



# Reducing Barriers to Dental Care for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in New Jersey

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New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities

Presenter: Heather Koball, PhD



National Center for Children in Poverty

 COLUMBIA  
UNIVERSITY

MAILMAN SCHOOL  
of PUBLIC HEALTH

HEALTH POLICY & MANAGEMENT

# Purpose of Project

## Goals

**(1) Develop a five year advocacy plan for improving access to dental care for people with IDD in NJ**

**(2) Create a directory of dentists who treat people with IDD**

**Timeframe Oct 2018-December 2019**

# Project Team

## Columbia University

- Co-PIs Heather Koball, PhD and Kavita Ahluwalia, DDS, MPh
- Researcher Suma Setty, MPh
- Advisor Chelsea Fosse, DMD

## Rutgers University School of Dental Medicine

- Advisor Evan Spivack, DSD
- Advisor Dr. Glenn Rosivack, DMD

## American Academy of Developmental Dentistry and Medicine

- Advisor Lyubov Slashcheva, DDS

# Community Advisory Group

- Caregivers
- Self-advocates
- Oral Health Coalition
- Boggs Center at Rutgers University
- Group Home Supervisor
- NJ Ombudsman
- Special Needs Dentists and Dental Hygienists
- SPAN

# Research Activities

- Interviews
  - Caregivers (Complete)
  - Self Advocates (May 2019)
  - Key Informants (ongoing)
- Literature Review (ongoing)
- Survey of Dentists (June 30, 2019)
- Dental Directory (Fall 2019)
  - Online Home
  - Sustainability Plan
- One Day Summit (October 16, 2019)
- Final Report (Dec 2019)

# Insurance/Policy

## – Private Insurance

- Expensive, not required
- Extension to adulthood?

## – Public Insurance: Low Payment Rates

- Models: AmeriHealth Caritas Inclusive Dental Health Plan
- Special Billing Code (New Mexico)
- Medically Underserved Population
- Raising payment rates

# Medicaid reimbursement

Procedure	Usual /customary rates	Medicaid reimbursement
Exam/x-rays/prophylaxis	270	56
Single surface amalgam	154	30
Tooth extraction (routine)	161	30
Tooth extraction (surgical)	281	31
Anterior root canal	836	135
Upper complete denture	1,606	302

# Special Programs

- Oral Health Coalition/NJDA
- Project Accessible Oral Health
- American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry
- Special Care Dentistry Association
- Special Olympics: Special Smiles



# Dental Care Environment

- Model Programs
  - Rutgers
  - Temple University (Kornberg and Penn Dental School)
- Lack of Resources
  - E.g., 2 year waiting list for general anesthesia
  - Months to wait for other care
- Interest in dental community
  - Low pay rates
  - Lack of training
  - Lack of comfort

# Caregivers and Self Advocates

- Direct Service Providers training
  - High turnover, lack of consistency
  - Competing tasks
- Prioritization, Limits on Time
- Variation in Behaviors/Communication Ability

# Summit

- Prioritize an advocacy action plan
- Key Stakeholders
  - Department of Health and DDD
  - Advocates for people with IDD
  - Dentists, hygienists
  - New Jersey Dental Association
  - Group Home Representatives
  - Boggs Center
  - Insurers
  - Self advocates and families

# Next Steps

- Who else should be at the table? Others with whom we should talk?
- Recommendations of dentists who serve people with IDD?
- Comments and feedback

**Email: [KOBALL@NCCP.ORG](mailto:KOBALL@NCCP.ORG)**