

**Sierra County Oral Health Program  
Meeting Minutes  
December 20, 2019**



**Opening:** Oral Health Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 9:05am by Kylie Ures in the Sierra County Probation Office.

**Present:** Kylie Ures, Jessica Harris, Dr. Lee Walker, Sarah Bracher, Cara Bowling, Teia Miller, and Robin Jaquez.

**New Business:**

**1. Updates**

*a. Plumas County Oral Health Presentation – Dr. Jean Creasey*

- i. Reviewed oral health basics, such as how acid affects the oral cavity and how saliva is a protective factor for cavities.
- ii. Motivational Interviewing is an evidence-based technique clinicians are implementing to increase chances of patient success. Motivational interviewing focuses on using open-ended questions when speaking to patients about their current oral health routine and their perceptions on oral health in general.
- iii. Perinatal Care Model was implemented in Nevada County, which educated expecting mothers about proper oral health care for themselves and their child and an incentive was given if this mother took their new infant to the dentist for an oral health assessment before their first birthday. Collaboration between dentists and OBGYN's allowed for the success of this model.
- iv. A Virtual Dental Home program is being piloted throughout California. This program sends dental hygienists into a school to assess children and take virtual data, send the data to an offsite dentist who will then analyze and prescribe course of treatment for child. A lot of data can be collected, children are desensitized, initial assessment is minimally invasive, and the overall cost and time for further dental visits is drastically reduced because the course of treatment has already been prescribed.

**Question: How was the Virtual Dental Home program able to take X-Rays on children without dentist authorizing first?**

*b. Outreach – Harm Reduction Van*

- i. Invited by Alcohol and Other Drugs program to assist in inaugural outreach event in Calpine and Sierra City.
- ii. 18 toothbrushes/20 toothpastes were administered to community members in Calpine; 5 toothbrushes/5 toothpastes in Sierra City.

*c. Fluoride Poll*

- i. During outreach event, we asked all community members “Would it be beneficial to have the Oral Health Program staff provide free fluoride varnish at least once a month at outreach events such as this?”
- ii. In Calpine, 12 responded “Yes” and one person responded “Neutral”. In Sierra City, three responded “Yes”.
- iii. Throughout the course of the day, the Oral Health Program learned there many people are misinformed about fluoride, especially in relation to the Sierra County water system.

Discussion: Fluoride is recommended if the person is at high-risk of dental caries and/or if the individual has a moderate decay rate. The Oral Health Program is in the process of fluoride varnish certification and is working on creating language for fluoride standing order. L. Walker volunteered to consult with Oral Health Program on guidance for standing order based on current examples. L. Walker and S. Bracher mentioned some fluoride application methods are easier than others, recommends using individual brush instead of trays. Safety supplies will need to be purchased in order to maintain a safe and sterile environment.

## 2. Results from OHP Community Survey Packet

- a. *J. Harris went through each question and explained the findings for each.*
- b. *Discussion*
  - i. *Do you or a member of your household have untreated tooth pain?*  
**S. Bracher** was surprised at the amount of people who reported having untreated tooth decay.
  - ii. *Do you or a member of your household have cavities that are not filled?*  
**L. Walker** reported the amount of unfilled cavities seems high because they would have to have holes or obvious signs of a cavity. **S. Bracher** and **T. Miller** were very surprised to see this result. **T. Miller** suggested the high reporting of “Yes” could be because the individuals have been told they have a cavity by the dentist and have not gotten it fixed yet.
  - iii. *Not including teeth lost from injury or orthodontics, how many of your permanent teeth have been removed because of tooth decay or gum disease?*  
**J. Harris** expressed the amount of people who reported having lost at least one tooth (N=68) is worrisome. **L. Walker** expressed this could be because of the lack of access to dental care in the county.
  - iv. *How long has it been since you last visited a dentist or a dental clinic for any reason?*  
**T. Miller** expressed concern that at least one individual in the county has never been to the dentist. **L. Walker** mentioned he would expect more “Never Have Been” responses in a broader sampling.
  - v. **T. Miller** asked the Oral Health Program to analyze multiple questions based on zip code to see the differences between the East and West side of Sierra County.

- vi. *True or False - Children should see a dentist by age one or at first tooth eruption.*

**L. Walker** was surprised by how many people answered this knowledge-based question correctly. **C. Bowling** mentioned hospitals now send home a packet of information about caring for a newborn child to parents as soon as they are discharged from the hospital. Included in this packet is an appointment timeline with the first dental visit on it.

**3. Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA)**

- a. Each kindergartener in the schools need to receive an oral health assessment and have a specific form completed. Oral Health Program will find out more information and report back next meeting.

**4. Next Meeting Information**

- a. The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 17, 2020 at 9:00am in the Sierra County Probation Office.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 10:30am by Kylie Ures.