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

*“You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated.”* Maya Angelou  
*“Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.”* Dale Carnegie

As the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and the 2019 fiscal year come to a close, it is a time of reflection for the Oral Health Program(OHP). Since the last AC4OH meeting, Ms. Chartier 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.

Despite the renewed comradery found this quarter, this has also been a period of great uncertainty and disappointment. In April, our respected and gracious Administrator, Dr. Kotchevar, resigned from her position with the Division. Dr. Kotchevar was a true friend of the Program and an advocate for health care reform in the state. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors. In her place, we welcome the new Interim Administrator, Lisa Sherych.

Additionally, due to financial hardships, the school-based sealant programs in Washoe and Lyon Counties administered by Community Health Alliance and Future Smiles respectively were discontinued. The Oral Health Program intends to support Community Health Alliance, Healthy Smiles, Healthy Child, and Healthy Communities Coalition to bring these services back to underserved and vulnerable children in Northern Nevada.

Furthermore, despite Program funding for fiscal year 20 and 21 being submitted as part of the Division budget, during Legislative review the funding source for fiscal year 21 was removed. The Program has been tasked with finding sustainable funding sources to continue operation or may face restructuring in twelve months. For the past three years, the Program has applied for multiple grant opportunities; nevertheless, in order for oral health to be sustainable in Nevada, the Oral Health Program needs a five-year history of effective projects, impact, and outcomes along with data on the burden of oral disease in the state to share with private and federal funders. Typically, private donors provide support that enables innovative projects to reach a new level of success. The Medical Miles for Rural Smiles is one example, which has garnered interest from private dental companies. Over the next year, the Oral Health Program will explore innovative funding streams and build its oral health surveillance plan with an aspiration to launch an open-mouth survey of third grade students in 2020.

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



*Helping People --  
It's Who We Are And What We Do*

**Oral Health Program Mission:** To protect, promote, and improve the oral health of the people of Nevada.  
**Core Values:** Integrity, Compassionate Care, Innovation, Quality, and Hard Work.

**80th Legislative Session**

Dr. Capurro and Ms. Chartier attended the Nevada Dental Association Legislative Day on February 27<sup>th</sup> and the Community Coalition for Oral Health Legislative Day with Northern Nevada Dental Coalition for Underserved Populations and Oral Health Nevada on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.



**Pictured:** Local dentists, members of the Nevada Dental Association, and the State Oral Health Program met with Governor Sisolak at the 2019 NDA Legislative Day.



**Pictured:** Wendy Madson (Healthy Communities Coalition); Elizabeth Chartier and Antonnina Capurro (NV State Oral Health Program); Lancette VanGuilder (NDHA); Patti Sanford (NDHA, TMCC); Cassandra Klein, Sakura Brandon, Erica Ortega (TMCC students, SADHA); Caryn Solie and Syd McKenzie (NDHA) at the 2019 Oral Health Legislative Day.

Bills being reviewed and tracked:

<b>AB-223</b>	<b>Assemblywoman Neal</b> Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to seek a federal waiver to provide certain dental care for persons with diabetes.	Amended and passed as amended. Currently heard by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.
<b>AB-225</b>	<b>Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor</b>	Failed Deadline of Friday, April 12, 2019. (Pursuant to Joint Standing

	Revises provisions relating to health insurance.	Rule No. 14.3.1, no further action allowed.)
<b>AB-239</b>	<b>Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services</b> Revises provisions relating to controlled substances.	Amended and passed as amended.
<b>AB-310</b>	<b>Assemblyman Frierson</b> Revises provisions regarding the manner in which prescriptions are given to pharmacies.	Amended and passed as amended.
<b>AB-487</b>	<b>Assembly Committee on Ways and Means</b> Makes an appropriation to the Department of Veterans Services to provide financial assistance and support for the Adopt a Vet Dental Program.	Currently heard by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.
<b>SB-171</b>	<b>Senator Hardy</b> Provides for the collection of information from certain providers of health care.	Amended and passed as amended. Currently heard by the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee
<b>SB-130</b>	<b>Senator Woodhouse</b> Provides for the licensing and regulation of certain persons who administer radiation.	Dental Hygienist, dental assistant or qualified dental technician removed from the bill. Amended and passed as amended.
<b>SB-187</b>	<b>Senators Denis, Goicoechea, Harris, and Settlemeyer and Assemblyman Roberts</b> Revises provisions governing prescriptions for controlled substances by a dentist, optometrist or physician for the treatment of pain.	Amended and passed as amended.
<b>SB-366</b>	<b>Senator Ratti</b> Establishes provisions relating to dental therapy.	Amended and passed as amended. Currently heard by the Senate Finance Committee.

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

We welcome Robyn Gonzalez who will be joining Ms. Tavcar within the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) for Managed Care and Quality-Dental.

- **Medicaid Chapter 1000 Dental**

Dr. Capurro and Ms. Tavcar are collaborated in reviewing and rewriting the Medicaid Services Manual 1000 Dental. The goal of the revision is to increase preventative dental services while identifying areas to reduce redundancies and clarify the intent of the chapter.

- **Medicaid Dental Benefit Schedule**

Dr. Capurro, Dr. Tongsiri, and Ms. Tavcar collaborated to analyze the coverage, limitations, and prior authorization requirements for the Nevada Medicaid and Nevada Check Up Dental Program. CDT codes and service limits have been reviewed and the fiscal impact is currently being evaluated.

- **CPT 41899**

In April, DHCFP increased the reimbursement rate of CPT 41899, ‘Other Procedures on the Dentoalveolar Structures’. The Oral Health Program is conducting an analysis to understand the impact the rate change has had on access to dental services.

- **AB223**

The Oral Health Program is thankful for the leadership and support of Assemblywoman Dina Neal in sponsoring AB223 to expand Medicaid dental benefits for adults with diabetes. Dr. Capurro co-authored and co-presented the bill with Assemblywoman Neal. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/6387/Overview>

- **UMC ER Redirect Project**

OHP has recently collaborated with Liberty Dental Plan and University Medical Center of Southern Nevada to redirect non-traumatic dental conditions within the emergency department and refer for definitive dental care. The project team provided a formal presentation to the April meeting of the Nevada Medical Care Advisory Committee. The presentation was well received.

### **OHP Project Report**

- **Nevada Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health**

Salary savings from a position funded by the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant has been reallocated to launch the Rural Southern Nevada Expectant Mother Medicaid Dental Access Program. The project goals are:

- ✓ to create an innovative method to educate expecting mothers on the importance of oral health while also providing medical clearance for dental treatment
- ✓ to provide case management to connect patient's to a dental home
- ✓ to develop healthcare networks in the community to promote better access to and understanding of oral health care needs of rural patients, and
- ✓ to develop dental educational modules targeting the engagement of interdisciplinary groups of health professionals.

- **Basic Screening Survey for Licensed Childcare Centers in Rural Nevada**

A proposal has been submitted to the Department of Education for FY20 to launch a non-invasive open-mouth basic screening survey, create educational webinars, and build classroom toothbrush stations and protocols for licensed childcare centers throughout rural Nevada. The data collected as a part of this project will be compared to the 2017 Head Start BSS to better understand what health disparities and educational opportunities exist in rural Nevada.

- **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 2019 dental/dental hygiene graduate at the UNLV School of Dental Medicine, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), and the College of Southern Nevada (CSN). A formal presentation was made by Dr. Capurro and Ms. Chartier at the CSN Dental Hygiene Pinning Ceremony for the Class of 2019.





## Growth

### • Grant Applications

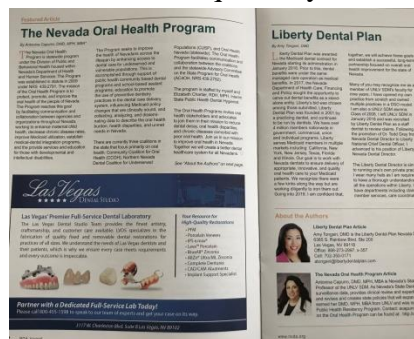
- **HRSA 19-031**, Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part C Capacity Development Program, a one-year \$150,000 grant to build organizational infrastructure. OHP was a grant contributor and the application was submitted by the Southern Nevada Health District.
- **HRSA 19-025**, Rural Health Network Development Planning Program, a one-year \$100,000 grant to increase the availability of health care services in medically underserved communities in rural Nevada through network development of critical access hospitals and community partners was submitted in November. OHP was a grant contributor and member of the staffing plan. The application was submitted by the PACE Coalition and the funding decision was released in May. Although the application scored high, it was not selected for funding.
- **Dental Trade Alliance Foundation**, a one-year ~\$25,000 grant to fund a Rural Norther Nevada Expectant Mother Medicaid Dental Access Program for Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Eureka, Lander, Mineral, Lyon, Pershing, and Humboldt Counties was submitted by OHP in May.
- **Mountain West CTR-IN**, a one-year, \$66,000 grant to fund a collaborative medical-dental research project to identify the relationship between food insecurity and food deserts in Las Vegas on the oral health and overall health of patients with diabetes. OHP was a grant contributor and co-investigator. The application was submitted by the PI, Dr. Izuora, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the UNLV School of Medicine.

### • Guest Lecture

Dr. Capurro provided a presentation on the Nevada Oral Health Program to Den 7255-Dental Public Health Research and Practice, a course for second year dental students at UNLV SDM.

### • Publications

- Dr. Capurro prepared an article on the history and direction of OHP for the Spring 2019 Nevada Dental Association Journal. The article was published in the spring edition. The Program plans to submit an article that highlights program activities on a quarterly basis for publication.



- Dr. Capurro created an article on the Medical Miles for Rural Smiles program that was published in the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada monthly newsletter. The article can be accessed at: [http://issuu.com/umcmarketing/docs/the\\_pulse](http://issuu.com/umcmarketing/docs/the_pulse)

- **Abstracts**

- **American Public Health Association 2019 Annual Meeting and Expo**

Dr. Capurro scored presentation abstracts on oral health topics for the American Public Health Association 2019 Annual Meeting and Expo to ensure the presentations successfully contribute to the NPHA’s goal of making the U.S. the healthiest nation in one generation.

- **American Dental Education Association 2020 Annual Session and Expo**

Dr. Capurro scored presentation abstracts on oral health topics for the ADEA 2020 Annual Session and Expo to ensure the presentations successfully contribute to ADEA’s goal to address contemporary issues influencing education, research, and the delivery of oral health care for overall health and safety of the public.

- **Nevada Primary Care Association 2019 Annual Conference**

Presentation abstract titled, “Pilot Emergency Room Redirect for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions Utilizing Teladentistry”

- **2019 Nevada Public Health Annual Conference**

Presentation abstract titled, “Medicaid Dental Benefits Evolve to Tackle Chronic Health Conditions in Nevada through AB223”

- **2019 Nevada Health Conference**

Presentation abstract titled, “Emergency Room Redirect Pilot Program Using Teladentistry”

## People

- **State Public Health Dental Hygienist**

Interviews for the State Public Health Dental Hygienist position have been completed and an offer letter will be mailed in June. The part-time Interim State Public Health Dental Hygienist, Ms. Elizabeth Chartier, currently staffs the position. The Oral Health Program is thankful for Ms. Chartier’s leadership and dedication to dental public health.

- **OHP Interns**

Marcin Chmiel is completing a master’s degree in public health at University of Nevada, Reno. His project focuses on water fluoridation in Nevada, and he is working with OHP to update state water fluoridation levels through the CDC’s online Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS) and is completing WFRS online training.

- **American Dental Association 10 Under 10 Award**

Dr. Capurro was named by the ADA as a winner of the 10 Under 10 award which “honors new dentists making their mark on the profession”. <https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2019-archive/march/10-under-10-awards-recognizing-dentistrys-brightest-rising-stars>

- **Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health (AC4OH)**

Welcome new AC4OH members. We look forward to working with you to improve oral health in Nevada.

## Service

- **Dental Smile Packages for Rural Community Health Nurses**

The Oral Health Program is dedicated to aiding community health nurses that offer oral health educational and fluoride varnish application to patients throughout Nevada. Dental smile packages containing oral hygiene products, fluoride varnish, and oral health educational brochures were mailed to support the

essential public health services provided by community health nurses in rural counties. Each dental smile package serves 100 patients.

Product	Amount shipped
Toothbrushes (Colgate - 360 Whole Mouth Clean)	475
Toothpaste (Colgate - Total Clean Mint Paste)	500
Floss (Colgate - Total Dental Floss)	275
Varnish (Colgate - PreviDent Varnish)	425
Baby toothbrushes (Colgate - Smiles My First Baby Soft Toothbrushes)	48
Fluoride Varnish Oral Health Brochure	450
Brushing Techniques Oral Health Brochure	100
Love Your Teeth Coloring Book	100
Your Child's First Visit to the Dentist Brochure	250
Training Cups & Preventing Tooth Decay Brochure	50
A Healthy Smile for Your Baby Brochure	500
Keeping my Teeth Healthy Booklet (20 English, 5 Spanish)	25
A Healthy Mouth for Your Baby Booklet	125
Colgate – Free Patient Sample Bags	720



- **National Oral Health Conference (NOHC)**

NOHC collaborated with the Women’s Foundation for Greater Memphis on a community service project as part of their Vision 2020 strategy to provide school and oral hygiene supplies to families in the Memphis area. OHP contributed 200 adult toothbrushes to support this project in Shelby County.

- **Special Olympics, Special Smiles**

- **March 9<sup>th</sup>:** The Oral Health Program joined UNLV School of Dental Medicine to provide oral hygiene instruction, dental screenings, and oral hygiene kits to Special Olympics athletes at the spring basketball game in Las Vegas.



○ **Special Olympics Clinical Director Training:**

Dr. Capurro joined health professionals from across the country to complete clinical director training for the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program. Healthy Athletes offers health screenings and education to Special Olympic athletes in eight areas (podiatry, physical therapy, health promotion, audiology, sports physicals, vision, emotional well-being, and dentistry). Special Smiles is the dental division. The Global Clinical Advisors for Special Smiles are Dr. Steve Perlman and Dr. Allen Wong. Dr. Wong conducted the clinical director training for Dr. Capurro.



**Pictured:**  
Alicia Grady,  
Ann Marie Magill,  
Allen Wong, Miran Ho,  
Antonina Capurro, and  
Mai-Ly Duong

- **May 31<sup>st</sup>:** The Oral Health Program joined a team of dental professionals to screen 101 Special Olympic athletes to provide oral hygiene instruction, mouth guards, dental assessments, and oral hygiene kits during the Special Olympics Nevada Annual Summer Games in Reno. Thank you to all our volunteers!



**Pictured:** Beth Chartier, Xenia Pyne, Allen Wong, Cicon Gewelber, Kerry Handon, Antonina Capurro, Gemma Ramirez, Jaime Valencia  
**Not Pictured:** Julie Stage-Rosenberg, Guadelupe Lopez, Christine Jacintoc, and Iris Soriano



**Pictured:** Julie Stage-Rosenberg, Antonina Capurro, Cicon Gewelber, Christine Jacintoc, and Iris Soriano





Two athletes won grand prizes at the evening's opening ceremony. Each winner received an Oral-B electric toothbrush bundle.  
**Congratulations!**

- **September 2019:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Las Vegas Health Fair. Come and support Special Smiles. The event will be held on: September 14<sup>th</sup>  
At: Opportunity Village-Engelstad Campus, 6050 S. Buffalo Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89113  
From: 11am to 3pm.  
**We hope to see you there!**

#### **Oral Health Program Projected Plans for FY20**

1. Promote sustainability including pursuing and securing FY21 and future funding for the Oral Health Program.
2. Build Nevada Oral Health Program infrastructure and capacity.
3. Create the framework of an oral health surveillance plan.
4. Oversee implementation of new legislation that is specific to chronic diseases comorbid with poor oral health and provide pertinent education to legislators to improve dental public health legislation in Nevada.
5. Educate to promote the use of preventive dentistry practices into the dental care delivery system, to increase utilization of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT), and to provide clinical expertise to the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy.
6. Collaborate with existing systems, programs, and sister agencies to improve access to care for individuals in dental health professional shortage areas.
7. Expand the reach of oral health messaging on decay prevention and evidence based oral health practices for children, children and youth with special healthcare needs, adolescents, and women of childbearing age.
8. Timely and accurate completion and submission of pertinent reports and documents; monitoring program expenditures; and performing other program management activities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Antonina Capurro, DMD, MPH, MBA  
Nevada State Dental Health Officer