



Dental Public Health State Activity Submission Form

ASTDD’s goal in collecting information about successful state Dental Public Health activities (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy) is to share this information with other states, territories, and stakeholders who may be interested in implementing similar activities. We thank you for your time and willingness to share your experiences.

Please complete the form below and return to Lori Cofano, ASTDD Best Practices Project Coordinator, at lcofano@astdd.org

FIRST CONTACT PERSON FOR INQUIRIES	
Name:	Elizabeth Faber
Title:	Lifelong Smiles Coalition Consultant
Agency/Organization:	Iowa Lifelong Smiles Coalition
Street:	1420 West 6 th Ave N. Clear
City, State, Zip Code:	Clear Lake, IA 50428
Phone:	(641) 425-7339
Email:	elizabethfaber@gmail.com
SECOND CONTACT PERSON FOR INQUIRIES	
Name:	Dr. Howard Cowen
Title:	Geriatric & Special Care Dentistry
Agency/Organization:	University of Iowa College of Dentistry
Street:	W329
City, State, Zip Code:	Iowa City, Iowa 52242
Phone:	(319) 335-6961
Email:	Howard-cowen@uiowa.edu

STATE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy) Minimum=300 Maximum=500	
Activity title:	Iowa Lifelong Smiles Coalition
State/Territory:	Iowa
Summary overview, which may include the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives • Rationale • Personnel • Key partners • Costs & sustainability 	
<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"> • As of July 2019, there were 552,125 adults over the age of 65 living in Iowa, according to the United States Census Bureau. • One in three adults over the age of 65 in Iowa have untreated tooth decay. • In 2015, the percentage of people in the United States with no dental insurance was 29% overall and 62% for older adults. • In 2019, only 2411 out of the 8281 Iowans on the Medicaid Elderly Waiver program received a dental service. • Only 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 coalition was formed following meetings sponsored by the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation to 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. Its mission is to increase access to oral health care for older frail Iowa adults. Through the collective action plan, the Coalition addresses barriers to oral health care with four strategic subcommittees: 1) Education and Training, 2) Coordination and Outreach, 3) Program Policy and Outreach, and 4) Sustainability.

The focus of the Education & Training Committee is to develop and promote awareness, education, and training opportunities for oral health professionals, the direct care workforce, and those providing care and support for older adults. Oral health equity is integrated into all Coalition activities. An Oral Health Equity primer video was recorded and is available [here](#). The focus of the Coordination and Outreach Committee is to provide outreach to the public and stakeholders about the importance of optimal oral health and support strategies that coordinate access to care. The focus of the Program Policy and Reimbursement Committee is to stay actively engaged in policy activities related to oral health care and aging and explore innovative payment models. The focus of the Sustainability Committee is to implement strategies for sustainability for membership, stakeholders, leadership, and coalition retention and growth.

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: Delta Dental of Iowa- Dental Wellness Plan, Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, Dental Connections, Inc, DMACC, Easter Seals Iowa, EMBARC, EveryStep, Home Instead, Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Iowa CareGivers, Iowa Chapter Alzheimer's Association, Iowa Dental Association, Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association, Iowa Department on Aging, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Health Care Association, Iowa Healthcare Collaborative, Iowa Primary Care Association, Iowa Public Health Association, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, LeadingAge Iowa, MCNA- Dental Wellness Plan, Mid Iowa Community Action, Inc., Office of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Principal Financial Group, The University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics, The University of Iowa College of Nursing, and Telligent.

The Coalition has a consultant that facilitates and coordinates activities and meetings, while ensuring progress and effective communication. Lifelong Smiles Coalition has a wide variety of entities participating, which provides a comprehensive approach to collective action planning. Because 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.

Lessons learned (Successes and **Challenges**):

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. Each committee also reviews all action plan tasks annually to ensure they are relevant and impactful. Before taking on new tasks, committee members analyze if those tasks fit within the scope of the committee, if there are enough resources/passion/time/energy/appropriate people to work on it, and if the task will be both relevant and impactful. When there has been turnover in leadership and committee members, it has been helpful to have these processes in place. Coalition work needs the support of a paid staff to keep work moving forward.

Turnover of volunteer leaders has presented challenges through the years. However, by having the assistance of the same consultant, these challenges did not have a huge impact. Other challenges included lack of time by coalition members. The pandemic also created a challenge, however, virtual meetings continued along with progress on action plan tasks.

TO BE COMPLETED BY ASTDD	
Activity Number:	18009
Submission Date:	April 2021
Submission Filename:	SUM18009IAlifelongsmiles-2021