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"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have." —Margaret Mead

Over the last two years, the Nevada Oral Health Program has experienced several periods of transition. Through an ever-changing environment, the Program has learned to remain flexible in its approach while staying steadfast in its vision and acquiring a level of ingenuity that is necessary to introduce innovative solutions. The Program team became complete on February 26<sup>th</sup> when Danielle Cubit became the new Health Program Specialist. In May, the Program took another large step forward when Deputy Administrator, Duane Young, provided the Program with a daylong strategic planning session to better align the Program's roles and responsibilities with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health's strategy to improve health in Nevada.

Unfortunately, financial constraints expected in fiscal year '19, lead to a high-level deliberation on the future of the Oral Health Program which resulted in a decision to eliminate the Public Health Dental Hygienist position effective June 30, 2018. In addition, Ms. Cubit will now be working within the Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology (OPHIE) and reporting directly to Deputy Administrator, Julia Peek. The Program has been reassured that these are not decisions that have been made lightly, and that the new structure will result in long-term sustainability and structure that align 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 May 3<sup>rd</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.

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

We welcome Shauna Tavcar who has assumed the Social Services Program Specialist III – Dental position.

- 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 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
- 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 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>
- 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.

### **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 reminder postcard with the survey link was mailed to all Nevada dental professionals. The survey link will also be published in the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners 2018 newsletter. The survey will close in June and the results of this study will be compared to Nevada's 2007 workforce survey.

#### **Survey for Dentist:**

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/Dentists-2017](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Dentists-2017)

#### **Survey for Dental Hygienist:**

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/DentalHygienists-2017](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DentalHygienists-2017)

### **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, Lincoln, 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, and Lizette Enzenauer, Senior Administrative Assistant II.

#### **April 9-11<sup>th</sup> trip to Goldfield and Tonopah:**

The trip successfully delivered 115 preventive dental sealants, 51 fluoride varnishes, 52 dental screenings, oral cancer screenings, oral health and nutritional information, Medicaid enrollment paperwork, and oral hygiene supplies. In addition, 33 immunizations were provided to 21 clients.

#### **May 21-23<sup>rd</sup> trip to Ely and McGill:**

The trip successfully delivered oral hygiene education, nutritional information, and dental health education to 131 students at McGill Elementary School. Additionally, 22 preventive dental sealants, 11 fluoride varnishes, 11 dental screenings, oral cancer screenings, oral health and nutritional information, Medicaid enrollment paperwork, oral hygiene supplies, and 1 emergency intervention and parent consultation for Division of Child and Family Services were provided. Furthermore, immunizations were provided to 7 patients. On the second day of the trip, the team also spoke to small group classes at McGill Elementary School and provided oral hygiene instruction, nutritional information, oral hygiene supplies, and oral health coloring story books to the entire school.

#### **Tentative Upcoming Trip Schedule:**

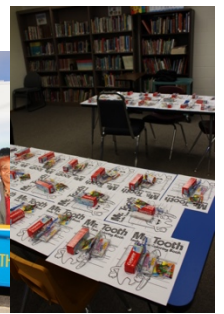
- a. June 5th Mesquite (immunizations, dental exams, sealants, fluoride varnish, oral cancer screenings, OHI)
- b. June 13th Beatty (immunizations, dental exams, sealants, fluoride varnish, oral cancer screenings, OHI)
- c. June 14th Goldfield (immunizations, dental exams, sealants, fluoride varnish, oral cancer screenings, OHI)

- d. June 15th Wellness Fair in Tonopah (scheduled cleanings and depending on the number of providers, walk-in dental exams, sealants, varnish, immunizations, blood pressure checks, vision screenings, tables with social services information)
- e. June 18th Pioche (immunizations, dental exams, sealants, fluoride varnish, oral cancer screenings, OHI)
- f. June 19th Ely (immunizations, dental exams, sealants, fluoride varnish, oral cancer screenings, OHI)
- g. June 20<sup>th</sup> McGill (immunizations, dental exams, sealants, fluoride varnish, oral cancer screenings, OHI)
- h. June 26th Pahrump (immunizations, dental exams, sealants, fluoride varnish, oral cancer screenings, OHI)

Needs assessment data is still being collected and analyzed.

After a strong program launch, the partners envision expanding the number and types of services and intend to broaden established service areas. It is the program's hope that this charter project will be used as proof of concept to establish funding sources for permanent continuation as well as recruitment of additional licensed dental and medical staff.

*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.*



### **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 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 2018 dental and dental hygiene graduate at the UNLV School of Dental Medicine, Truckee Meadows Community College, and the College of Southern Nevada. In addition, Dr. Capurro and Ms. White spoke at the 2018 College of Southern Nevada Dental Hygiene Program graduation ceremony and then presented students with certificates of commendation.

### **Grant Applications**

- HRSA 18-014 "Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities".
  - Four-year, \$400,000 grant
  - Purpose: Increase availability of sustainable oral health services for populations living in Dental Professional Shortage Areas (DPSAs) through workforce development.
  - Submitted March 12, 2018
- CDC-RFA-18-1810 "State Actions to Improve Oral Health Outcomes"
  - Five-year, \$370,000 grant
  - Purpose: Assist States in decreasing dental caries, oral health disparities, and other chronic diseases co-morbid 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

### **FY19 Memorandums of Understanding**

- Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH)

### **2018 Strategic Planning Session**

#### **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
- 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
- and

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- Completing in-progress projects such as State Oral Health Leadership Institute, Medical Miles for Rural Smiles, 2017 Workforce Survey, 2017 Head Start Rural Basic Screening Survey, American Fluoridation Society's Community Water Fluoridation Training Corps.

Sincerely,

Antonina Capurro, DMD, MPH, MBA

Nevada State Dental Health Officer