



Oral Health & Seniors

Challenges & Opportunities

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- Morrison Nursing Home and Assisted Living, CEO and Administrator
- NH Housing—REAP Program
- The Caleb Group—Program Director for the Interfaith Volunteer Caregiver Program
- Education: BS Human Services and Master's in Nonprofit Management

Challenges that prevent good Dental Care in Long Term Care

- ▶ Staffing shortages
- ▶ Well-trained workforce
- ▶ More than 50% of residents are on Medicaid
- ▶ Lack of dental providers willing to provide services in a facility
- ▶ Residents with dementia
- ▶ Transportation



Typical Dental Services in Long Term Care

- ▶ Assisted Living
 - ▶ No in-house dental care provided
 - ▶ Senior depend on their families to make dental appointments and provide transportation
- ▶ Nursing Home
 - ▶ Quarterly visits from a dentist or dental assistant
 - ▶ Visits to a dental office is rare





Potential Opportunities/Recommendations to Improve Dental Care in the Long Term Care Setting

- Good dental care can reduce transfers to hospitals
- Development (or identification) of oral hygiene training programs for direct caregivers
- Develop oral hygiene care plans specific to individuals
- Educate families
- LTC and dental providers need develop mutual partnerships
- State of NH Needs to adequately fund long-term care
- Addressing the workforce shortage issue
- Portable dental equipment/creation on on-site space

