

KOHC Spring Quarterly Meeting

Friday, March 21st, 2025

Kentucky Oral Health Coalition



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Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Spotlight Presentation
 - Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Community Dental Health Program, Heather Cheek
- Kentucky Legislative Session Recap and Next Steps
- Coalition Activities and Upcoming Projects Overview
- Member Updates
- Closing

Spotlight Presentation

Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Community
Dental Health Program, Heather Cheek

Kentucky Oral Health Coalition



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COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR

**Update from Kentucky for the ADA
Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention**

3/2025

Heather Cheek RDH, CDHC, MED



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HEATHER CHEEK

RDH, CDHC, MED

- Wife and momma of a 6 year-old, wild man, and a 4 year-old, princess who truly believes she is Elsa!
- Luke started Kindergarten and absolutely loves it; Elsa started preschool and her independence continues to grow.
- The blessings of Greg, Luke, Lila, and my interesting career path.



Big Sandy Community and Technical College

- One of 16 colleges in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS)
- Open-enrollment, 2-year, public institution, accredited by the Southern Association of College and Schools (SACSCOC)
- 4 Campuses within the Big Sandy Community and Technical College System
- Located in Eastern Kentucky



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Program Specifics

1 year, 17 credit hour, on-line program

Graduates; CDHC Certificate

Pre-requisite:

- Registered Dental Hygienist,
Dental Assistant, Dental Personnel, Healthcare
Workforce, Discretion of Director
- Currently Enrolled in either of these
programs



Program Specifics

1 year, 17 credit hour on-line program

Courses included in the curriculum

- CDH 110 Dental Health Communication Skills (3)
- CDH 115 Dental Health Coordination, Documentation, Reporting, and Finance (3)
- CDH 125 Dental Health Teaching and Learning Skills (2)
- CDH 220 Dental Health Advocacy and Outreach (3)
- CDH 245 Community Dental Health Coordinator Internship (6)



Barriers to Care

- 70 million people live in a geographic area with an insufficient number of dental providers.
- More than a quarter of adults have untreated cavities, or tooth decay—which puts them at greater risk for pain, infections, tooth loss, and serious medical conditions.



Barriers to Care

- Adults are more likely to delay dental care than any other healthcare service due to cost.
- The number of adults without dental insurance is estimated at nearly 68.5 million which is nearly three times that without medical insurance at 27.6 million.



Barriers to Care

The CDC reports that 34 million school hours are lost to unplanned dental emergency visits each year, while untreated oral disease costs \$45 billion in productivity annually.

Wait, what??!!

Adults 18 and older in the US lose more than 243 million work or school hours annually due to oral health problems??

The lost productivity time due to untreated dental disease costs the US an estimated \$45 billion each year.



Wait, what??!!

While lower income and uninsured adults are the most likely to report the findings discussed, those with health insurance and those with higher incomes are not immune to the high cost of medical care.

About half of U.S. adults say that it is very or somewhat difficult for them to afford their health care costs (47%).



Answers?

- Community Dental Health Coordinators
- Higher Medicaid Reimbursement
- Patient Education
- More Providers



Community Dental Health Coordinator

- Dental Health Worker
- Community Health Worker
 - Health Coach
 - CDHC

A Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) acts as a collaborative bridge between the community and clinical care with a working knowledge of dental disease processes, the dental delivery system and disease prevention strategies.



Scope of Practice

Follow state guidelines for RDH/CDHC

Follow state guidelines for CDA/CDHC

A CDHC acts as a collaborative bridge between the community and clinical (primary dental or physicians office) care team to deliver prevention strategies in oral and overall health.



CDHC

- Dental Office
- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Schools
- Pediatric / Primary Offices
- Dental Schools
- Health Departments



CDHC Insurance

Under **section 224** of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act (42 U.S.C. § 233), as amended by the **Federally Supported Health Centers Assistance Act** of 1992 and 1995, employees of eligible health centers may be deemed as federal employees for the purposes of liability protections under the FTCA for acts or omissions in the performance of medical, surgical, **dental**, or related functions resulting in personal injury, including death, and occurring within the scope of employment (including within the approved scope of project).



Community Dental Health Coordinator

- **“I believe that the introduction of CDHCs into the dental workforce will mark a turning point for interdisciplinary collaboration and improvement in access to urgently needed dental care for underserved patients,” Dr. Wakim said. “This critical job function has been missing from the equation in dentistry for too long.**
- **“The oral and systemic overall health factor could be more on track to hit the mark of the goal near 2030 because of the CDHC working together with all healthcare providers.”**
- **“What an amazing opportunity for the dental team to be able to finally do the job they have been trained in when a patient has already been triaged through telehealth.”**



CDHC

- Who is this amazing person?
 - Hygienist?
 - Assistant?

- Maybe either, but let's be real, do they have time, and do you want to take chair time and production away from them when you could be producing more?



CDHC

The ideal candidate is an assistant or hygienist who has the working knowledge of treatment planning, overall systemic health conditions, and a sense of community engagement. Our hygienists and assistants are the majority of the CDHC population.

- Office manager?
- Treatment planning coordinator?
- Receptionist?
- Additional team member – CDHC!



Challenges Dentists / FQHC's

- 1. Last Minute Cancellations / No-Show
- 2. Difficulty Finding New Patients
- 3. Staffing Shortages
- 4. Insurance Reimbursement / Overhead
Costs
- 5. Personalized Patient Experience



Why do I need a CDHC?

- More production
- More time spent on “procedures instead of emergencies, ex. RCT, Extraction, Referral, etc.
- Collaboration of treatment with entire office.
- Collaboration of treatment with other health providers



CDHC for Me!

- Dentists can **financially benefit** from employing Community Dental Health Coordinators (CDHCs) in several ways:
 - 1.Increased Patient Volume:** CDHCs help connect underserved populations with dental care, increasing the number of patients visiting the practice.
 - 2.Improved Patient Retention:** By addressing barriers to care such as transportation, language, and cultural issues, CDHCs can help ensure patients return for follow-up appointments and ongoing care.



CDHC for Me!

3. Enhanced Preventive Care: CDHCs focus on preventive care and EDUCATION, which can lead to fewer emergency visits and more regular, planned treatments.

4. Efficient Use of Resources: CDHCs can handle non-clinical tasks such as patient education and care coordination, allowing dentists to focus on more complex procedures and treatments.



D9994

**PATIENT EDUCATION TO IMPROVE ORAL
HEALTH LITERACY**

DENTAL CASE MANAGEMENT

- PATIENT EDUCATION TO IMPROVE ORAL HEALTH LITERACY
- \$22.53
- Units equals per patient per time frame



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D9995, D9996

- Teledentistry
- How would D9995 or D9996 be reported on a dental claim submission?
- D9995 or D9996 are reported in addition to the codes for other procedures (e.g., prophylaxis; diagnostic imaging) reported separately when the patient presents for care.



CDHC Activities in 2022-2024

Volunteers of America Collaborative Project

CDHC students collaborated with current CDHC in the field to provide oral health literacy education at Freedom House (30-day, in-house treatment recovery center for mothers and their children). CDHCs met with the mothers and children to provide oral health education and dental supplies.

Activity to continue monthly during the academic year. Collaboration-services at dental clinic and/or mobile unit.





Munroe Myer Institute

Student Spotlight
Tami Trewet-Sloop

- [Dental Clinic | Munroe-Meyer Institute University of Nebraska Medical Center \(unmc.edu\)](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation \(unmc.edu\)](#)
- [dental social-narrative.pdf \(unmc.edu\)](#)
- The Munroe-Meyer Institute Caring for Champions Dental Clinic is committed to providing the most positive and comprehensive dental care experience for patients of all ages and abilities. The compassionate clinical team helps patients establish lifelong positive relationships with dental care.



St. Davids Foundation

Student Spotlight

“Due to the low cost and high efficacy of dental sealants, they are one of our dental team’s most used interventions. In 2021 alone, we administered 2,339 sealants to 1,774 patients through our dental program. Since the start of our program, we’ve administered 87,000+ sealants for an estimated value of over \$16 million to almost 60,000 patients.”



Delta Dental

In October 2022, our Community Dental Health Coordinator Program was blessed to coordinate the first community event involving the mobile dental unit owned by Delta Dental. This event was a huge success!

Three community events later, Delta Dental graciously gifted the mobile unit to our dental programs!

Delta Dental

Delta Dental of Kentucky's mobile dental unit has allowed the CDHC, Dental Hygiene, and Dental Assisting students to collaborate and provide no-cost dental services to under-served communities across Kentucky. The two-operator mobile dental unit is fully equipped to provide dental exams, x-rays, and cleanings, sealants and fluoride treatments.

We are forever grateful to the generous donation of this mobile unit and the supplies from Delta Dental.



Serving the Underserved in Eastern KY



Inasmuch Community Event Delta Dental Mobile Unit

Second year Dental Hygiene/CDHC student serving individuals on a Saturday to help those who do not have access to care. This is the second year for the students at Big Sandy Community and Technical College to participate in "Inasmuch." Inasmuch is a community event that includes a food drive, a clothing drive, princess tea party, first-aid station for glucose and BP monitoring, block party, drive through car cleaning, and carnival rides for the surrounding communities to gather for the day.

Inasmuch is located in London KY. **Our mobile dental unit** is growing by leaps and bounds. A family drove over 3 hours to have dental treatment at the last event.



BSCTC Event Summary and Totals

Event Description	Inasmuch Community Outreach Mobile Unit October 2022	Campus Outreach Somerset Community & Technical College w/ SCC Nursing - Systemic Health	EKOTC – Oral Health Wellness Event (2-weeks)	Inasmuch Community Outreach Mobile Unit 2023	University of Kentucky Diabetic Oral Health Outreach 2023	Pediatric Oral Health Month (2023) AND (2024) LONDON	Outreach Totals
Patients Treated	25	9	100	13	31	33	202
Referral For Further Oral Healthcare Given	10	0	85	10	31	12	148
Fluoride Application	25	9	96	10	0	33	173
Follow Up Contact Made	25	9	100	13	31	0	178
Presented to School Clinic for Preventive Care 3-6mths (London)	4	3	15	2	3	10	37 London Clinic



Goals

*People with goals
succeed because they
know where they are
going!*



Goals

Always have measureable, attainable, and realistic goals, always!
If you have been in practice 2 years or 52 years, make goals and have a vision.

1. What are 2 ways in the next 3 months our office as a team can make a difference in our community?
2. Can we partner with other offices to have a “community day” to offer an open-door policy, introducing patients to the CDHC employee.
3. How profitable would I like this venture of the CDHC to be?
 - ex. Raise profits by 20k per year (this may be in a certain area or overall).
 - ex. Decrease patient no-shows by 50% within the next 3 months.
 - ex. Begin telehealth program in 5 months with 90% success rate.



Goals

Who would be the best person in my practice to carry this out or would I like to hire outside of the practice?



Goals

1. After you have your goals in place, you are on your way to success. Accept the challenge and decide how you can use this to win the game.
2. Along the way, how many lives can you change and/or make a positive influence on?
3. This person (CDHC) will need to have determination and a love for people.



Community Dental Health Coordinator Program BSCTC

At Big Sandy Community and Technical College, we are honored to be the only institution in the state offering the CDHC program. Since inception of the program, lives have been changed and disparities in rural communities have been greatly reduced.

With great pride, Big Sandy Community and Technical College will continue with the help of Delta Dental to strengthen the dental future of rural Kentucky through collaboration of the CDHC, Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting, and all Allied Health programs.



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Thank You!

I, Heather Cheek, declare that neither I nor any member of my family have a financial arrangement with any corporate organization offering financial support or grant monies for or related to the content of to my continuing dental education presentation.



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Recapping 2025 Legislative Session + Oral Health Priorities

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Protecting Community Water Fluoridation

- House Bill 16 - Rep. Mark Hart
 - Passed House, did not receive a Senate hearing
- House Bill 180 - Sen. Lindsey Tichenor
 - No movement





Expanding Practice Settings for PHRDHs

- HB 223 - Rep. Derek Lewis
 - Passed House, awaiting a hearing in the Senate
- HB 449 - Rep. Chris Freeland
 - Passed House, awaiting a hearing in the Senate





Curbing Youth Tobacco and Nicotine Initiation

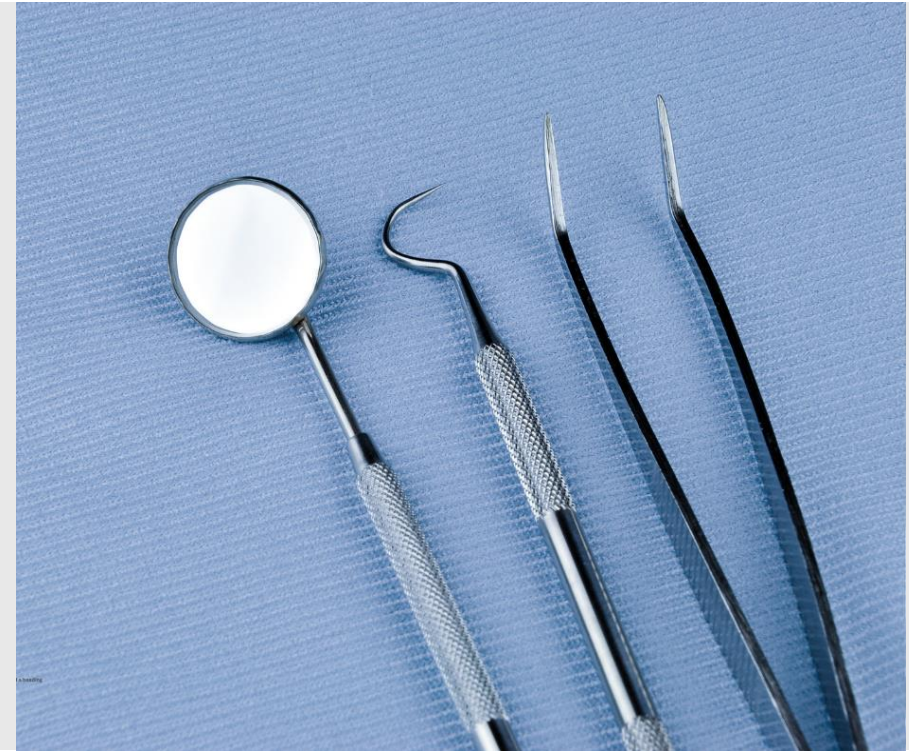
- SB 100 - Sen. Jimmy Higdon
 - Passed both Senate and House, awaiting Governor's signature





Interstate Dental Compact

- HB 762 - Rep. Chris Freeland
 - No movement





Protecting and Investing in Medicaid Coverage and Reimbursement

- HB 695 - Rep. Bowling
 - Passed and awaiting signing or veto from Governor
 - Establishes several new restrictions on DMS to administer Medicaid
 - Requires DMS to apply for a waiver to implement Medicaid work requirement program



Coalition Updates

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Save the Date: AIDPH Veteran Oral Health Virtual Road Tour



VETERAN ORAL HEALTH

VIRTUAL ROAD TOUR: **KENTUCKY**

September 12, 2025 | 12:00 PM EST



Member Updates

Kentucky Oral Health Coalition

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Thank you for
Joining!

www.kentuckyoralhealthcoalition.org

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