Oral Health & Seniors
Challenges & Opportunities
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- Morrison Nursing Home and Assisted Living, CEO and Administrator
- NH Housing—REAP Program
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- 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