Addressing Barriers to Oral Health and Health Care for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in New Jersey, Five-Year Plan

Funded by the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD)

The Arc of New Jersey
November 5, 2020
Presenters

- **Chelsea Fosse**, Senior Health Policy Analyst, Health Policy Institute, American Dental Association
- **Heather Koball**, Co-Director, National Center for Children in Poverty
- **Suma Setty**, Senior Research Associate/Project Director, National Center for Children in Poverty
Agenda

- Overview of Project Purpose and Goals
- Approach and Methods
- Partnership Engagement
- Overview of Statewide Advocacy Plan
- Next Steps
Goals

1. **Assess barriers** to oral health care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)
2. Develop a **statewide directory** of dentists who serve patients with IDD
3. Draft a **comprehensive five-year advocacy plan** that identifies how best to improve statewide capacity to deliver dental services for people with IDD
Goal 1: Assessing Barriers

Focus Groups & Interviews
- People with IDD
- Caregivers of those with IDD

Key Informant Interviews
- Policymakers
- Payors
- Industry reps
- Researchers
- Advocates
- Dental and medical professionals

Surveys
- Dentists

SURVEY
Findings: Barriers to Oral Health Care

Individual and family level factors
- Severity and type of disability
- Financial barriers
- Family and other service support
- Place of residence

Provider-level factors
- Lack of training
- Lack of awareness
- Lack of expertise
- Low Medicaid participation
- Long wait lists for sedation or general anesthesia

Challenges with access
- Finding dentists
- Physical accessibility
- Sensory friendly environments
Goal 2: Statewide Directory

**Sources of Information**
- Survey of Dentists
  - NJDA, ADA membership via Find-a-Dentist
  - Insurance program provider lists
  - Snowballing
- Existing directory from NJ Family Care (Medicaid)

**Challenges**
- Feasibility of creating a comprehensive, reliable, up-to-date directory
- Storage and maintenance
- Accessibility of resource
Challenges to statewide directory and next steps

**Approach**
Combining provider information from existing insurance provider directories with survey responses

**Limitations**
- Different information in different directories
- Not always up to date
- Don’t specify type of special needs accommodated,
- No shared definition of terms (e.g., special needs)

**Potential solutions and next steps**
- Survey to be developed and administered by Division of Medical Assistance and Health
- Goal is to compile these data into an easy-to-use format for people with IDD and families with IDD
Goal 3: Advocacy Plan

New Jersey Summit to Address Oral Health for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Wednesday, October 16 / 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
335 George St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Objectives
1. Prioritize advocacy goals for the next five years
2. Identify concrete short- and long-term steps toward achieving those goals
3. Collaborate across organizations with key stakeholders
Jan 2020 - Managed Care Organization Convening

Discussion Topics:
- Credentialing: impact of statewide universal credentialing rollout
- Provider directories: sufficient information on providers treating people with IDD
- Expanding the provider network: training, enhanced reimbursement opportunities
- Care management programs: best practices
- Barriers for those requiring care with sedation or under general anesthesia
- Data availability: collaboration between MCOs and state Medicaid
Advocacy Plan (just a taste!)

- Continue to engage with the State Dental Director to participate in the development of the state oral health plan.
- Increase the IDD communities’ knowledge of care management services currently provided by the MCOs.
- Identify currently available data that could be used to track unmet dental needs of people with IDD.
- Engage directly with hospitals and hospital associations to raise awareness of this issue of denied access to operating room settings.
- Connect with CWF advocates and lend the voice of the IDD community to current advocacy efforts for CWF.
Advocacy Plan (just a taste!)

- Organize an educational seminar for state legislators around the importance of key policy issues that affect oral health for people with IDD.
- Raise awareness among insurers/third-party payers of potential for substantial cost savings from office-based behavioral guidance and desensitization techniques that keep patients out of the hospital for receipt of dental care.
- Work with DDD to integrate oral health training into the curriculum and onboarding of Direct Support Professionals.
- Create an Oral Health Task Force to oversee the work described in this advocacy plan.
Next steps
Thank you!

Chelsea Fosse DMD MPH | fossec@ada.org
Heather Koball PhD | koball@nccp.org
Suma Setty MPH | setty@nccp.org