

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 people 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. They may do this within a multispecialty care facility, a community clinic or within a primary care medical site.

By connecting patients with already existing (often underutilized) dental care sites, CDHCs can reduce hospital ED use for dental pain management. 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 in depth communication and informal counseling strategies to dental professionals
- 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 an 8 or 11 month period.
- A brief internship or work demonstration project in a community-based setting is included in the program, to allow trainees to test their community health worker skills prior to graduation

For more information, contact:

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