

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

DEPT. COMM. NO. 245

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:

December 28, 2017

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the report "Requiring the Department of Health to submit an Annual report on Dental Health Activities, Expenditures, and Recommendation," as required by §321-63 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at:

<http://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/departments-of-health-reports-to-2018-legislature/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia Pressler".

VIRGINIA PRESSLER

Director of Health

Enc.

c: Senate
House
Legislative Reference Bureau
SOH Library System (7 copies)
University of Hawaii

REPORT TO THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

**STATE OF HAWAII
2018**

**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 2017

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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

The Hospital & Community Dental Services Branch (HCDSB) is the only state dental public health agency in the state 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 1,416 individuals who otherwise do not have access to private sector dental services. The dental clinics completed 12,111 dental procedures in the past year. Patients seen by the HCDSB clinics include:

41.5 %	Persons with a mental health disability
36.4 %	Persons with I/DD
17.7%	Hawaii State Hospital patients
17.5%	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 Pona, 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 third and last year of a three (3) 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 and WIC programs. After 12 months (September 2016 to September 2017) of providing treatment via the VDH, approximately 350 children received dental services.

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 first year of a three-year pilot project.

The Maui VDH pilot project will focus 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) will be collaborating with the Pacific Center and HCDSB on providing dental care for the programs described above. In addition, the University of Hawaii, Maui College, Dental Hygiene Program will implement a rotation (involves no direct services) for dental hygiene students at the VDH sites.

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.

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 second 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. Approximately 285 individuals attended these presentations. The third year of trainings started on the Big Island (Hilo and Kona) in November 2017. Statewide training for Maui, Kauai and Oahu will be completed by June 2018.

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 FY2017:

Position Count: 12.00 FTE

Personnel Services: \$961,266

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

Other Current Expenses: \$112,075

Total \$1,273,341

Means of Funding: General Funds

FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

The Department of Health, through the Family Health Services Division, has been able to leverage 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 fourth year (9/1/16 to 8/31/17) of the five-year grant project period. The major activity for the fifth grant year is the completion of a state oral health plan. The last state plan was completed in 2003. The key programs activities for 2017 are described below.

State Oral Health Planning:

- DOH launched a strategic planning process to develop a state oral health plan to be completed in August 2018. The process was launched in October 2017. Activities include:
 - announcement of the planning process at the state oral health coalition meeting;
 - implementation of an online stakeholder survey (Fall 2017);
 - a series of community meetings on each island (Fall 2017);
 - convening of workgroups in partnership with community stakeholder to draft components of the plan (Spring 2018);
 - development of a website to inform stakeholders of progress (Spring 2018);
 - presentation of the draft plan at a statewide meeting in May 2018; and
 - publication of the final plan.

Personnel:

- All Oral Health Program positions were or will soon be filled including:
 - the Dental Director Position (half-time) (filled April 2017),
 - Program Specialist Position (filled November 2017), and
 - Office Assistant (half-time) (filled February 2017, vacant Aug 2017, conditional offer November 2017).

Data Surveillance:

- Planning and implementation for oral health screening survey of all Head Start and Early Head Start children in the state. A final report is expected in Summer 2018.
- Annual reporting of data to the National Oral Health Surveillance System.

Dental Sealants:

- The first dental sealant pilot was completed in 2016 with West Hawaii Community Health Center.
- A second pilot site is being planned for 2018.

Other Activities:

- Organized Oral Health Track for the Hawaii Health Workforce Summit to provide

continuing education to physicians and dentists regarding the impact of high sugar consumption (including sweetened beverages) on poor oral health and maintaining a successful private practice serving Medicaid clients;

- Partnership with the Chronic Disease Prevention program within Hawaii State Department of Health to survey dental providers on current practices and concerns.

Ongoing Assurance Activities:

- Contract with The Queen's Medical Center Dental Residency Program for the provision of care for patients with disabilities or conditions that are medically fragile, or both;
- 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

Total \$237,427

Means of Funding: Federal Funds

PART V. DENTAL HEALTH

§321-61 Dental health. The department of health shall constitute the sole agency of the State for the purposes of carrying out the activities and performing the functions provided in this part. [L 1949, c 208, §2; RL 1955, §46-50; am L Sp 1959 2d, c 1, §19; HRS §321-61]

§321-62 General duties of department. The department of health shall study and appraise the State's dental health needs and resources, and shall foster the development and expansion of dental health services to the people of the State. The department may:

- (1) Conduct research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, and studies relating to the incidence, causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of dental diseases;
- (2) Supervise, provide, and direct clinical dental health services for adults and children in the State;
- (3) Develop and conduct a program of dental health education of the public;
- (4) Provide information and education relating to dental health to public health nurses, teachers, social workers, and others who deal in a professional capacity with the public, through publications, seminars, institutes, and other appropriate means; and
- (5) Provide training for professional personnel to staff state and local dental health programs. [L 1949, c 208, §5; RL 1955, §46-53; am L Sp 1959 2d, c 1, §19; HRS §321-62; am L 1992, c 70, §5]

§321-63 Director's specific duties and powers. To carry out the purposes of this part the director of health shall:

- (1) Take such action as may be necessary, and authorized by law, to meet conditions prescribed for participation in all related federal dental health programs and the regulations adopted thereunder; determine qualifications of personnel requiring professional training and licenses and correlate the programs of the department with the profession and related agencies for the proper and efficient functioning of the department;
- (2) Enter into cooperative arrangements with other departments, agencies, and institutions, public or private;
- (3) Submit plans relating to dental health to the United States Public Health Service and make application for such federal funds as will assist in carrying out the purposes of this part;
- (4) Accept on behalf of the State and deposit with the director of finance any grant, gift, or contribution from the federal government or other source made to assist in meeting the cost of carrying out the purposes of this part and expend the same for such purposes;
- (5) Make an annual report on activities and expenditures pursuant to this part, including recommendations for additional plans, measures, or legislation relating to the purposes of this part. [L 1949, c 208, §6; RL 1955, §46-54; am L Sp 1959 2d, c 1, §§14, 19; am L 1963, c 114, §1; HRS §321-63]