Addressing Challenges in Oral Health Care Delivery for People With Disabilities: A Population Health Solution

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Our Panelists

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Special Olympics Special Smiles
Special Olympics Special Smiles Key Milestones

September 15, 2000
Yale Report “The Health Status and Needs of Individuals with Mental Retardation”

2002
American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD)

2010
AMA Resolution on MUP 2010 805-1-10

2018
Heads Up Act

2018
CODA

March 5, 2001
Subcommittee Hearing of the Committee on Appropriations United States Senate

July 2004
CODA Standard 2-26

2014
ADA Resolution on MUP 2014 96H-2014

2018
ADA Code of Ethics
Meet Sam
Project Accessible Oral Health (PAOH) is a global public-private partnership to raise awareness of the significant need to enhance oral health care of individuals with disabilities to improve their overall health and quality of life.
PAOH is a catalyst and advocate bringing traditional and nontraditional parties together.

- **Awareness**...of the issues.
- **Interest**...gained through understanding.
- **Dialogue**...talking to the right people.
- **Action**...collectively and collaboratively.
Who We Work With

- Individuals and Caregivers
- Healthcare Providers
- Schools/Educ. Institutions
- Government Organizations
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Local Coalitions
- 3rd Party Payers
- Private Sector
Igniting Regional Coalitions

- Locally driven.

- Support of and collaboration with existing coalition:
  - Coordinated effort.

- Framework and funding to grow the network
  - PAOH pillar model.
  - DMV (DC, Maryland, Virginia).
  - Philadelphia.
Policy, Education, and Advocacy
Policy

Identify shortfalls in governmental policy and create solutions relating to access to oral health care for people with disabilities at the local, state, and federal levels.
Education and Health Literacy

Create and maintain the digital hub of core competency materials and make available to stakeholders.

• Existing provider.
• Dental student.
• Individual/caregiver.
Advocacy

**Raise awareness** of the size, scope, and urgency of the issue; its impact on people with physical and developmental disabilities; and the cost and pressure on our nation's health care system.
Access to and the ability to receive dental care are the most frequently cited unmet health needs for children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities.
My Smile Matters

• National education campaign.
• Promotion of overall health.
• Highlighting the barriers.
• Call to action.
The Time Is Now for Action

• Exacerbated needs now.
• Fertile landscape in 2020 – 2021.
• Critical components of project:
  ▪ Expand access.
  ▪ Find fresh funding.
  ▪ Innovate policy.
  ▪ Develop champions.
Nothing Happens Without Collaboration!

- AmeriHealth Caritas.
- American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry.
- Special Care Dental Association.
- Special Care Advocates in Dentistry.
- Special Olympics.
- National Council on Disability.
- Delta Dental.
- Colgate.
- Penn/NYU/UOP/Rutgers/University of Michigan/Columbia.
Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.

- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Inclusive Dental® Program

An AmeriHealth Caritas dental program for people with disabilities
Care Gap Issue

There are growing numbers of citizens with disabilities, and there are increasing gaps in dental care for this population.

The dental needs and access to care for this population, based on data, are not being adequately met.
AmeriHealth Caritas created a program that enables our members and others in the community to obtain dental care, allowing for better overall health outcomes and quality of life for them and their families.

The program will facilitate better control of health care costs and enhance outcomes for these members, as an additional opportunity for profit enhancement.
Inclusive Dental®

Inclusive Dental® is designed to address oral health barriers articulated by the special needs community.

The program will aid in addressing gaps in access to dental care and will work to connect with the individuals, caregivers, advocates, and agencies that represent our members who have the following disabilities and conditions:

- Autism.
- Bipolar disorder.
- Blindness.
- Cerebral palsy.
- Down syndrome.
- Fetal alcohol syndrome.
- Fragile X syndrome.
- Hearing impairment.
- Intellectual disabilities.
- Major depression.
- Phobic anxiety disorder.
- Schizoaffective disorder.
- Spina bifida.
- Traumatic brain injury.
## Model

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<td>Outreach to disability cohorts and develop with local coalition.</td>
<td>Connect using tools. Office assessment form — for providers only</td>
<td>Develop and expand access — ongoing network support and recruitment efforts.</td>
<td>Create innovative reimbursement model.</td>
<td>Provide training and continuing education opportunities.</td>
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Outreach to Disability Cohorts

- Providers
- Community advocates
- Government officials
- Members
Develop a Coalition

We used various relationships and industry colleagues to introduce the lack of dental access in the region for members in these cohorts.

We partnered with Project Accessible Oral Health to create structure around gathering intel on the needs and communication outlets of the disabled community.
Connect Using Tools

• **Office assessment form**
  Provider-only form aimed at gathering updated information on provider facility and staff capabilities relating to the treatment of people with disabilities.

• **Intake form**
  Member-only self-assessment document aimed at informing the dental provider of any behavioral, physical, or mental sensitivities relating to their disability.
Develop and Expand Network

We reached out to general dentistry or oral surgeon providers who have had some history with disabled members.

In the near future, all providers in the network will be informed of the program.
Create Innovative Reimbursement Model

Understanding that every member and disability may need to be handled with a heightened sense of patience, Inclusive Dental® offers enhanced compensation for the treatment provided.

Providers treating members with the disabilities and conditions listed may submit D codes 9920, 9430, and 2941 for members with the appropriate diagnosis codes (ICD-10) associated with their disability.
Training and Continuing Education

We recognize that having a knowledge of and experience with the disabled community and the techniques associated with successful visits are what will truly close the gaps of providing meaningful dental care. **Comprehensive in-person and online training for providers will be available.**

Each participating dentist will be required to complete an initial four-hour continuing education (CE) course focused on treating individuals with special needs, and then four hours of CE every two years.
Outcomes/Metrics

- Cost-benefit analysis
- Increased utilization
- Reduction in services rendered for general anesthesia
- ER visit reduction
- Improved management of physical health comorbidities
- Cost savings
Outcomes/Metrics

Subjective measures:

• Improved quality of life.
• Better nutrition.
• Better-managed behaviors through pain control.
Thank you