



**Benton, Lincoln, Linn Regional  
Oral Health Coalition of Oregon (Regional Oral Health)  
Joint Meeting with Benton County, Lincoln County  
and Linn County Oral Health Coalitions**

**Meeting Summary**

**Microsoft Teams**

**August 19, 2020**

**2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**Attendance:** Christy Anderson, Britny Chandler, Kassi Coleman, Rachel Gazeley, Elizabeth Gordon, Nancy Greenman, Tyan Hayes, Gary Lahman, Linda Mann, Sommer McLeish, JoAnn Miller, Molly Perino, Karla Smith, Paul Smith, Dennis Stoneman, and Shelley Hazelton

**Welcome:**

Britny Chandler welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions.

Britny Chandler noted that she and Molly Perino and JoAnn Miller met previously and discussed the local Oral Health Coalitions and meeting jointly.

**COVID-19 Discussion and How it is Affecting Access to Oral Health Services:**

Discussion followed on COVID-19 and how it has been affecting access to oral health services.

- We have lost our state dental director. Currently, the State of Oregon doesn't plan on replacing.
- Finalization of Strategic Plan data - Difficult to work off the current plan due to COVID-19.
- Linda Mann reported on access to services for Capitol Dental Care clinics.
  - a. Clinics are almost back to capacity. They were closed for a while with limited services.
  - b. They are **not** doing the schools sealant program.
  - c. They are utilizing the dental van more often and providing outreach services.
  - d. They are shifting to do more screenings and fluoride varnish – They have a tent and families drive up with kids and they provide assessments and fluoride.
- Molly Johnson reported that Advantage Dental had to stop with services in Mid-March. Clinics are now back to capacity and shifts are being staggered.
  - a. There are no services provided to WIC and outreach services took a huge dive.

- b. Schools are excited to get services going again when it is safe to do so.
  - c. Patients seem to be coming into the offices. Schedules have been full.
- Elizabeth Gordon - ODS - Portland has more restrictions. Currently, meeting outside to screen patients.
- Karla Smith, Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist – Dental services at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital:
  - a. It has been more difficult to see patients.
  - b. She stresses the importance of oral health services with patients.
  - c. Respiratory Therapy puts up signage – Last nebulizer treatment – Wait 30 minutes to 1 hour without pressurized.
  - d. Speaks to patients daily including new parents. Assures patients that most dental offices are up and running. Many patients believe they can't go to dental offices at this time.
- Kassie Coleman reported on dental services at the Albany Boys and Girls Club.
  - a. Started up again with services since COVID-19 a couple of weeks ago.
  - b. Seeing 2 patients in the clinic – 1 at a time unless there is a sibling then can be 2 patients.
  - c. Molly Morse's last day is tomorrow. Kassie Coleman noted that she is her replacement.
  - d. Hope to pick up with services in the schools in the future.
- Rachel Gazeley, Advantage Dental – Lincoln County:
  - a. When COVID-19 hit, downsized Wellness to Smiles. Had 3 sites instead of 5 operating under COVID-19 requirements.
  - b. Services started back up the first part of July.
  - c. Lincoln County is still in Phase 1 for reopening.
  - d. Triaging outside the doors with no patients in the waiting rooms.
  - e. The hope is to go in the schools soon – This is a waiting process.
- Tyan Hayes, Love INC of Benton County:
  - a. Switched from dental vans to dental vouchers.
  - b. The process is working well.
  - c. Covers the copay for patients that meets the financial standard required.
- Paul Smith, Strengthening Rural Families:
  - a. They have had 1 dental van since COVID-19 hit.
  - b. Medical Teams International (MTI) was doing just emergency care and is now up and going again.
- Dennis Stoneman, The River Center – East Linn Dental Voucher Program:
  - a. When COVID-19 hit, they shut down.
  - b. They started back up about a month ago with the dental voucher program.
  - c. Works with Dawn Lowe, Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist with Capitol Dental Care at the Sweet Home Family Medicine Clinic, and the SmileKeepers dental van.
  - d. Have had challenges getting through to Advantage Dental. ***Britny Chandler will follow up.***
  - e. Works with Denny Sanders and MTI on dental vans. Denny Sanders is only operating 1 chair currently and has precautionary measures in place. They are providing services for around 4-6 patients.

The question was asked if the price has dropped per van. Currently, MTI is not charging him for the dental vans.

- The question was asked about if there are longer wait times and how can we help with access issues.
  - a. Elizabeth Gordon – Patients aren't having issues getting in. They currently don't have the capacity and haven't added extra time.
  - b. Rachel Gazeley – Doing emergency appointments currently and limited hygiene services – Doing periodic exams that are not emergency – Doing tele-dental type visits. They are doing a maximum of 6 patients a day until Lincoln County enters Phase 2 of reopening. It is believed Lincoln County will go to Phase 2 soon and then they can schedule more restorative work and exams with COVID-19 restrictions in place. OHA is meeting with Lincoln County Commissioners to decide on Phase 2 reopening.
- It was noted that Lincoln County is expected to enter Phase 2 of reopening on August 24, 2020.

***Britny Chandler agreed to send out an email to partners and see if there are any further questions or concerns.***

#### **Emergency Department Data for Dental Services:**

Britny Chandler shared Emergency Department data for the InterCommunity Health Network (IHN) population – 2020 ER Claim Count.

- January – 37
- February – 23
- March 25
- April – 16
- May – 31
- June – 27
- July – 34

The State of Oregon closed elective procedures for hospitals March through April due to COVID-19. The Dental Care Organizations (DCOs) didn't want to contribute to the overflow of patients in the Emergency Department. A lot of DCOs did a great job and had clinics open for emergency services.

***Britny Chandler noted she can review Emergency Department data and data for Lincoln County and make sure there is no spike in numbers and will continue to monitor and keep dentists in the loop.***

The question was asked with Lincoln County in Phase 1 were patients not being seen for emergency treatment? Elective procedures were not allowed. Both Gary Lahman and Dennis Stoneman noted that they have had dental appointments. Once federal regulations around aerosols are more relaxed then additional dental treatments can be done.

Molly Perino reported that the Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties had to meet certain requirements with enough PPE for 2 weeks, additional measures around aerosols, etc.

***Gary Lahman noted he can follow up with Rebecca Austen on guidelines for dental treatment.***

Britny Chandler shared the reimbursement process for the Oregon Health Plan.

- The Oregon Health Plan has contracts with the different dental partners and OHA based on services for the prior year (sets rates on prior year claim activity). This is done at the beginning of the year.
- Linda Mann noted that with requirements now around COVID-19 they need tons of PPE and supply and demand costs have skyrocketed.
- With Lincoln County in Phase 1, only a certain number of patients can be seen, which may have resulted with patients being pushed out, which will cost more.
- Britny Chandler noted that we did not decrease the member per month payment.
- Kept member per month with telemedicine visits.
- We are hearing the state may review 2019 and set rates for 2021, but we are not for sure.
- Samaritan Health Services lost over 60% of income when there were no elective procedures. Partner per member per month diem rates were lost. The withhold amount will be distributed back to CCO.

### **Denture Report:**

Molly Perino reported on dentures.

- Dentures are expensive. Discussions continue around access and getting dentures.
- We didn't have a lot of data around who needed dentures.
- Since her clinic started, they have been tracking diagnoses of dentures and partials. In two months, they had 11 people ages 35-81 years old. Most of these are Benton County patients.
- There are several uninsured patients needing dentures and they are seeing uninsured of all ages with a diagnosis of full or partial or with a flipper's diagnoses.
- Their clinics are currently open 2-3 days a week. When the clinics are open 5 days a week, the numbers will most likely increase. Transportation is still a barrier.
- Karla Smith noted that she encounters those needing dentures in the hospital regularly, and some of these have hardly ever entered the dental office.
- ***Britny Chandler noted she would ask dental partners going forward to keep track of those needing dentures and partials.***
- Linda Mann noted that Capitol Dental Care members do have some benefits.
- Karla Smith noted working as an Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist she sees all patients. She can't bill out with a diagnoses code. She could start tracking without the diagnoses code.

JoAnn Miller reported that they have discussed oral health at the Oregon Funders Collaborative. There have been discussions around dentures and seniors and data to support the need for funding for dentures. The need is out there. The question was asked what type of data is the Oregon Funders Collaborative looking for those needing dentures? *JoAnn Miller agreed to follow up.*

It was noted when JoAnn Miller, Molly Perino, and Britny Chandler met there was discussion regarding the Oregon Funders Collaborative and their concern with child populations. The Oregon Community Foundation and the Oregon Pediatric Coalition are taking the lead around dental services for children. There was a listening session held yesterday across the state with close to 40-50 people participating. There will be another listening session on August 26, 2020 in Spanish.

The OHSU January 2020 Issue Brief – Dental Care for Oregon’s Medicaid-Enrolled Children in 2018 was noted.

- In all 36 counties numbers are low for children seeing a dentist and getting care.
- Benton County:
  - Access to any dental service (% of enrolled children) – 53.4
  - Access to preventive dental services (% of enrolled children) – 48.9
  - Preventive services through school-based programs (% of enrolled children age 6-14) – 6.2
  - ED visits for avoidable dental problems (per 1,000 children) – 5.5
- Lincoln County:
  - Access to any dental service (% of enrolled children) – 52.9
  - Access to preventive dental services (% of enrolled children) - 46.9
  - Preventive services through school-based programs (% of enrolled children age 6-14) – 10.7
  - ED visits for avoidable dental problems (per 1,000 children) – 12.3
- Linn County:
  - Access to any dental service (% of enrolled children) – 55.0
  - Access to preventive dental services (% of enrolled children) – 50.9
  - Preventive services through school-based programs (% of enrolled children age 6-14) – 5.0
  - ED visits for avoidable dental problems (per 1,000 children) – 8.7

*Shelley Hazelton will email a copy of the Issue Brief to Coalition members.*

A public health campaign is being launched on Healthy Teeth Bright futures.

### **Additional Business:**

Additional items of discussion included the following:

- Stephanie Hagerty had reported at previous meetings the need for oral health services for cancer patients prior to treatment.
- The question was asked are there others needing services?
  - a. Behavioral health.
  - b. Those suffering from substance abuse disorders/opioid use disorders.

- c. Linda Mann reported that Capitol Dental Care applied for funding to the CCO DTS Transformation group to expand Karla Smith’s role in the community and training Community Health Workers and Traditional Health Workers and working with DHS in Lebanon with foster care assessments. She would also work with family practice with pregnant woman and work with the STARS program and residential facility and providing case management for those clients as well.
- d. Molly Perino noted that they are seeing an increase in patients being referred from the Heart Center – They have seen 5 patients recently.
- e. ***Britny Chandler noted she would follow up with Miranda Miller on patients not waiting for extended periods of time due to needing dental services prior to treatments and referrals.***
  - The question was asked if the Oregon Oral Health Coalition (OrOHC) still exists. They were the fiscal agent for our Lincoln County Oral Health Coalition for holding funds for the dental vans, education, etc. The Lincoln County Oral Health Coalition did receive back any funds that they were holding for the group. We did hear that they dissolved their Board. The biggest concern would be for First Tooth since they tracked and monitored the program.
  - Samaritan Health Services have been encouraging their providers to do the Smiles for Life training since we were unable to get a response from OrOHC on the First Tooth program. Britny Chandler noted she was trained in First Tooth along with others such as Karla Smith and Dawn Lowe. ***Britny Chandler noted she can check on the number trained in 2020 for Smiles for Life.*** If we would want to push for the First Tooth program we would need to put resources and funding into the program to monitor and track. ***We can discuss this further at the next meeting.***

**Recommendation for Oral Health Coalition Meetings Through 2020:**

Britny Chandler reported that local Oral Health Coalitions are reporting low attendance numbers and with COVID-19 a lot of locations are only recommending 10 or less people meet. Currently, the recommendation is to have the local Oral Health Coalitions meet quarterly with the Regional Oral Health Coalition through 2020. It was agreed to discontinue Local Oral Health Coalition meetings through 2020 and meet with the Regional Oral Health Coalition. ***Ms. Chandler noted she will send out an email to the Local Oral Health Coalitions related to meetings and action items.***

**Discussion Items for the Next Meeting:**

Items for discussion at the next meeting will include:

- Report on available grants.
- Britny Chandler noted she can provide an update on the schools.
- Review denture population.
- First Tooth and Smiles for Life programs.

**Adjourn:**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted**

Shelley Hazelton

Community Health Promotion

Department Assistant