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**Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health Meeting Minutes**

Date and Time of Meeting: Friday, November 18, 2022

Name of Organization: State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP)

Place Meeting: Microsoft Teams

**I. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Dr. Lisa Collier called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Dr. Lisa Collier asked for roll call. A quorum was established at 9:09 AM.

**Committee Members Present**

Dr. Lisa Collier  
Dr. Whitney Bryant  
Ms. Terri Chandler  
Dr. Catherine McCarthy  
Dr. Bryce Putnam  
Ms. Lynn Short  
Dr. Jose Cucalon Calderon  
Dr. Tara Van Orden  
Ms. Jessica Woods  
Dr. Tina Brandon Abbatangelo

**Excused**

Ms. Breana Taylor

**Department of Health and Human Services Staff**

Tanya Benitez- Social Services Program Specialist 2 DHCFP  
Jannette Gomez- Nevada Public Health Dental Hygienist, Oral Health Program DPBH  
Robyn Gonzalez- Social Services Specialist I, DHCFP  
Dr. Antonina Capurro- Deputy Administrator, DCHFP  
Dr. Keith Benson- Dental Officer, DHCFP

**Public Participants**

Ben Prohaska, PA  
Lindsay Littlefield  
Dr. Afshin Arian  
Dr. Maryam Tabrizi

**2. Public comment**

No public comment.

**3. Review and possible approval of meeting minutes from August 19, 2022 – Action Item**

Dr. Lisa Collier called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes from August 19, 2022, Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health on the State Program for Oral Health meeting. A motion to approve the draft minutes as presented was provided by Dr. Whitney Bryant and a second was provided by Dr. Tara Van Orden. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Update of Oral Health Program, including the Nevada Oral Health State Plan, the operations plan for the Oral Health State Plan, and current projects. Informational – Jannette Gomez, Nevada Public Health Dental Hygienist, Division of Public and Behavioral Health**

Jannette Gomez, states that the state plan is waiting on approval from administration. Once administration has approved the state plan it can be posted on the website and be available to the public. This is expected to be complete by the next AC4OH meeting in February. Jannette's supervisor recommended that the state plan should include an evaluation plan. Sahira Khalid, a contractor with the CDC Foundation and an employee of DHCFP is going to help Jannette develop the evaluation plan that will be complete by the next AC4OH meeting. Once the state plan is approved, the AC4OH committee and the Oral Health Program can start addressing objectives. Jannette stated that all the documents for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Basic Screen Survey have been developed and schools have been invited to participate, scheduling of schools will be occurring over the next few months. Jannette will be sending out the 2023 AC4OH meeting links for February 18, May 19, August 18 and November 17 within the next week so committee members can have it on their calendars.

Dr. Lisa Collier asked Jannette what is an evaluation plan?

Jannette Gomez stated that an evaluation tracks the progress of the program, how it worked, successes and barriers of the program and the outcomes of the program.

**5. Introduction of Nevada Dental Officer. Dr. Keith Benson, and questions for Dr. Benson- Informational- Dr. Benson**

Dr. Benson stated, I have spoken to many of you. I was born and raised in Carson City. Attended dental school at UNLV in 2010, worked at a rural FQHC in New Mexico and had an opportunity to build that clinic. I worked at the Department of Corrections in Carson. My background is serving the prison population, and they get more services than Medicaid enrollees. When this opportunity came up, I thought I could make a difference. The Oral Health Program is moving to the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, we are still working on that. Some of my goals are to develop a sustainable funding source. We need a surveillance and data plan, and we need assets and help in Nevada. We can all partner to do that. I am funded 70% by Medicaid, a lot of my priorities are there. IF you have any questions let me know. I hope I can be helpful and fill any gaps.

Dr. Maryam Tabrizi stated you have done a lot of public health dentistry. How efficient is the geriatric data? So we can identify gaps for funding.

Dr. Benson replied, I do not have resources for the geriatric community. I know there is a need, but I don't have the data.

Dr. Van Orden stated that the ADA is against including geriatric population in Medicare funding, it is a big issue within the ADA, across the country and here.

Dr. Abbatangelo asked are there plans to meet with Governor Lombardo and team?

Dr. Benson replied, I do not have any specific plans myself, but my leadership will be a part of it

Dr. Collier stated, we should make the governor aware of the committee, let him know we are here, maybe he could be a collaborator

A motion to draft an introduction letter to the Governor from the AC4OH committee was provided by Ms. Terri Chandler and a second was provided by Dr. Bryce Putnam. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Collier asked who will write the letter?

Ms. Chandler responded asked if Jannette Gomez can find past letters and letterhead and asked that Dr. Abbatangelo and Dr. Cucalon Calderon help. All agreed.

Ms. Lynn Short commented that she was a past dental director in another state and that the evaluation plan will document the return on investment to save the state savings. Emphasis on the letter going to the governor.

Mr. Ben Prohaska suggested the letter to the governor but also send to all members of the legislative session, try to involve everyone

Dr. Lisa Collier suggested to get the letter drafted and approved at the next meeting.

**6. Presentation of Nevada Medicaid Dental Benefits. Informational- Robyn Gonzalez, Dr. Antonina Capurro**

Robyn Gonzalez stated there are minor updates. First, CMS code updates that should be starting next month. The Division will be going through all codes. Not changing dental policy, itself but adding some additional information. For the orthodontia section there will be added definitions for automatic qualifying conditions. Those changes will happen in the next couple of months. Lastly, I will be retiring December 2. You are in good hands with Dr. Benson, Dr. Capurro, and Tanya Benitez.

Dr. Capurro stated, there have been some amazing advances in oral health that highlight the importance of oral health and elevating the conversations. Starting October 1<sup>st</sup>, all 50 states and district of Columbia will be prioritizing coverage. We have also seen a number of states expanding dental services. Also, two new quality measures that will enhance our ability to track data. First is related to the number of enrolled Medicaid recipients that receive any dental services and second is a measurement related to the number of individuals who receive comprehensive oral health care. Our new doula policy has an added encounter rate if the patient has a dental visit. Lastly, new CPT codes for medical professionals to apply SDF to treat cares, just announced. We went to October IFC, all of the Oral Health ARPA funding request were approved. First, was for statewide school based sealant programs. Funding for 38 applications, just under \$70,000 for each award. PCO will assist in application and guidelines. Also received funding under workforce initiative for 59 total scholarships. In process of organizing criteria for awards. Final project is the expansion of adult dental Medicaid benefits for ID/DD individuals on the waiver funded through HCBS ARPA funding. Lastly, the 1115 wavier was accepted by CMS as complete. Next step is a 90-day implementation plan.

**7. Results of 2022 community partnerships, provider incentive and value-based programs, and plans for 2023. Informational – Lindsay Littlefield, Dr. Afshin Arian**

Throughout 2022 we have been focused on Liberty's purchasing power to make a positive impact. In particular increasing utilization for longer term non-utilizers and members who reside in disparity zip codes. We worked to address both issues through bonus payment and incentive programs. We have had 2000 events in disparity areas and are still doing events. Another initiative is asynchronous

teledentistry. This engages members at high risk and navigates members to a dental home. Partnerships to promote scholarships for dental hygiene students and dental students to promote diversification. Two scholarships at TMCC and 2 scholarship at UNLV for dental students of color. We are working with CHA for adult dental days, supporting adults and refugees and uninsured. We served 25 people at the first event, and 20 at the second event, we are committed to doing these on a quarterly basis. Working with Nevada HOPES, dental hygienist partnership, coming on site to do dental services. We continue to work with Future Smiles and UNLV. Finally, value-based care, Liberty has focused on program efforts to promote preventative service delivery and work with providers to reduce caries risk by offering bonus payments.

Ms. Terri Chandler asked what is Liberty doing about keeping members enrolled?

Ms. Littlefield replied, we have adopted messaging outreach teams, social media, updated contact information and members will receive notice of when public health emergency ends.

Ms. Terri Chandler suggested families need help with the re-application process. Families benefit with one-on-one support. They need more than just telling them to re-enroll.

**8. Organized dentistry update and report from the Nevada Dental Association. NDA 2023 legislative priorities and association updates. Informational – Michele Reeder**

Ms. Michele Reeder stated, I want to update this group and highlight a couple of things this fall. First, Dr. Brandon passed house of delegates for resolution for quite line. Hosted 5 week HPV learning series this fall over webinar. Partnered with the American Cancer Society for an event that included well rounded representation. We are working to set up a meeting with the new Governor. We as the NDA are sending congratulations letters. Priorities going into legislative session include amending medial/dental loss ratio, dental modernization to include teledentistry and allow dentists to administer vaccines. Workforce challenges in NV, lots of different apprenticeship models, but there is no quick fix. Lastly, NDA/NDF is in support of the Tonopah dental clinic. The clinic is prepared and ready to go and still seeking donations and volunteers to help manage patients.

Ms. Terri Chandler asked if we should have representation of dental hygiene and dental schools at the AC4OH meetings.

Ms. Reeder suggested if you invite programs, make sure you invite all programs. Representatives from all schools, because you will get a variety of perspectives.

Ms. Chandler asked Jannette Gomez to reach out to schools and extend invitation update for next committee meeting as an agenda item.

Dr. Putnam asked where donations can be made for the Tonopah clinic?

Ms. Reeder replied for Jannette Gomez to include link in minutes. <https://tonopahdentalcenter.com/>

**9. Open Discussion about the applicants for the open seats on the committee and possible action to recommend to the Administrator appointment of members for two open positions on the committee. Action Item – Chair Dr. Lisa Collier, Vice Chair Dr. Whitney Bryant, Jannette Gomez**

Dr. Collier starts by mentioning that there are two open seats on the committee and there are three applicants for those positions, Ben Prohaska, Dr. Maryam Tabrizi, and Jennifer Bradley.

Dr. Collier made a single motion on each candidate. Each member votes individually, only for 2 candidates.

A motion to select Jennifer Bradley was provided by Dr. Lisa Collier and a second was provided by Dr. Whitney Bryant.

A motion to select Ben Prohaska was provided by Ms. Terri Chandler and a second was provided by Dr. VanOrden.

A motion to select Maryam Tabrizi was provided by Dr. Putnam and a second was provided by Dr. Abbatagnelo

Each member selected two candidates to vote for.

Dr. Collier stated that the two candidates with the most votes were Mr. Ben Prohaska and Ms. Jennifer Bradley.

**10. Discussion of recommendations for future agenda. Action Item.**

Discussion included the approved state plan, evaluation plan, adding dental and dental hygiene schools as agenda item for updates, and draft letter to the Governor.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

**12. Adjournment Dr. Lisa Collier – Chair**

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 AM

A motion adjourn meeting provided by Dr. Putnam, and a second was provided by Dr. Van Ordens. Motion passed unanimously.