



# 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](mailto:lcofano@astdd.org)

<b>FIRST CONTACT PERSON FOR INQUIRIES</b>	
Name:	Stephen Beetstra, DDS, MHSA
Title:	Director
Agency/Organization:	The Nisonger Dental Center Dental Program, The Nisonger Center
Street:	Ohio State University, 1581 Dodd Drive
City, State, Zip Code:	Columbus, OH 43210
Phone:	(614) 685-3197 FAX: (614) 685-3212
Email:	<a href="mailto:Stephen.beetstra@osumc.edu">Stephen.beetstra@osumc.edu</a>
<b>SECOND CONTACT PERSON FOR INQUIRIES</b>	
Name:	Diego Solis, DDS, MS
Title:	Dental Director of Johnstown Road Clinic, Nisonger Dental Program
Agency/Organization:	The Nisonger Dental Program, The Nisonger Center
Street:	Ohio State University, 1581 Dodd Drive
City, State, Zip Code:	Columbus, OH 43210
Phone:	(614) 685-3197 FAX: (614) 685-3212
Email:	<a href="mailto:Diego.solis@osumc.edu">Diego.solis@osumc.edu</a>

<b>STATE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy)</b> Minimum=300 Maximum=500	
Activity title:	<b>The Nisonger Center Dental Program – Training of Dental Professional Students to Serve Persons with Disabilities</b>
State/Territory:	<b>Ohio</b>
Summary overview, which may include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objectives</li> <li>Rationale</li> <li>Personnel</li> <li>Key partners</li> <li>Costs &amp; sustainability</li> </ul>	
<p>The Nisonger Center Dental Program, located on the health sciences campus of the Ohio State University (OSU) but separate from the College of Dentistry, has been in existence since 1972. The Nisonger Center is a University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), part of a network of programs linked through the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (<a href="http://www.AUCD.org">www.AUCD.org</a>). The Center utilizes an interdisciplinary approach to training and providing services to children and adults with disabilities and their families. The annual budget is approximately \$600,000 (the majority is for staff salaries). The support of the OSU College of Dentistry and Nationwide Children’s Hospital Dental Clinic makes it possible for the students/residents to receive training at the Nisonger Center in an interdisciplinary service delivery setting.</p>	

The focus of the Program is training through service. Each year approximately 110 fourth year dental students, 40 dental hygiene students, 8 second year pediatric dental residents, and 9 General Practice Residency/Advanced Education in General Dentistry (GPR/AEGD) residents rotate through the program. During their rotations, the students/residents receive clinical experience/training and didactic education regarding various aspects of intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) related to children and adults. Most patients treated at the Nisonger Center Dental Program are healthy medically and are at the moderate level to severe level of intellectual or developmental disability. Students provide dental care in a dental office setting with a focus on behavioral management techniques. Students do not get experience treating patients in a hospital setting with general anesthesia, but residents do. Dental and hygiene students are given minimal sedation experience (anxiolytics) provided through this rotation.

The intention of the training is to demonstrate that the vast majority of patients with IDD can successfully be cared for in a routine manner and require no special equipment or techniques. This training experience provides future dental health practitioners with first-hand exposure to a special segment of the population and helps to form their perceptions regarding their capability to provide dental health care for people with disabilities and shape their future clinical practices.

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

- Safety net programs like Nisonger need a secure an outside funding base in addition to clinical revenue.to continue to provide services to the unserved and underserved. The key to success for the Nisonger Center Dental Program is the support of the local IDD program.
- The support of the OSU College of Dentistry and Nationwide Children’s Hospital is critical to the success of the Nisonger Center Dental Program. The strong support of these institutions to provide this experience to their students/residents is crucial to the Nisonger Center mission.
- It is vital to create community advocates for the program. The dental program who focuses on the IDD population will never become a large profit center for an organization. It is important to cultivate outside stakeholders who have an interest in success of the program. These individuals are vital in securing additional funding to maintain the viability of the program.
- Organized dentistry is critical to the success of the program. In order to make significant policy and reimbursement advances for this population at the state level, you must gain the support of your state dental association. Through our interactions and support of the Ohio Dental Association, we were able to gain the approval of a behavior management fee from Medicaid for adult patients needing medical stabilization.
- If starting a program similar to Nisonger, it would be wise to start small and be proactive when the opportunities for expansion arise. Student and Resident curricula have changed over the past few years. With the added CODA standards, dental student and hygiene rotations will increase, while resident rotations may decrease due to the increased pressure on postgraduate dental programs to become a revenue center.
- We do not have enough assistant support staff for each student to work independently at the McCampbell Hall location. Though not ideal, the students assist each other. To improve clinical performance, each student is required to participate in a behavioral management and a patient/staff safety in-service prior to caring for patients. This strategy alleviates the support staff shortage needed to train the students.
- COVID restrictions placed upon us by the Governor has limited the number of patients in the clinic at one

time. The McCampbell Hall and Johnstown Road locations are an open bay design that allow one patient in the clinic at a time with the current guidelines. To alleviate this problem, we had Plexiglas walls created and external vacuums added to each chair. By doing these engineering modifications, we are able to run at 75% of our pre-COVID volume.

<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY ASTDD</b>	
Activity Number:	38005
Submission Date:	April 2021
Submission Filename:	SUM38005OHspecialneedsnisongercenter-2021