



CCCWN News

October 2021

Oral Health

New grant seeks to streamline oral health services

Ask anyone with a mouth, and they'll agree that it's an integral part of the body, yet the importance of oral health has long been marginalized by both the health system and the public. Dental care is the second largest out-of-pocket medical expense in the US, and with about 25 percent of the population in Oregon, particularly rural and low-income populations, lacking dental insurance, many forego regular exams and needed treatment. Consequently 3,800 children and over 10,000 adults in Oregon suffer from pain related to untreated oral disease on any given day. This is especially true for individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, homeless, and/or low income. Due to the cost of care and low number of providers in the county, many of these community members are largely unable to access preventive dental care or basic treatment, resulting in high levels of untreated oral pain and overutilization of local emergency department services that are costly and ultimately ineffective at treating dental problems.

A new \$1 million, five-year HRSA RCORP grant awarded to the CCCWN seeks to tackle this overwhelming need in Lincoln County by integrating oral health care into the county's two critical access hospitals. The overarching goal of the project is to improve the oral health of Lincoln County residents by increasing access to dental care and knowledge of the importance of oral health. Project components include:



- Developing a comprehensive strategic plan to address disparities in oral health.
- Integrating an extended practice dental hygienist (EPDH) into Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital (SPCH) and Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital (SNLH).
- Comprehensive oral health education for health care providers and community members.
- A countywide oral health outreach campaign.

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The grant is based on two successful pilots—one in Little Falls, NY and the other on the EPDH co-location pilot project implemented in Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital (SLCH) in rural Linn County, Oregon—and partners with Capitol Dental and Advantage Dental. The EPDH will work along other hospital staff to provide dental screenings and other basic oral health care services to hospital patients. The EPDH will also work with Lincoln County Oral Health Coalition and the Regional Oral Health Coalition to expand voucher services and other programs to ensure continuity of dental services, and to design and deliver oral health navigation and referral services. These services will commence at Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital in early November 2021, and at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital in Spring of 2022.

To help ensure sustainability of grant activities and continued integration of oral health into primary health, the grant will also promote and demonstrate the link between oral health and physical health, through the provision of provider, staff, patient, and community education across Lincoln County. The EPDH will largely support this goal through educating health care providers, staff and community members on oral health, including the link between oral and physical health.

Project activities will strengthen the CCCWN around oral health, resulting in the identification and implementation of strategies and activities that improve the oral health of our uninsured, underinsured, homeless and/or low-income residents of Lincoln County.

Member Spotlight: Linda Mann

A monthly spotlight for CCCWN members

For Linda Mann, BS, RDH, EPDH, oral health isn't just a job, it's a passion. Her strong commitment to preventing dental disease, removing barriers to care, and bringing services to the populations that need them most make her an invaluable member of the CCCWN.



And as the Director of Community Outreach for Capitol Dental with over 35 years of experience in oral health and a 2015–2016 Oregon Health Authority Clinical Innovation Fellow, Linda fosters innovative approaches to oral health care and promoting the integration of oral health care into physical health. She has been instrumental in the development and implementation of a range of successful outreach programs and preventive services, including bringing tele-dentistry services to Oregon, and expanding settings in which to co-locate dental hygienists in primary care and other community settings. Somehow, this isn't enough to keep Linda totally busy—she and her husband are equally passionate about providing a safe, loving home for foster children. They have opened their home to over 30 children over the past 20 years. Even more exciting, they are finalizing the adoption of a 20-month-old child they have cared for since birth. In her “free time,” Linda loves to travel with her family.

Monthly Updates

Bridges to Recovery

The Year End Report, the Sustainability Plan, and the PIMS report for the grant were submitted to HRSA on 9/30/21. The Project Coordinator transitioned to a different role within SHS; recruitment for that position is ongoing. A primary focus of Year 3 will be the development and roll-out of a media campaign focusing on stigma reduction. The grant staff is exploring the feasibility of partnering with other CCCWN grants to expand the reach and impact by making the campaign a tri-county effort.

RAID

The PIMS report for the grant was submitted to HRSA on 9/30/2021. The Benton, Lincoln, Linn Emergency/ Disaster Response Preparedness Plan for Substance Use Disorders Annex has been drafted and shared with the RAID committee members and will be continuously worked on until February when the final draft is due to HRSA. Currently the non-stigmatizing guidelines will be researched and developed and practice drills for the disaster plan will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Oral Health

The Care Coordination Agreement between SNLH and Capitol Dental has been finalized and approved by both partners' legal departments. Capitol Dental hired an Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist, who is currently in the process of being credentialed by SHS. She has joined several staff and management meetings to introduce herself to SNLH staff. The grant team is procuring necessary equipment and materials for both coastal hospitals. A draft of the Assessment Plan has been shared with the Regional Oral Health Coalition for feedback; a final draft will be submitted to HRSA by 11/1/2021.

SWAY

SLCH was awarded a \$1 million, 3-year Rural Communities Supporting Women and Youth grant (RC-SWAY) for rural Linn County. The grant, in partnership with Samaritan Treatment and Recovery Services, Family Tree Relief Nursery, Linn County Alcohol & Drug Program, Communities Helping Addicts Negotiate Change Effectively (C.H.A.N.C.E.) and Community Health Centers of Benton & Linn Counties, began on 9/1/2021. The Project Director was hired and began work 9/27/2021. Contracts are being finalized and a kick off meeting will take place in the coming month.

Parenting Success Network

Upcoming classes include:

- Incredible INFANTS (October 6) *Call Pollywog at (541) 497-4358*

Sophie Grow, Birth Doula and Postpartum/ Infant Care Doula, will be facilitating this series virtually and has experience with assisting families struggling with Perinatal Mood and Anxiety disorders.

Ongoing supports include:

- Spanish Parenting Coaching
Llame a Luis (541) 220-9686
- Triple P Primary Care
Email Sommer smcleish@samhealth.org
- Triple P Online
Email Sommer smcleish@samhealth.org or llame a Luis (541) 220-9686

For more information:

smcleish@samhealth.org

Parenting classes are for *ALL* families! *ALL* families can benefit from learning new skills and *ALL* families can benefit connecting with other parents!

Questions and Comments?

For questions and comments related to the monthly CCCWN Newsletter, please email Shelagh Baird at sbaird@samhealth.org

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