

Community Dental Health Coordinator

The Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) program teaches community health worker skills to a dental or other health professional who may be from a private practice or public health setting.

Many families are unsure about what dental services are necessary, where those services are located, or how to begin to access those services. A professional with CDHC training is able to help with those issues through culturally competent “case management” strategies.



CDHCs assist with reducing anxiety that often accompanies dental treatment, explain how dental disease begins, describe various dental procedures, and explain how dental appointment protocols work.

By connecting patients with already existing care that they are often unaware of, hospital ER use for dental pain decreases and preventive care increases. Compliance with home care oral hygiene recommendations is improved while oral health becomes integrated into the patient’s overall health plan.

CDHCs help parents gain a greater insight into how to safeguard the oral health of their family. They guide efficient management of oral health issues throughout the lifespan, including pregnant women, infants and the elderly.

Facts about the CDHC curriculum:

- Teaches communication and informal counseling strategies to dental professionals in great depth
- It complies with state practice acts.
- It can be offered both online or in person through a local educational institution.
- The online modules can be “stacked” into an existing dental assisting or hygiene curriculum, as well as be offered as a continuing education series over a 6, 12 or 24 month period.
- A brief internship or work demonstration project in a community-based setting is included in the program, which allows trainees to test their community health worker skills prior to graduation
- Some programs utilize the training to provide technical oral health educational knowledge to community health workers.

For more information, contact:

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