

TITLE: Wellness to Smiles Oral Health and Public Health Partnership to Improve Health Outcomes

AUTHOR(S): Mary Ann Wren, KayLynne Todd, Ashley Danielson

PRESENTER(S): Ashley Danielson, KayLynne Todd

STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Presentation topics include: health equity, oral health, teledentistry and public health partnership. The target audience is program developers in public health and oral health.

ABSTRACT: The presentation will describe the Wellness to Smiles pilot project in Hood River, Oregon. Wellness to Smiles strives to positively impact health disparities and health equity to ensure community members are able to access care. The question was posed, “How can public health and oral health partner to improve access and health outcomes?” A partnership was formed for this project with Hood River County Health Department. Advantage Dental integrated teledentistry services on a reoccurring schedule into the Hood River County Health location. An Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist provides preventative care to patients, and a dentist does a virtual dental exam. Coordination of any further dental care needed is facilitated by the Advantage Dental team. Through this partnership, we have seen many positive outcomes. There has been increased utilization by Adult Medicaid patients, patients are able to access dental care in a more convenient location, and in a comfortable environment. This eliminates some of the barriers that patients face when accessing dental care. The work load that is added to the public health staff is very minimal, and they now have a dental professional on site to partner with.

OBJECTIVE(S): Explain the importance of Oral Health for Overall Health. Describe how oral health and public health collaborated to develop a team approach to reduce barriers and create an additional access point to oral health services. Demonstrate how teledentistry and community based dental care reduces oral health disparities. Describe how the model could be scalable and transferable where the same type of partnerships exist.
