



COLLOQUIUM REVIEW #1

NH Oral Health 2014/ Portsmouth, NH

August 1, 2013

Developing the Vision

In partnership with the DentaQuest Foundation and our operational funders the Endowment of Health and the HNHfoundation, NH oral health stakeholders, convened by the NH Oral Health Coalition (NHOHC) came together for a series of 5 locally-hosted mini-colloquia designed to examine the role and utilization of the NH public health dental hygienists (PHDHs) and guide us through the process of creating a common vision for action. Convening sessions featured presentations by local content experts, highlights of innovative programs, and individual and group visualization through facilitation and information synthesis.

This series of 5 reports about the colloquia provides a capsule view of our journey of discovery during which we identified local and national resources, implementation barriers/supports, and the creation of a common vision for further deploying PHDHs in underserved areas of the state.

Whether you attended any, all or none of the mini-colloquia, these reports will provide you with the overview you need to understand and engage in this work moving forward.

Our first convening was hosted by Families First Seacoast and Support Center, a federally-qualified health center, on the topic of "The Definition of the Public Health Dental Hygienist," the local program highlighted was the Seacoast Healthy Grins school-based program.

"Identification, Engagement and Development of In-State New Hampshire Broad Spectrum Oral Health Leadership for the Purpose of Examining, Analyzing and Selecting a system for Deployment of Public Health Dental Hygienists into underserved areas."

- NH Oral Health 2014



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Who are Public Health Hygienists?

Practicing NH *dental hygienists* (RDH) are regulated under NH Statute RSA 317-A. Additionally, through rule-making, the Board of Dental Examiners (BODE) created a *public health supervision* opportunity that allows hygienists, with additional training, to practice in the community through collaborative agreement with a dentist. That dentist is not required to be on-site during the provision of services, and must submit an annual program summary to the Board of Dental Examiners.

Scope of services included under public health supervision (PHDH) includes:

- Assess medical/dental histories, inspect the mouth
- Prophylaxis (cleaning)
- Fluoride varnish
- Oral hygiene instruction
- Place sealants
- Make/deliver mouth guards

Where do PHDHs work now?

- Schools
- Nursing homes
- Health and dental clinics
- WIC – Women, Infants and Children
- Head Start



Hope Saltmarsh, RDH

PHDHs can be employed by individual providers, local agencies/ programs, and dental centers. Reimbursement for services can come through grant funding, Medicaid/CHAP billing, self-pay or donations. Billing is done through an individual dentist provider or a qualifying program. NH dental hygienists are not able to bill Medicaid directly.

In 2012, a new Certified-Public Health Dental Hygienist (C-PHDH) was created from Senate Bill 284 expanding the scope of practice for trained, qualified C-PHDHs under public health supervision to include the placement of temporary restorations without excavation, the performance of radiographic imaging limited to bite wings, and occlusal and periapical radiography, and nutritional counseling for the control of dental disease. With public input, the BODE, will define the rules.

Presented by:

Hope Saltmarsh, RDH, M.Ed., Greater Derry Oral Health Collaborative
Stacy Plourde, RDH, President, NH Board of Dental Examiners
Gail T. Brown, JD, MSW, NH Oral Health Coalition

Participants

Justine Anastasoff, RDH
Sharon Beatty
Cynthia Bishop, RDH
Peg Cardin, RDH
Cleo Castonguay
Pam Delahanty, RDH
Joan Fitzgerald, RDH
Connie George
Liz Kantowski
Stephanie Kelly
Susanne Kuehl, RDH
Ellen Legg, RDH
Nancy Martin, RDH
Jean McPheters
Francine Morgan
Marie Mulroy
Sue Myers
Kathy Myers
Stephanie Pagliuca
Carole Palmer
Stacy Plourde, RDH
Luis Porres
Dianne Powers, RDH
Kristen Redman
Hope Saltmarsh, RDH
Myra Shook
Garrett Simonsen
Helen Taft
Patricia Tilley
Christine Villeneuve
Susan Wnuk
Adele Woods



Communication Norms and Values

*Use Common Values, to Create
Common Vision & Common Voice*

Values

- Integrity and transparency
- Respectful relationships
- Creativity and innovation
- Comprehensive approaches
- Forward-looking solutions

Working Norms

- Build an atmosphere of trust and respect
- Deep listening – Heartset/Mindset; encourage dialogue
- Listen to, and consider
- Honor differences of perspective; place your perspective into the bigger picture
- Always strive for "common ground"
- Consistently seek to clarify and understand other points of view
- Thoroughly explore an issue before assuming knowledge
- Promote mutually reinforcing activities and collective impact

Basics

- Electronic devices on silent
- Tend to your needs and return

Work together to make a collective impact... "commitment of a group of important actors from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a specific social problem." Stanford Social Innovation Review.

Colloquia Discussion Summary and Key Findings

Through individual and group consideration, participants helped to form the components of the initial vision of the future of public health dental hygiene within NH, and the barriers that prevent further deployment.

Early Visions:

- Dental care across the lifespan – pregnancy to geriatric;
- Co-location of services with other providers including PCP offices, obstetrics, FQHCs, etc;
- Portability of services into the community: food pantries, nursing homes, schools, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC);
- Increased coordination of medical and dental providers;
- Strong educational components to dentists, physicians, hygienists, etc;
- Consumers education on the importance of oral health.



Barriers:

- Understanding of reimbursement, insurance, and billing;
- Knowledge of public and private funding opportunities;
- Coordination between dentists and PCPs
- Limited knowledge about PHDHs and opportunities by dentists, hygienists, primary care providers, and consumers.

DentaQuest
FOUNDATION

Our primary funder for this project, the DentaQuest Foundation is committed to improving the systems that promote optimal oral health: Policy, Funding, Care and Community.

Through philanthropic investment, DentaQuest supports major national initiatives and state-based programs that are driving change from grassroots to grassstops. Their vision is the equitable access to knowledge, care, and community resources that supports optimal oral health.

Seacoast Healthy Grins – Local Highlight



Families First Health and Support Center is the proud provider of the *Seacoast Healthy Grins* school-based hygiene program, offering services in Portsmouth, Newington and Seabrook elementary schools; and the Community Child Care Center and Head Start in Portsmouth.

Consistent with the other school-based programs, the PHDH is responsible for coordination with school personnel and volunteers, for the provision of dental screenings, services to include prophylaxis and sealants, and referrals to community dentists for further restorative work. Public

health supervision for the preventive services is provided by Dr. A.J. “Skip” Homicz, Dental Director for Families First.

Funding for the program is provided by state and federal grants for community health centers, the state oral health program, and local civic programs. The biggest challenge to the program is identifying a sufficient number of dental homes for the follow-up services needed by the children due to dental home availability, child/family transportation, fear, and other social and cultural factors.

In 2012-2013, the program provided oral health education to 1,487 children in 91 classrooms, dental screenings to 1,125 children, and direct service including cleanings, fluoride, and sealants to 60 children.

Increase the proportion of children, adolescents, and adults who used the oral health care system in the past year.

— Objective & Leading Health Indicator: Healthy People 2020

The Network that Started...

New Hampshire Board of Dental Examiners (NHBODE)
The Greater Derry Oral Health Collaborative Corporation (GDOHCC)
Greater Derry Public Health Network
Manchester Health Department
Nashua Public Health Department
American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA)
Bi-State Primary Care Association
Families First Seacoast
NH DHHS DPHS
NH Dental Hygienists’ Association (NHDHA)
Mid-State Health Center
New Hampshire Occupational Health Association (NHOHA)
Tower Solutions
TUFTS School of Medicine — Dental Program
St. Vincent de Paul
Children’s Dental Network
Northeast Delta Dental
New Hampshire Technical Institute
CAP – Belknap/Merrimack
Health First Family Center (Franklin)
Milford Schools

CONTACT US:

NH Oral Health Coalition
4 Park Street, Suite #403
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 415-5550

STAFF

Gail Brown, Director
gbrown@nhoralhealth.org

Jane Goodman, Coordinator
jgoodman@nhoralhealth.org

Meghan Steele, Program Asst.
info@nhoralhealth.org

Visit us on the web at
www.nhoralhealth.org