

**REPORT TO THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE**

**STATE OF HAWAII  
2019**

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 321-63  
HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

**REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON DENTAL HEALTH  
ACTIVITIES, EXPENDITURES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**



**PREPARED BY:**

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**December 2018**

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DIVISION HOSPITAL & COMMUNITY DENTAL SERVICES BRANCH

#### **Executive Summary:**

*The Hospital & Community Dental Services Branch (HCDSB) is the only state dental public health agency that provides direct dental treatment services. The HCDSB primarily provides dental treatment service for individuals with disabilities and other special needs persons who lack access to private sector services. The HCDSB is organizationally placed in the Developmental Disabilities Division.*

#### **Program Objective:**

HCDSB's objective is to help assure access to basic dental care services for persons that are aged, blind and disabled which limit their access to dental treatment. These include persons with severe chronic mental illness, frail elderly persons who are medically fragile, and individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD).

#### **Program Activities:**

##### *Direct Dental Services*

Dental care services are provided by the HCDSB personnel to patients that reside at Hawaii State institutions, including Hawaii State Hospital, Leahi Hospital, and Kalaupapa Settlement, as well as to patients who reside in the community. The HCDSB has five (5) dental clinics located at the Department's Health Centers on Oahu: Diamond Head, Lanakila, Leeward, Windward, and the Hawaii State Hospital. Currently there are no dental clinics located on the Neighbor Islands.

Over the past year, the HCDSB provided clinical services for 1,405 individuals who otherwise do not have access to private sector dental services. The dental clinics completed 14,482 dental procedures in the past year. Patients seen by the HCDSB clinics include:

34%	Persons with a mental health disability
39%	Persons with I/DD
16%	Hawaii State Hospital patients
21%	Persons aged 65 years and older

##### *Community Collaboration*

The HCDSB staff collaborates and works with State and private agency personnel in the coordination of programs designed to enhance the community dental infrastructure for access to dental treatment in the state. The collaborative focus is primarily on the Neighbor Islands where the geography of Hawaii exacerbates problems in accessing dental health services and there is an uneven distribution of oral health resources.

The HCDSB collaborates with the following programs including but not limited to:

- University of Hawaii School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene at Manoa;
- University of Hawaii, Maui College, Dental Hygiene Program;
- University of Pacific, Dental School, Pacific Center for Special Care;
- West Hawaii Community Health Center;
- Hui No Ke Ola Pono, Community Health Center;
- Women Infant Children Programs;
- Early Head Start and Head Start Programs;
- Queens Medical Center General Practice Dental Residency Program;
- Hawaii Dental Association;
- Hawaii Dental Hygiene Association;
- Hawaii Special Olympics;
- Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
- Department of Human Services;
- Hawaii Primary Care Association; and
- Community Health Centers.

Over the past year, the HCDSB staff collaborated with the oral health stakeholders to address the following dental areas:

- 1) State oral health disparities (especially the Neighbor Islands);
- 2) Tele-dentistry Pilot Project;
- 3) Oral health trainings related to persons with I/DD;
- 4) Medicaid adult dental coverage; and
- 5) Contract with The Queens Medical Center Dental Residency Program for the provision of care for patients with disabilities or conditions that are medically fragile, or both.

### **Tele-dentistry Pilot Project**

The HCDSB has identified significant disparities in access to oral health services which have been well-documented in Hawaii. While these disparities are common in many states they are magnified in Hawaii by the following areas of concern:

- 1) The geography of Hawaii exacerbates access problems and there is an uneven distribution of oral health resources;
- 2) General dentists, dental specialists, and resources for sedation and anesthesia for dental care are concentrated on Oahu;
- 3) The community water supply in Hawaii does not contain fluoride; and
- 4) There are a limited number of dentists who participate and accept patients eligible for the State Medicaid Dental Program.

As a consequence of these and other factors Hawaii has a history of ranking among the worst states for dental health in the country for many groups including children and adults with complex medical problems and disabilities.

Over the last several years, the Department has expressed interest in the Virtual Dental Home (VDH) system developed by the Pacific Center for Special Care at the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry in San Francisco (Pacific Center). The HCDSB concluded that this system can be an effective way to address Hawaii's oral health disparities for the underserved and vulnerable populations.

In the past year, the Hawaii Dental Service Foundation awarded the Pacific Center and the HCDSB a grant to continue the VDH pilot project on the Big Island (Kona), with the West Hawaii Community Health Center. The funding is for the fourth and last year of a four (4) year pilot project.

The Big Island VDH pilot project focuses on providing dental education and dental care for children age zero to five years old at community sites such as Head Start and Women Infant Children (WIC) programs. Since September 2016, early preventive dental services and oral health education was provided at the West Hawaii Head Start Programs (3), WIC program (1), Tutu & Me Traveling preschool, and The Homes at Ulu Wini transitional housing. Over 500 children have received dental services via this pilot project.

Based upon the success of the Big Island VDH pilot project, the Pacific Center and the HCDSB were awarded grants from the Hawaii Dental Service Foundation and the Hawaii Medical Service Association to expand the VDH pilot project to the island of Maui. The grants will fund the second year of a three (3) year pilot project.

The Maui VDH pilot project focuses on not only providing dental education and dental care for children age zero to five years old at community sites such as Early Head Start, Head Start and Women Infant Children (WIC) programs, but also provide dental care to the elderly at the Hale Makua Health Services facilities. The Hui No Ke Ola Pono (Community Health Center) is collaborating with the Pacific Center and HCDSB on providing dental care to the programs described above. In addition, the University of Hawaii, Maui College, Dental Hygiene Program has implement a rotation for dental hygiene students at the VDH sites. At this time, 68 patients have received dental services via this pilot project.

The goals of the VDH pilot project are to:

- Demonstrate the effectiveness of the VDH given unique needs of Hawaii;
- Reach and provide diagnostic and preventive dental services to underserved populations that traditionally postpone dental care;
- Connect dentists virtually with dental hygienists in public health sites; and
- Provide services at a far lower cost than the traditional dental office.

### *Association of Maternal and Children Health Programs (AMCHP)*

In February 2018, the DOH presented at the Annual National Conference for AMCHP in Washington, D.C. on the VDH delivery of care model. After a review of conference presentations by AMCHP, the DOH was invited to submit an application for the AMCHP Innovation Station Program that shares best practices between maternal and children health program nationally. The Hawaii Virtual Dental Home (Tele-dentistry) Pilot Project was reviewed and approved by the AMCHP committee and accepted as a “promising practice” on the AMCHP Innovation Station Program website. Refer to the link below:

[http://www.amchp.org/programsandtopics/BestPractices/InnovationStation/ISDocs/IS%20Template\\_VDH.pdf](http://www.amchp.org/programsandtopics/BestPractices/InnovationStation/ISDocs/IS%20Template_VDH.pdf)

### *Oral Health Trainings*

The HCDSB is aware of the need for oral health training for families, caregivers and oral health professionals who provide care and treat persons with I/DD. Therefore, the HCDSB developed two training presentations addressing the following areas: 1) oral health awareness and oral hygiene practices for care providers and families of persons with I/DD; and 2) dental treatment considerations for oral health professionals when treating persons with I/DD.

The HCDSB conducted its third annual oral health training presentations statewide. In the past year, training presentations were conducted on the islands of the Big Island (Hilo and Kona), Maui, Kauai and Oahu. There were 271 individuals that attended these presentations.

In addition, the HCDSB is also planning to post the oral health training presentations on the HCDSB website as a dental resource for the public.

### **Problems and Issues Encountered by the Program:**

Access to dental services continues to be the primary issue for statewide oral health. Medicaid recipients and other low-income residents, and medically compromised individuals have poor access to dental care from private sector dental care providers. Patients are referred to the HCDSB by other State public health and social service agencies and private sector health care providers for dental treatment. Presently, the HCDSB does not operate dental clinics on the neighbor islands where access to essential emergency dental care (to relieve pain and infection) is limited. The capacity of Hawaii's system of community health center dental clinics is limited and individuals with I/DD have limited access to care at these community health centers.

### **Program Recommendations:**

The HCDSB will continue to work and collaborate with private sector providers, community health centers, and other oral health stakeholders by making them aware of the problems faced by the uninsured and under-insured population in accessing dental treatment services. The HCDSB will also further evaluate the various oral health care models implemented by other

states to address Hawaii's access of care challenges. We will continue to advocate support for those who need, but do not have access to dental care.

**Total HCDSB Expenditures for FY2018:**

**Position Count:** 12.00 FTE

**Personnel Services:** \$ 939,630

**Contract:** \$200,000, The Queens Medical Center Dental Residency Program

**Other Current Expenses:** \$112,075

**Total** \$1,251,705

## **FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION**

The Department of Health, through the Family Health Services Division, leveraged a five-year Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Oral Health Disease Prevention grant to secure additional resources to achieve progress toward building the State Oral Health Program. This was the fifth and final year (9/1/17 to 8/31/18) of the five-year grant project period.

In April 2018, the Family Health Services Division Oral Health Program submitted a competitive grant application to the CDC for an additional five-year oral health grant award. Hawaii was not one of the 20 states selected for funding (AK, CO, CT, FL, GA, ID, IA, LA, KS, MD, MN, MO, NH, ND, PA, RI, SC, VT, VA, and WV).

The key programs activities for 2018 are described below.

### **State Oral Health Planning:**

- The major activity for the fifth grant year was the completion of a state oral health plan. The last state plan was completed in 2003. Activities included:
  - presentation of the draft framework/narrative at a statewide meeting in May 2018
  - development of the draft state plan in August 2018
  - dissemination of draft state plan to Hawaii Coalition for Oral Health stakeholders in November 2018
  - publication of the final plan is planned for January 2019

### **Personnel:**

- All Oral Health Program positions were filled including:
  - Oral Health Program Manager/Dental Director (half-time) (filled April 2017)
  - Program Specialist V (filled November 2017)
  - Office Assistant III (half-time) (November 2017)
- All three temporary/exempt/federally funded positions expired at the end of the grant on August 31, 2018

### **Data Surveillance:**

- Completed the oral health screening survey of all Head Start and Early Head Start children in the state. Publication of the final report (Hawaii Smiles 2018: The Oral Health of Hawaii's Low-Income Head Start Children) is planned for January 2019
- Annual reporting of data to the National Oral Health Surveillance System

### **Other Activities:**

- Organized the Oral Health Track for the September 8, 2018 Hawaii Health Workforce Summit to provide continuing education to physicians, dentists, and other healthcare professionals. Topics included:
  - Challenges and Opportunities in Prevention: An Update on the Role of the Sugar Industry in Shaping Public Policy
  - Early Childhood Caries
  - Eldercare: The Oral-Systemic Connection to Overall Health and Well-being
  - Possible Solutions to the Access of Care for our Kupuna

- Overview of Oropharyngeal Cancer: Definition, Causes, Risk Factors, National and Local Statistics
- Cancer Screening, Referrals, and HPV Vaccination Promotion: How Dentists Play A Critical Role
- A Pediatrician’s Recommendation Can Prevent Cancer: HPV Vaccination
- Completed five (5) on-air/on-demand news/video segments for the “Hawaii Now” morning segment on the Hawaii News Now (KGMB/KHNL) news channels. The segment topics were:
  - Improving Dental Care for Native Hawaiians  
(<https://www.hinowdaily.com/hawaiiankeiki-dental-care/>)
  - Helping Hawaii Teens Rethink Sugary Drinks  
(<https://www.hinowdaily.com/helping-hawaii-teens-rethink-sugary-drinks/>)
  - Prenatal Dental Care and Dental Care for Kids  
(<https://www.hinowdaily.com/caring-for-your-childs-teeth-andtips-to-prevent-cavities/>)
  - Silver Diamine Fluoride  
(<https://www.hinowdaily.com/hategetting-cavities-filled-this-new-option-may-be-a-better-solution/>)
  - Aloha Medical Mission Provides Free Medical Care Throughout the Pacific  
(<https://www.hinowdaily.com/free-nonemergency-dental-care-available-in-honolulu-to-people-without-insurance/>)

**Ongoing Assurance Activities:**

- Contract with 16 health service programs (including the Federally Qualified Health Centers) to provide primary care services for the uninsured and under-insured that includes dental treatment services
- Monitor workforce shortages including dental services and establish federal designations for health professional shortage areas
- Aligned Maternal Child Health five-year plan with oral health program activities to include oral health evidence-based strategies targeting an improvement in access and utilization of preventive dental visits for children and pregnant women

**Total Expenditures for FY2017:**

**Position Count:** 2 FTE (3 positions)

**Total:** \$484,261

**Means of Funding:** Federal Funds