

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

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

**The Arc of New Jersey  
November 5, 2020**

# Presenters

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- **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

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- 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

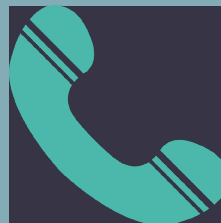
## Focus Groups & Interviews

- People with IDD
- Caregivers of those with IDD



## Key Informant Interviews

- Policymakers
- Payors
- Industry reps
- Researchers
- Advocates
- Dental and medical professionals



## Surveys

- Dentists



# 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



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
*College of Dental Medicine*



National Center for Children in Poverty  
Bank Street Graduate School of Education

## **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**

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Serving People With Developmental Disabilities  
**Spectrum for Living**

**SPAN**  
Parent Advocacy Network

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New Jersey Dental Association

Division of Developmental Disabilities

**The Family Resource Network**  
Providing families with access, answers and action

**AmeriHealth Caritas**  
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE & HEALTH SERVICES

**adha** New Jersey  
Dental Hygienists' Association

**October 2019 - Statewide Summit at Rutgers**

# Jan 2020 - Managed Care Organization Convening

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## 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



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# Advocacy Plan (just a taste!)


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- 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!)

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- 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.



  
**Identifying  
Barriers  
to Quality  
Dental Care  
for Individuals with  
Developmental  
Disabilities **REPORT****



The report is available at [http://nccp.org/downloads/njcdd\\_report\\_march%2030.pdf](http://nccp.org/downloads/njcdd_report_march%2030.pdf)

# Next steps

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# Thank you!

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