# COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR

The purpose of the CDHC is to expand access to dental care in underserved communities by providing community outreach and education about oral health.

The community dental health coordinator pilot program was developed in response to the American Dental Association house resolutions 3H-2006 and 25H-2006

**What is a Community Dental Health Coordinator:**

A member of the dental team with dental skills focusing on dental education and prevention in the clinic and community settings. Because the CDHC is from the community in which they serve, they are aware of social barriers that may prevent dental access to care and can more effectively help them overcome these barriers

**What a CDHC does:**

Works with patients to overcome social, language, literacy barriers which deter them from seeking dental care.

- Assist community members in enrolling in state and federally funded dental programs
- Counseling community members on improving nutritional health
- Provide oral health education throughout the community so community members become better stewards of their own oral health
- Patient Navigation to coordinate dental care so dental problems will not go untreated
- Reduce dental anxiety
- Arrange transportation
- Make medical referrals for medical problems that are not be treated properly

**CDHC Outreach:**

- Head Start Programs
- Daycare programs
- Schools
- WIC
- Prenatal Class/ new mom programs/Grads programs
- Nursing Homes
- Senior Centers
- Health Fair
- Any Community Activity

**Clinical Duties:**

- Risk assessment & education
- Clinical, radiographic and photographic screening
- Fluoride & topical application
- Sealants
- Temporary restoration placement

# Community Dental Health Coordinator

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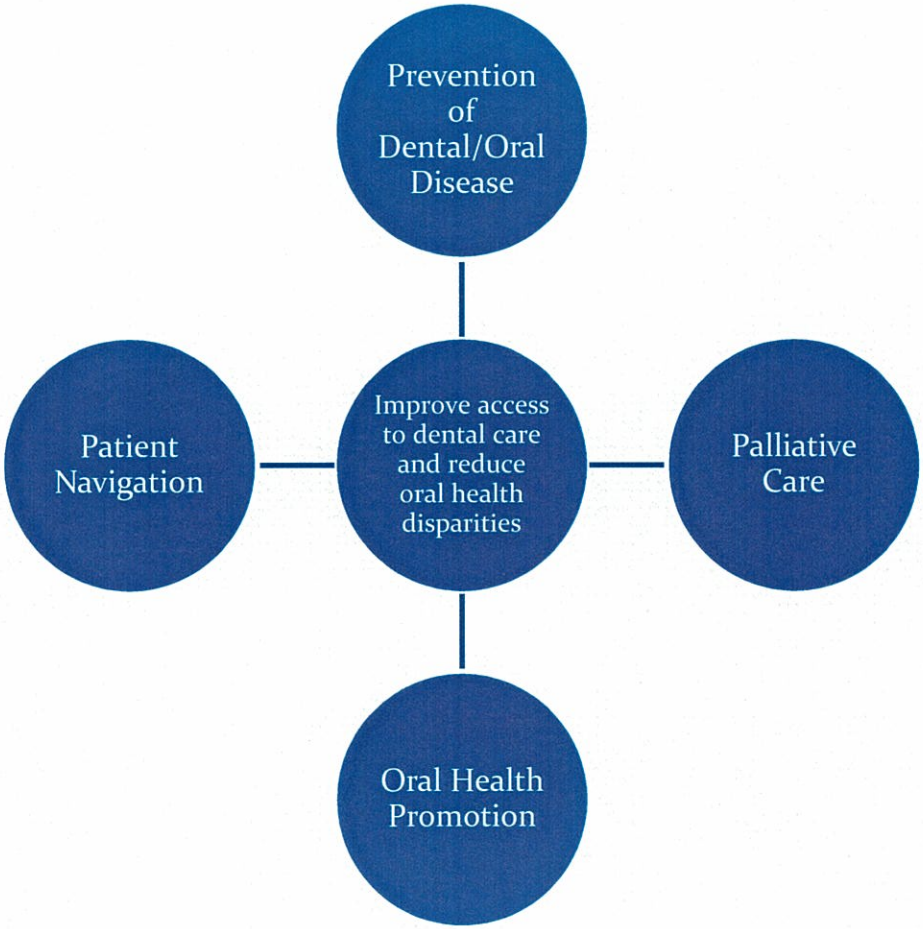
# Background

- CDHC developed by American Dental Association in 2007
- 18 month program which includes:
  - 12 months online and clinical studies
  - 6 months internship
- Participants received a certificate of completion
- A total of 34 participants completed the CDHC pilot project
  - Graduates working in 26 communities in 7 states with limited scope of practice
- New Mexico is the only state that offers CDHC licensure

# Community Dental Health Coordinator Mission



# What is a Community Dental Health Coordinator

- A member of the dental team with dental and CHW skills
- Focusing on dental education and preventive in both clinic and community settings
- Is aware of social barriers that may prevent dental access to care for community members
- A member of the community they serve

# CHW Skills

- Assist and educate community members with enrollment services such as Medicaid, sliding fee, and other state or federally funded dental programs
- Provide oral health education
- Reduce dental anxiety
- Arrange transportation for appointments
- Assist patient in navigating through the dental system
- Assist with medical and mental health referrals

# Dental Skills

- Oral health risk assessment
- Complete health and dental history
- Expose and develop necessary dental radiographs
- Limited palliative procedures
- Topical and fluoride varnish
- Dental sealants
- Instruct patients on proper brushing and floss

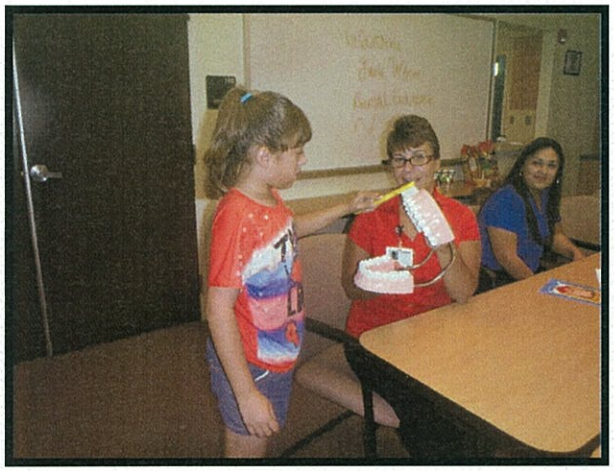
# Integration of Medical and Dental

- Educate medical providers about caries risk assessment and oral health screenings
- Address oral health needs of pregnant women
- Educational programs for diabetes, heart disease and stroke patients
- Referral system for medical patients without a dental home
- Implement Fluoride Varnish Program at medical wellness visits

# Job Opportunities

- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Indian Health Services
- Head Start Programs
- Department Of Health
- WIC
- Private Practice
- Schools
- Nursing Homes

# Oral Health Outreach



# Dental Outreach Provided

- Children's Mental Health Day Scavenger Hunt- 8 teens
- Oral Health for the Diabetes Patient- 36 adults
- Silver City High School 9th Grade Health Class- 18 kids
- Little Angels Daycare (Lordsburg) -19 children
- Head Start Summer Program ( Lordsburg)- 10 children
- GRADS Program ( Lordsburg)- 21 participates
- Silver City Library Summer Reading Program- 13 kids
- Jump into Summer at HMS – over 1,200 attended
- Guadalupe Montessori Summer School – 17 kids

# Outreach Cont.

- WNMU Hurley Community Event – 150 attended
- Lordsburg Lunch Program (Pyramid Park)-30 kids
- Elks Splash Out Drugs Day (Lordsburg) -135 kids
- Oral Health Program for LifeQuest Clients -13 adults
- Silver City Senior Center – 30 adults
- Silver City School Summer Lunch Program – 200 students
- Total of Community Members reached – over 700 community members reached and still counting

Thank you!