



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

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STATE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy) Minimum=300 Maximum=500	
Activity title:	The Use of Synchronous and Asynchronous Teledentistry to Provide Access to Care in Remote/Rural Areas
State/Territory:	SD
Summary overview, which may include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives Rationale Personnel Key partners Costs & sustainability 	
<p>Horizon Health Care, inc. is a Federally Qualified Health Center with locations throughout the state of South Dakota. There are eight dental clinics located in Yankton, Alcester, Howard, Wessington Springs, De Smet, Plankinton, Martin and Faith communities. Teledentistry efforts have been utilized in most locations because of dentist turn-over or vacation time.</p> <p>Synchronous teledentistry visits are conducted via Webex utilizing intraoral cameras and laptops to provide limited, comprehensive and periodic exams. Exams are completed by a dentist located off site at another clinic location and the in-office staff, hygienists and/or dental assistants, gather the intraoral data utilizing the intraoral camera. No additional associated costs were incurred implementing this process. The biggest outcome that was achieved was access to care and continuation of care because there was dentist turnover. Lessons learned were that the staff needed additional</p>	

education and practice to buy into this new concept utilizing the intraoral camera for synchronous exams. Patients seemed to be receptive and were appreciative to speak with a dentist regarding their oral health concerns.

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

Teledentistry needs to be customized to the clinic needs. Our clinics benefit from synchronous teledentistry so we can utilize the provider's time more efficiently when they are onsite. In the future, we will consider asynchronous teledentistry for our school-based clinic where we only have one dental chair and the hygienist and dentist rotate their time at the clinic.

Staff buy-in and the extra time needed for teledentistry exams was the biggest challenge. Any change in workflow can be challenging especially if technology is involved. We walked through the appointment workflows with our hygienists and trialed teledentistry with them. The primary challenges come from technology. There are times when we struggle connecting to the meeting in a timely fashion. We have a HIT department that is amazing and can step in and guide our providers during these times.

TO BE COMPLETED BY ASTDD	
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