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Evaluation by the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice.

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Strategies for sustainability are being explored with various stakeholders including community colleges, employers, Lifelong Smiles Coalition members, the Direct Care Workforce Initiative, and others. Institutionalizing the training program into the community colleges that have embraced the Prepare to Care program may be a cost-effective way to advance and sustain the programs, as well as integration into the I-Smile Silver and other programs.

Resources & Links:
Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation https://www.deltadentalia.com/foundation/
Lifelong Smiles Coalition lifelongsmilescollection@gmail.com
Prepare to Care https://directcare.training-source.org/
http://www.iowapreparetocare.com/
Mouth Care Matters http://www.iowacaregivers.org/education/
I-Smile Silver http://lifelongsmilescollection.com/downloads/1SmileSilver.pdf
University of Iowa College of Dentistry Office of Education and Training
http://bit.ly/1FKwG6w
For more information on oral health for older adults:
http://www.toothwisdom.org/care/state/iowa

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— Suzanne Heckenlaible, Executive Director, Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation

MOUTH CARE MATTERS AN INITIATIVE OF the
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For more information contact Iowa CareGivers:
1231 8th Street #236 • West Des Moines, Iowa 50265 • Phone: (515) 223-2805
information@iowacaregivers.org • www.iowacaregivers.org

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Developed a Competency-based Oral Health Specialty Curriculum for Those Who Provide Direct Care

23 Dental Hygienists Graduate as Mouth Care Matters’ Instructors – Exceeding the Goal of 15

Preliminary findings of the pre-post tests collected from direct care workers completing the oral health specialty training reveal:
- For items answered correctly by at least 70%, there were twice as many on the test following training compared to the test before training.
- There was a gain in knowledge as a direct result of the training.

Employers Value Mouth Care Matters

Direct care professionals from sixteen different employers graduated from the Mouth Care Matters class. All sixteen employers participated in a phone interview after staff completed the training.

94% or (15 of 16 employers) said they were interested in sending more staff to the Mouth Care Matters class.

“We would like to have more staff trained in oral care to increase the quality of oral care being provided.”

“Staff have been thrilled with the opportunity to attend (the training) and about how much they learned, especially how important good oral health is to overall health. With this increased knowledge they are placing more emphasis on oral care.”

Special Thanks to WesleyLife and Madrid Home for their involvement as Mouth Care Matters project case study sites.

64 Direct Care Professionals Graduate From Mouth Care Matters Program

Six two-day classes were held at four Des Moines Area Community College Campuses in Ankeny, Boone, Carroll, and Newton.

For all of the photos, visit: http://bit.ly/1SP9JXe

95% want to take additional Prepare to Care classes.

98% of those who graduated from the Mouth Care Matters class were very satisfied or satisfied.

“Employers Value Mouth Care Matters”

“Prepare to Care...Mouth Care Matters”

“Employers Value Mouth Care Matters”

“We think everyone needs to take the training; it shouldn’t be an option.”

“I put a poster of the ugly pictures in the break room and posted a note saying: “make sure it gets done!” I got some comments from co-workers saying they were surprised about what bad oral health can do.”

— Direct Care Worker Focus Group Participants

Dr. Anita Stineman
University of Iowa College of Nursing

“Involve content experts in the development of the curriculum ensures that the information included ‘best practices’ and is essential and relevant to the role of the Direct Care Professionals (DCPs) in providing the proper level of support for completion of oral health. Providing qualified instructors with the tools to effectively engage students and manage a safe learning environment is critical to retention and application of the content for the DCPs as they work to improve the quality of life for older adults.”

— Dr. Anita Stineman

Dr. Howard Cowen
University of Iowa College of Dentistry Office of Education and Training

When asked what the single most important thing for direct care professionals to know, Dr. Cowen said, “Oral health has a significant effect on one’s overall health.”

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DefinitioN of Direct Care Professional

Direct Care Professional (DCP) is an umbrella name for one of the largest sectors of Iowa’s workforce. Direct care professionals are defined as individuals who provide supportive services and care to people experiencing health conditions, illnesses, or disabilities and receive compensation for such services. They may work in home-based, community-based, or facility settings. They may have job titles such as direct support professional, supported community living worker, home health aide, direct care worker, and universal worker. The umbrella term also includes other job titles like hospice aide, personal assistant, certified nursing assistant, and patient care technician.
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Pictured on the right: Mouth Care Matters curriculum committee

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Partners in Development and Teaching

Dr. Stineman and Dr. Cowen shared their expertise in the development of the training competencies, the curriculum, and in co-teaching the Mouth Care Matters instructor class.

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“Prepare to Care”

• Mouth Care Matters

©“Prepare to Care” for Direct Care Professionals

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“A spirit for living”

:: Mouth Care Matters

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“*We look forward to marshaling the Coalition’s resources toward the common goal of ensuring optimal access to oral health care for every Iowa nursing home resident and homebound elderly person*”

— Mary Jane Carothers, Vice President, Quality Improvement & Clinical Affairs

**LifeLong Smiles Coalition Member Organizations**

- Iowa CareGivers
- Iowa Public Health Association
- Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation
- Iowa Health Care Association
- Iowa Department on Aging
- Iowa Dental Hygienists’ Association
- Des Moines Health Center
- Iowa Healthcare Collaborative
- Iowa Primary Care Association/Safety Net Collaborative
- The University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics
  - LeadingAge Iowa
  - Iowa Department of Public Health
  - Iowa Medicaid Enterprise
  - Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging
  - Mid Iowa Community Action, Inc.
  - The University of Iowa College of Nursing
  - Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa
  - Principal Financial Group

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**Prepare to Care**

**Mouth Care Matters**

Oral Health Education for Direct Care Professionals

**A Pilot With Promise**

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Graduates of the program receive a state-issued certificate that is portable across care and support settings and regardless the needs of the individuals served.