The Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) is a new member of the dental team who fills an important role whether working with a health center or private practice.

The CDHC can perform clinical preventive services and community-based outreach duties. In addition to oral health promotion and disease prevention, they can interact directly with populations who are at risk for dental disease, but are unsure of how to access a dental program.

For many families, knowing which dental services are needed, how to schedule appointments and having the necessary transportation to get there is critical. The CDHC is able to help with those issues.

In addition, the CDHC can manage behaviors that frequently accompany dental treatment, such as fear and anxiety. By carefully explaining how dental disease starts and the various dental ways to prevent and treat it, parents gain understanding of their important role in safeguarding their child’s oral health.

So while a CDHC may perform certain preventive services under the supervision of a dentist, such as sealants and topical fluoride applications, one of their most important roles is helping patients navigate the health care system.

CDHCs encourage regular oral health services for special populations such as pregnant women, teething infants, diabetics and the elderly. Optimal oral health throughout the life span helps build healthy populations!

The curriculum for this program may be offered in person or online. Many of the courses could be easily incorporated into an already existing dental hygiene or dental assisting program. The course work takes about a year with a brief internship to allow the CDHC to put what they have learned into practice.

Scholarships may be available for students who need financial support to complete this program. Acceptance of local students who will work within their communities to improve the oral health of their families and friends is encouraged.

For more information, contact:

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