



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:	Charlotte Branson
Title:	Vice President, CRN
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SECOND CONTACT PERSON FOR INQUIRIES	
Name:	Kristin Jaramillo, RDH
Title:	President
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STATE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy) <small>Minimum=300 Maximum=500</small>	
Activity title:	Participa! Inc. Mobile Dental Services
State/Territory:	NM
Summary overview, which may include the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives Rationale Personnel Key partners Costs & sustainability 	
<p>Participa! Inc. Dental Services started providing school-based dental services in 1999, servicing the State of New Mexico and providing comprehensive dental treatment. This included x-rays, dental exams, cleanings, sealants, fluoride varnish and restorative treatment. Participa! later migrated to the north-west region of the State of New Mexico concentrating its efforts in rural areas while other companies picked up services established originally by Participa!.</p> <p>In 2018, Kristin Jaramillo, a practicing hygienist and Charlotte Branson, a registered school nurse, became the new</p>	

President and Vice President and worked to continue filling the need for school-based services in the community. Participa! provides dental exams, cleanings, sealants, fluoride varnish, and silver diamine fluoride to any student that provides a parental consent form. Participa! continues to implement and improve our data collections system. Our data collections are shared with New Mexico Department of Dental Health and with the school districts we service, who in return, share this information with New Mexico Public Education Department for their end-of-year reports. Participa! collaborates directly with school health personnel, San Juan College Dental Hygiene Program, and various groups within the New Mexico Oral Health Coalition. Tele dentistry is currently being used in our practice to communicate findings with our dentists.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our 2020-2021 expenses do not reflect a good representation of the costs associated with our program. In 2019, our expenses were \$155,855, servicing approximately 1,500 students, these costs are mostly covered by Medicaid, a small portion from a private insurance, and a small grant provided by the Department of Health. In 2019, Participa! added new schools, and hired a new dentist. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Participa! continued to service students at lunch distribution sites providing drive-through fluoride varnish treatments and in near-by daycares. Participa! made and put together a dental educational video, appropriate for school-aged children, that was distributed to our school districts and played during the student's virtual school day.

Many school districts that are served do not have immediate access to dental services in their communities. Participa! is able to fill this gap and ensure all students, regardless of dental insurance, have their dental needs met. Currently, this program provides a dental exam, cleaning, sealants, fluoride varnish and offer silver diamine fluoride services directly in the school and does not require a significant loss of classroom time that can be expected from traditional dental care. Participa! has identified additional needs in the last two years and implemented new treatment services to address these needs. One addition to the care is the use of silver diamine fluoride.

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

Regarding SDF:

With the increased need for access to restorative care, and recognition of the benefits of SDF, integrating this service into a program and building partnerships with dental insurances, might help encourage the reimbursement of costs from insurance companies.

The Department of Oral Health is looking to create a position that will sit on a board to advocate for SDF reimbursement.

Challenges have always included getting consents home to families and returned in time for Participa! to complete services. Multiple phone calls, as well as emails and texts go home daily.

On exam day, SDF consents are sent home with students with decay (Pre-K through middle school aged). The younger the children, the better the return rate. Phone calls are made to parents, so they are aware of SDF consent forms to be found in backpacks. On treatment day, additional phone calls are made to those who have not returned their SDF consent form. The student calls their parent/guardian and the dental hygienist discusses the SDF application process.

Forms are not returned because: they never make it home, inaccurate guardian contact information, or parents may have further questions. When permission is obtained through a signed consent, it is printed at school. .

TO BE COMPLETED BY ASTDD	
Activity Number:	34008
Submission Date:	May 2022
Submission Filename:	SUM34008NM-principa-sbp-2022