

Every Smile Counts!

Medical-Dental Learning Collaborative

PURPOSE



The practice of medical and dental collaboration recognizes that oral health and systemic health are intertwined, and when those collaborative efforts are focused on prevention and disease management an increase in positive health outcomes, particularly for our most vulnerable children, is possible. The Every Smile Counts! Medical-Dental Learning Collaborative brings together providers from the medical and dental professions, policy and content experts, and other relevant stakeholders to identify ways the medical and dental communities can better work together to improve children's oral health. Participants of the collaborative will work together to identify issues, the root causes of those issues, and potential solutions. The collaborative will provide a space for professionals to learn from one another through engaging in discussion and problem-solving activities, sharing information and resources, developing time-bound projects rooted in mutual interests and focused on the common goal of improving children's health.

MEMBERSHIP

Sacramento County and Amador County-based practitioners from the medical and dental fields, representatives from professional organizations, policy experts, content experts, and other relevant stakeholders (to be determined by the collaborative) will be invited to participate. Collaborative membership will be based on an individual's 1) dedication to the goal of improving the oral health of children in Sacramento and Amador counties, 2) understanding of the need for mutual respect for differing perspectives and opinions presented by fellow participants in the collaborative, 3) commitment to participant-developed group agreements, and 4) willingness to contribute to participant-led ad hoc projects to address identified issues.

BENEFITS

Collaborative-wide meetings: The collaborative will hold approximately two in-person meetings and three virtual meetings per calendar year. These meetings will focus on topics identified by participants, may include presentations by collaborative participants or outside experts, and will provide an opportunity for both guided and participant-led discussion. These meetings will allow participants to learn from one another, and to identify opportunities for participant-led projects and collaboration. Additionally, the collaborative facilitation team will work with partner organizations to provide continuing education credits to medical and dental providers for a number of collaborative meetings.

Resource and information sharing: The collaborative will have a dedicated page within the national Oral Health 2020 Network's online platform, Socius. This online community will serve as a place for participants of the collaborative to share information and resources; post blogs and events, obtain meeting agendas, minutes, and recordings; and directly communicate with one another.

Collaborative-identified projects: The collaborative hopes to foster a solutions oriented culture and systems change approach among its participants. Therefore, collaborative members will commit to identifying issues and barriers that negatively impact children's oral health and engage in collaborative projects to address the participant-identified issues and improve child oral health.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Medical-Dental Learning Collaborative is one component of Sacramento County's Every Smile Counts! (ESC!) Program, funded through Sacramento County's Dental Transformation Initiative (DTI) grant. As a partner of the ESC! Program, Children Now provides coordination and facilitation support to the collaborative, with the ultimate goal of the collaborative becoming a self-sustaining entity that can continue beyond the conclusion of the DTI grant in 2020.

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