

Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Report

Practice Number: 18009
Submitted By: Iowa Lifelong Smiles Coalition
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SECTION I: PRACTICE OVERVIEW		
Name of the Dental Public Health Activity: Iowa Lifelong Smiles Coalition		
<p>Public Health Functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment – Acquiring Data Assessment – Use of Data Policy Development – Collaboration and Partnership for Planning and Integration Policy Development – Oral Health Program Policies Policy Development – Oral Health Program Organizational Structure and Resources Assurance – Population-based Interventions Assurance – Oral Health Communications Assurance – Building Linkages and Partnerships for Interventions Assurance – Building State and Community Capacity for Interventions Assurance – Access to Care and Health System Interventions Assurance – Program Evaluation for Outcomes and Quality Management 		
<p>Healthy People 2020 Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OH-3 Reduce the proportion of adults with untreated dental decay OH-4 Reduce the proportion of adults who have ever had a permanent tooth extracted because of dental caries or periodontal disease OH-5 Reduce the proportion of adults aged 45 to 74 years with moderate or severe periodontitis OH-6 Increase the proportion of oral and pharyngeal cancers detected at the earliest stage OH-7 Increase the proportion of children, adolescents, and adults who used the oral health care system in the past year OH-10 Increase the proportion of local health departments and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that have an oral health component OH-14 Increase the proportion of adults who receive preventive interventions in dental offices 		
State: IA	Federal Region:	Key Words for Searches: Older adults, seniors, coalitions, partners, access to care, older adult access to care
<p>Abstract:</p> <p>The Lifelong Smiles Coalition was formed to address access to oral health care for older adults in Iowa through community learning and engagement to form a collective action plan. The need for this effort is great:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 457,738 adults over the age of 65 living in Iowa. • One in three adults over the age of 65 in Iowa have untreated tooth decay. • Three in four adults over the age of 65 do not have dental insurance, which is often a barrier to access to care. • In 2011, 74% of Iowans on the Medicaid Elderly Waiver program did not receive a dental service. This was even higher 84%, for Medicaid-enrolled Iowans age 65 and older who were not on the waiver program. • Twenty percent of long-term care facilities currently offer oral exams and screenings, but poor oral health can impact the health and well-being of nursing home and homebound elderly. • Left untreated, diseases of the mouth can lead to systemic health problems, especially in those with compromised immune systems. <p>The Coalition was formed following meetings sponsored by the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation to</p>		

begin discussions about the issue. The Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation has committed to funding a consultant to facilitate Coalition activities and cover meeting costs.

The Coalition works through an actionable knowledge process with the end goal of building capacity and large scale social impact. The mission of the Coalition is to increase the access to oral health care for older frail Iowa adults. Through the collective action plan, the Coalition addresses barriers to oral health care with three strategic subcommittees: 1) Education and Training, 2) Coordination and Outreach, and 3) Program Policy and Outreach.

The focus of the Education & Training Committee is to develop and promote training opportunities for oral health professionals, the direct care workforce and those providing care to older adults. The focus of the Coordination and Outreach Committee is: 1) to expand the current I-Smile program to reach older Iowans through the I-Smile Silver pilot program in three Iowa counties 2) maintain the Iowa page on the www.toothwisdom.org site and 3) develop health promotion programs on the importance of oral health. The focus of the Program Policy and Reimbursement Committee is to stay abreast of legislative and policy activities related to oral health care and aging and examine innovative payment models including: development of dental product informational brochures for nursing facilities, residents and caregivers (already completed) and hosting legislative educational sessions (2 completed).

The steering committee is comprised of each of the committee chairs and an elected Chair and Co-chair. Coalition membership is broadly focused with leaders and advocates that serve the aging population, oral health care organizations, and public health organizations. Individual oral health professionals are actively engaged in the coalition. Partners include: Iowa Caregivers Association, The University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics, Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, Iowa Health Care Association, Iowa Department on Aging, Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association, LeadingAge Iowa, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, Iowa Primary Care Association/Safety Net Collaborative, Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging, The University of Iowa College of Nursing, and the Iowa Public Health Association. Each member of the Lifelong Smiles Coalition is expected to actively participate without personal biases. Each coalition member is expected to annually sign and abide by the Commitment Letter.

Lifelong Smiles Coalition has three Two Year Project Grants funded by the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation:

- University of Iowa College of Dentistry - **Establishment of an Office for Education and Training (OET)** to coordinate, develop, and evaluate continuing dental education programs for dentists, hygienists, and assistants, specifically targeted at geriatric oral health care. In addition, the OET will support the Iowa CareGivers Association to develop an educational program for DCW (Mouth Care Matters) through a cadre of oral health professionals to provide oral health care training to Iowa's Direct Care Workforce (DCW).
- **The Iowa CareGivers Association - Oral Health Education for Direct CareGivers (OHEDC) pilot project** – Mouth Care Matters will be implemented and tested as Oral Health Specialty training for direct care professionals over the next two years. Through a partnership with the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and the College of Nursing, the Oral Health Specialty Training curriculum will be piloted and will become the first state recognized specialty under Iowa's new Prepare to Care curriculum designed for those who work in direct care in a variety of settings. This training will increase access to and improve oral health care of older Iowans who are homebound or living in nursing homes, improving their overall health, comfort, and dignity.
- **Iowa Department of Public Health - I-Smile Silver pilot project** will be based on the innovative I-Smile dental home initiative for children, which has been integral in nearly doubling the number of Medicaid-enrolled children receiving care from dentists. Several guiding principles of I-Smile are used for I-Smile Silver, most importantly employing local program coordinators in established public health settings with dental/outreach expertise who will develop local systems that help older Iowans access dental care. The coordinators are community liaisons between older Iowans and dental offices, civic and other organizations, medical providers, nursing/long term care facilities, businesses, and the Milestones Area Agency on Aging in southeast Iowa. The goal is to develop a community-based system of care to improve the oral health of Iowans age 60 and older. The pilot project will work to prevent dental disease, increase access to oral health care, and maintain overall health for homebound and nursing home residents in Scott, Lee, and Van

Buren Counties(includes both rural and more urban counties).

The outcomes of these three grants are being coordinated by an independent contractor hired by the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, including: 1) # of direct care professionals who obtain oral health specialty training 2) pre/post testing 3) pre/post oral evaluations of residents that are impacted by the training 4) # of nursing facilities and care agencies who have direct care professionals trained, and 5) # of dentists, hygienists and assistants who attend supported CE programs. I-Smile Silver project plan includes oral health surveys (open mouth) to assess oral health status and dental needs of older Iowans. Results will provide a baseline that can be used to help determine project impact. This will also improve the ability to design appropriate project activities now and in the future.

The Coalition has a consultant that facilitates and coordinates activities and meetings and also ensures progress and effective communication. Lifelong Smiles Coalition has a wide variety of members/organizations participating, which helps to provide a comprehensive approach to collective action planning. Due to the fact that it has been less than a year since the coalition was formed and endorsed projects funded, lessons learned from the field are still being gathered. The many different Coalition partners and guidance from the subject matter experts will guide successful implementation.

Contact Persons for Inquiries:

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SECTION II: PRACTICE DESCRIPTION

History of the Practice:

The Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation sponsored three actionable knowledge sessions in an effort to reach their strategic goal of increasing access to oral health care for homebound and nursing home residents. They held an Educate session in November 2012 in which 180 attendees had the opportunity to hear experts discuss best practices that have been implemented in Iowa and across the country. A consultant was retained in the spring of 2013 to reach out to stakeholders and provide technical assistance, meeting facilitation, and organizational capacity. The Motivate Session was held in July 2013. Eighteen attendees from ten agencies/organizations met to begin the planning on how to reach that goal. They developed three strategic initiative committees: Education and Training Committee, Older Adult Oral Health Care Coordination Committee, and the Program Policy and Reimbursement Committee. Action plans for each committee were developed and presented to the entire Coalition at the Activate session held in November 2013. The mission of the coalition is to increase the access to oral health care for older frail Iowa adults. Coalition Structure Guidelines were adopted in February of 2014 and Coalition leaders were elected July 2014. The Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation has committed to cover meeting costs and the funding for the consultant to facilitate Coalition activities.

In the fall of 2015, the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation provided nearly \$600,000 for three separate two-year grants to assist in the communities of this work. Grants include:

- The Iowa Department of Public Health's I-Smile Silver project is a community-based system of care to improve the oral health of Iowans age 60 and older. The pilot project will work to prevent dental disease, increase access to oral health care, and maintain overall health for homebound and nursing home residents in Scott and Lee Counties.
- Iowa CareGivers will provide oral health education for direct care professionals through Mouth Care Matters, helping them better address the oral health care needs of homebound and nursing home residents.
- The University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics has established an Office of Education and Training to coordinate, develop, and evaluate continuing dental education

programs for dentists, hygienists, and assistants, specifically targeted at geriatric oral health care.

Coalition members include a variety of partners, with only two organizations solely focused on oral health care: Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, Des Moines Health Center, Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Iowa CareGivers , Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association, Iowa Department on Aging, Iowa Department of Public Health Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems (also Office of Healthcare Transformation and Direct Care Workforce Initiative), Iowa Health Care Association, Iowa PCA/Safety Net Collaborative, LeadingAge Iowa, Iowa Public Health Association, Mid Iowa Community Action, Inc, University of Iowa College of Dentistry, University of Iowa College of Nursing, Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa, Iowa Healthcare Collaborative, Principal Financial Group. Four new members have joined since the beginning of the Coalition.

Justification of the Practice:

The need in Iowa for this effort is great:

- There are currently 457,738 adults over the age of 65 living in Iowa.
- One in three adults over the age of 65 in Iowa have untreated tooth decay.
- Three in four adults over the age of 65 do not have dental insurance, which is often a barrier to access to care.
- Twenty percent of long-term care facilities currently offer oral exams and screenings, but poor oral health can impact the health and well-being of nursing home and homebound elderly.
- Left untreated, diseases of the mouth can lead to systemic health problems, especially in those with compromised immune systems.

The [Mouth Care Matters Curriculum](#) has been completed and aligns with State's Oral Health Competencies and based upon lessons learned modifications are being made.

There have been 23 Instructors trained and 64 direct care professionals trained at 6 classes held at four community college location. Results are currently being compiled from a Direct Care Professional Focus Group, employer survey, DCP pre/post assessments from the training, and case study sites and will be used to inform next steps.

The Office of Education and Training and Mouth Care Matters project is currently writing a grant renewal for the two projects. The main focus will be an evaluation of the Mouth Care matters program from an outcome standpoint and evaluating if the oral health of the people they are taking care of is changing. They will train all the direct care professionals in two facilities in eastern Iowa. They might also have a few facilities that have only a few trained on each shift and evaluate the changes in oral health status.

Inputs, Activities, Outputs and Outcomes of the Practice:

The Coalition addresses barriers to oral health care with three strategic subcommittees: 1) Education and Training, 2) Coordination and Outreach, and 3) Program Policy and Outreach. Each committee has a chair and vice chair volunteer. The Coalition Consultant schedules the meetings, takes notes, and develops agendas, action plans, and other documents to support the work of the volunteer Committee leaders and members.

The focus of the Education & Training Committee is to develop and promote training opportunities for oral health professionals, the direct care workforce and those providing care to older adults. There are currently 19 coalition members that serve on this committee. The Office of Education and Training at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and the Mouth Care Matters grant projects are maintained under this committee. Other activities include managing the Lifelong Smiles presentations at conferences and other meetings, as well as collecting stories from stakeholders for use in promotion and evaluation.

The focus of the Coordination and Outreach Committee is: 1) to expand the current I-Smile program to reach older Iowans through the I-Smile Silver pilot program in three Iowa counties 2) maintain the Iowa page on the www.toothwisdom.org site and 3) develop health promotion programs on the importance of oral health. There are currently 16 Coalition members that serve on this committee.

The focus of the Program Policy and Reimbursement Committee is to stay abreast of legislative and policy activities related to oral health care and aging and examine innovative payment models including: development of dental product informational brochures for nursing facilities, residents and caregivers (already completed) and hosting legislative educational sessions (2 completed). The state of Iowa has recently privatized the Medicaid program, although dental was carved out of this transition. This committee spearheaded a comprehensive list of items that need to be addressed in any Medicaid dental program. There are currently 16 Coalition members that serve on this committee.

Budget Estimates and Formulas of the Practice:

The budget for the Coalition includes costs associated with the consultant time, meeting room fees, promotional materials, copying, and the dollars associated with the three grant projects.

Lessons Learned and/or Plans for Improvement:

Lessons learned in coalition development include the development of an action plan, involving a variety of stakeholders, and having organizations committed to financially supporting coalition efforts.

Available Information Resources:

Information about the Mouth Care Matters Program can be found at the Iowa Caregiver's website: <http://www.iowacaregivers.org/>

Information on the Lifelong Smiles Coalition can be found at www.lifelongsmilescoalition.org

SECTION III: PRACTICE EVALUATION INFORMATION

Impact/Effectiveness

How has the practice demonstrated impact, applicability, and benefits to the oral health care and well-being of certain populations or communities (i.e., reference scientific evidence, outcomes of the practice and/or evaluation results)?

The Office of Education and Training has presented on geriatric/oral health and the Lifelong Smiles Coalition numerous times in the last few years. Over 13 presentations have been made to trade groups, organizations, and at statewide conferences.

Six (6) Mouth Care Matters' training classes for Direct Care Workers (DCWs) were then scheduled at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) campuses. Sixty-four (64) DCWs have completed the two-day Mouth Care Matters to date.

Patient specific outcomes evaluation of the Mouth Care Matters projects will occur in the next phase of the grant.

The outcomes of these three grants are being coordinated by an independent contractor hired by the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, including: 1) # of direct care professionals who obtain oral health specialty training 2) pre/post testing 3) pre/post oral evaluations of residents that are impacted by the training 4) # of nursing facilities and care agencies who have direct care professionals trained, and 5) # of dentists, hygienists and assistants who attend supported CE programs. I-Smile Silver project plan includes oral health surveys (open mouth) to assess oral health status and dental needs of older Iowans. Results will provide a baseline that can be used to help determine project impact. This will also improve the ability to design appropriate project activities now and in the future. All seventeen nursing facilities and all dentists in the three counties have been educated on the services provided by the I- Smile Silver coordinators.

Efficiency

How has the practice demonstrated cost and resource efficiency where expenses are appropriate to benefits? How has the practice demonstrated realistic and reasonable staffing and time requirements? Provide unit cost analysis or cost-benefit analysis if appropriate.

For details contact Elizabeth Faber at elizabethfaber@gmail.com

Demonstrated Sustainability

How has the practice showed sustainable benefits and/or how has the practice been sustainable within populations/communities and between states/territories? What mechanisms have been built into the practice to assure sustainability?

Funding for the Coalition is being provided at this time by the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation. Coalition members have recently formed a committee to address sustainability and the future of the Coalition.

Collaboration/Integration

How has the practice built effective partnerships/collaborations among various organizations and integrated oral health with other health projects and issues? What are the traditional, non-traditional, public and private partnerships/collaborations established by the practice for integration, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability?

There are seventeen official voting organizations, with only two being dental organizations. Four new organizations have joined the Coalition in the past year.

Objectives/Rationale

How has the practice addressed HP 2020 objectives, met the National Call to Action to Promote Oral Health, and/or built basic infrastructure and capacity for state/territorial/community oral health programs?

Basic infrastructure has been created in our state by the Coalition's efforts through the increased educational opportunities for oral health professionals and for those who serve homebound and nursing home residents. Care coordination for this population has also increased in our three I Smile Silver pilot project counties.