held in April and May 2018**

Vaccines Administered	No. of Vaccines
DTaP	1
Hep A, Adult	4
Hep A, Ped	2
Hep B Adult	3
Twinrix- (Hep A/ Hep B)	8
Hib	1
HPV	2
Influenza, Quad	1
MMR	1
Meningococcal- MCV4	1
Meningococcal- MenB	1
PCV 13	11
Pneumo 23	1
Tdap	22
Td	1
Shingrix	42
Total	102



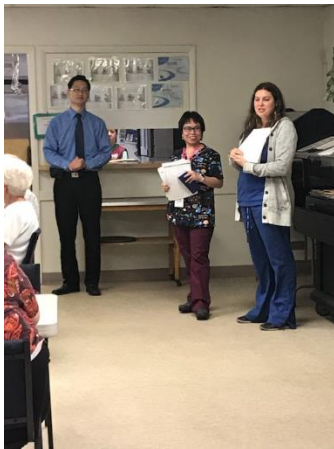
The SNHD-DHHS, DPBH, OHP rural trips are supported in part by the Esmeralda, Nye, and White Pine Board of County Commissioners, Nye County Stakeholders, NyE Community Coalition, Maureen Budahl, Nye County Health Officer, Beth Ennis, Nye and Esmeralda County Community Health Nurse, Elaine Minges, Nye and Esmeralda County Community Health Worker, Lacey Balch, White Pine Chief District Nurse, and Dr. David Byun, White Pine Public Health Officer.



**Goldfield, NV**



**Pahrump, NV**



**Ely, NV and Presentation to Senior Community Center**



**Tonopah, NV**



**Ely, NV**



**Presentation to Elementary School in McGill**



### **Oral Health Program Preceptorships**

- Cathie Carrierro—completed a Master in Education degree at UNLV. She worked with the Program to research oral health training modules being used by WIC clinics across the nation and proposed methods to enhance the oral health training for WIC staff in Nevada.
- Heidi Longi—completed a dual Doctorate of Dental Medicine and Master in Public Health degree at UNLV. Her capstone project focused on designing and implementing a national study and survey on health assessment before school entrance policies.
- Jessica Woods—completed a Master of Public Health degree from AT Stills. Her work within the rural mobile clinic project was part of her capstone project.
- Marcin Chmiel—completing a Masters in Public Health at UNR. Project will focus on water fluoridation in Nevada.

### **Grant Applications**

- CDC-RFA-18-1810 “State Actions to Improve Oral Health Outcomes”
  - Five-year, \$370,000 per year grant
  - Purpose: Assist States in decreasing dental caries, oral health disparities, and other chronic diseases comorbid with poor oral health through implementation of school sealant programs, support for community water fluoridation, and application of an oral health surveillance plan.
  - Submitted May 3, 2018
  - CDC response received August 17<sup>th</sup> (Please see attached)

### **Upcoming Legislation**

- **Dental Services Bill**  
Dr. Capurro and Dr. Talley are working with Assemblywoman Neal as she creates a bill to expand Medicaid dental services for adult patients in Nevada.
- **Workforce Survey Requirement for Professional Licensing Boards**  
Identified licensing boards include those that license medical, nursing, dental, and mental health professionals

### **Upcoming Speaking Engagements**

- Nevada Public Health Association Annual Conference September 26-27, Dr. Capurro and Ms. Jessica Woods
- 2018 Nevada Health Conference October 15-16, Dr. Capurro and Ms. Jessica Woods
- Tentative Basic Screening Survey training for Community Health Alliance, Ms. Judy White

### **FY 19 Strategic Planning Session**

Please see attached document for discussion.

Activities workplan to follow

#### **Priorities identified as relevant:**

- Rural access to health
- Opioids and methamphetamines
- Education and Services to schools
- Emergency room use for non-traumatic dental issues
- Older adults

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- Behavioral health

**The Oral Health Program was directed to focus on providing:**

- National and state oral health reports
- Oral health education to other state departments
- Oral health information and updates to the Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health (AC4OH)
- Clinical leadership, program development, and health policy formation and implementation for the state Medicaid program

**Attachments**

- **Nassir Notes**  
Report highlights the work being done by school-based sealant delivery programs throughout the state. The caseload history of Community Health Alliance, Seal Nevada South, and Future Smiles were included in this report.
- **CDC-RFA-18-1810 Abstract and Decision Letter**
- **Oral Health Program FY19 Goals and Activities**
- **Upcoming Enrichment and Volunteer Opportunities**

Sincerely,

Antonina Capurro, DMD, MPH, MBA

Nevada State Dental Health Officer