

Oral Health Navigator; Creative Interprofessional Workforce Solution for Maine's School Oral Health Program

Objective

The Oral Health Navigator (OHN), a new entry-level role, was designed to increase the public oral health workforce, via community health outreach workers (CHOWs) and other interprofessionals, needed to expand Maine's School Oral Health Program and increase children's access to quality oral health care.

Utilization of the OHN will also increase data collection used to investigate the dental health of the pediatric population in Maine.



Health equity

***All children in Maine should have access to an oral health screening**

Methods

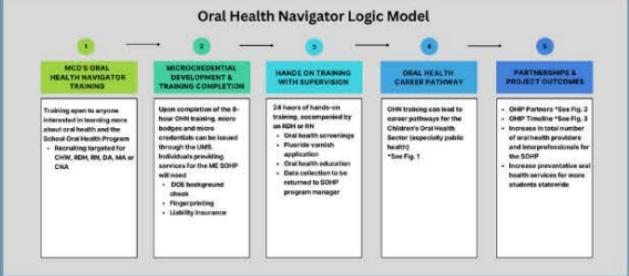
A network of CHOWs were surveyed to gauge interest in OHN training. MCD Global Health developed an online training. Participants are required to complete an oral exit interview to gauge their readiness before entering the clinical field. Data on services provided, serviced schools, and trainee progress will drive results.

- Partnered with CHOWs and other inter-professionals
- Free online training platform launched by MCD Global Health September 2022
- 24 hours of hands-on training with a registered dental hygienist

Oral Health Industry Partnership (OHIP)

Phase 1 Activities	Phase 2 Activities	Phase 3 Activities
Oral Health Navigator (OHN) Engagement Phase	OHN Application Phase	OHN Credentialing Phase
MCD School Oral Health Program Maine Access Immigrant Network Cross Cultural Community Solutions	MCD School Oral Health Program Maine Access Immigrant Network Cross Cultural Community Solutions	MCD School Oral Health Program Maine Access Immigrant Network Cross Cultural Community Solutions MONICA System Micro-Credentials Maine Primary Care Association Adult Education Providers Child & Technical Education Schools Maine Apprenticeship Program
Community Health Outreach Workers	Community Health Outreach Workers	Community Health Outreach Workers

*Fig. 2



Pilot Project: A new inter-professional role created to expand Maine's oral health workforce has the potential to decrease disparities through...

education • care coordination • increasing access to foundational oral health care services



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Discussion

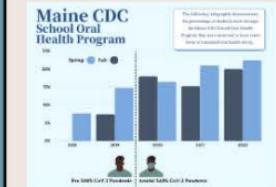
22 individuals have registered for the OHN training. 6 of those individuals have successfully completed all required modules. The existing cohort of OHNs are anticipated to begin hands-on training in the near future, pending approval.

Credential/Job Title	# of Individuals Registered
Community Health Outreach Worker	9
Registered Dental Hygienist	6
Registered Nurse	1
Other	6
Total	22

*as of April 1, 2023

Training Topics

- Oral health foundations
- Systemic health linkages
- Children's oral health
- Oral screening process
- HIPPA compliance
- Mandated reporter training



2023 National Oral Health Conference
Location: Orlando, FL, April 17-19, 2023

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