

New York Department of Health and Michigan
Department of Community Health Present:

An Introduction to NYS OMRDD Training Modules in Special Care Dentistry Webinar

Michigan Department of Community Health ~ Oral Health Program
July 22, 2009



Acknowledgements

State of Michigan – *Governor Jennifer M. Granholm*

Michigan Department of Community Health – *Director Janet Olszewski*

Public Health Administration – *Chief Administrative Officer Jean C. Chabut*

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Division of Family and Community Health – *Director Brenda Fink*

Director of Oral Health – *Dr. Sheila Vandebush*

MDCH Oral Health Coordinator – *Jill Moore*

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On July 22, 2009 the states of New York and Michigan joined forces and offered free continuing education to dental professionals on treating patients with special needs within the dental office.

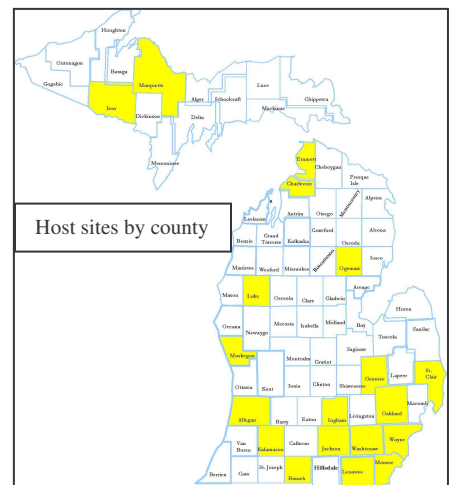
In a recent survey conducted by the Michigan Department of Community Health—Oral Health Program and the Michigan Oral Health Coalition, many dentists expressed they do not have adequate knowledge or experience to feel confident in treating patients with special care needs, and mentioned an interest in increasing their education within this area.

Based on data collected for the Smiles Across Michigan Oral Health Needs Assessment study, which is focused on patients with developmental disabilities:

- 77% of individuals screened had red gums
- 25% of individuals screened had periodontal disease
- 27% of individuals screened and surveyed said that their dental health affects what they can eat
- 11% of individuals screened and surveyed said that they had difficulty sleeping because of mouth pain
- 37% of individual screened and surveyed said they need sedation for dentistry

Ms. Andrea Goodwin, Project Director, Smiles Across Michigan, reports “all of these findings suggest that people with developmental disabilities need and want oral health care but have difficulty in obtaining it. As well, we collected information via survey that indicates that people who are Medicaid eligible now have no source of care/treatment, due to the elimination of dental services under Medicaid covered services in the state of Michigan. These individuals have access only to minimal care on an emergency basis, which typically results in extraction of the affected tooth.”

The course was offered as a three-hour live webinar from 5:00-8:00 PM shown in multiple locations across each state. The topics included: *Introduction to Developmental Disabilities, Legal-Ethical Issues, and Autism*. The Oral Health Coordinator, Jill Moore, at the Michigan Department of Community Health took lead on the project in Michigan and asked for volunteer site coordinators in each county. Enthusiasm was shown by the site coordinators on hosting this rare and unique event. In Michigan, the webinar was viewed in 22 locations and had 403 dental professionals attend. Each site coordinator also planned a light meal which was also provided free of charge. In addition to Michigan, the State of New York had 13 different site locations and Arizona had one site.



Post-webinar evaluations indicate that dental professionals and site coordinators would like this opportunity again in the future. Dental professionals in the Upper Peninsula indicated appreciation for being offered convenient unique continuing education, specific to their line of work. The partnerships that were formed

between the State of Michigan and the State of New York, have moved Michigan closer to addressing the oral health access issues of persons with special needs, which is also compliant with Goal 19 in the Michigan State Oral Health Plan.

The live webinar was recorded and will be stored for one-year on-line free of charge. When this is available for viewing it will soon be located at the websites for both the Michigan Department of Community Health www.michigan.gov/oralhealth and the Michigan Oral Health Coalition www.mohc.org. It is also currently available at: <http://learning.mihealth.org/mediasite/oralhealth>

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