

## OrOHC K-12 Committee Survey – Services Snapshot

### Three Questions

1. **Spring Break is coming up. How are things going (schools scheduled, schools not scheduled, schools canceled, etc.)?**
2. **Any ongoing staffing issues?**
3. **Has *lack of funding* affected services this school year? If yes, please share some details.**

### 1. **Spring Break is coming up. How are things going (schools scheduled, schools not scheduled, schools canceled, etc.)?**

#### **Kyle Allen, School Based Health Center Manager, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center**

**9-10-2021:** We have not scheduled schools yet, but we have an MOU with the district and are starting the process at the school level. The Delta variant is a concern. I'm hearing from D3 direct that when they went to schedule schools only 50% so far have committed.

**12-3-2021:** We have now successfully scheduled all 22 of our schools. The corona virus continues to be a disruption. For instance, we had to cancel our sealant days on Thursday and Friday last week because an employee's family member was waiting on covid test results (they ultimately came back negative but only after we canceled the days).

#### **Molly Perino, Dental Program Manager, Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties**

**9-10-2021:** I/we are hopelessly optimistic nervous Nellies around here. We have been in contact with all of our schools and forging ahead with plans for business as usual, with full anticipation of having to shift gears/approach in a day's notice. We have many dates on the books for screening and services, with lots of tentative spots held. We feel good about our on-hand supply of PPE, moderately okay about the supply chain, and a sense of anxiousness all around. We were able to provide services in a few schools in the 20/21 year who we did not get to serve in 19/20 and it was disheartening to see the increase in caries in the students we saw, and there was a HUGE increase in kids who could have benefitted from sealants, definitely a smaller # of return forms. I don't know that we can do much more than to be prepared for the variables.

**12-3-2021:** Oh boy... we have become exceptionally good at shifting gears and direction in a hurry. Scheduled schools are having lots of last-minute changes and we are doing our best to sneak in when they can have us. Lots more leg work demands of the program staff as schools are short staffed and many are not allowing parent volunteers. Consent forms are rolling in, I don't have a sense of comparison to years past yet. It seems as though the more rural the site, the more opt outs we are seeing; this trend is very much in line with vaccination rates in those same communities. We are just rolling with the punches!

**3-11-2022:** I dare say things are starting to settle.... Now that I have jinxed us all, as we sit today, the majority of our schools are committing to scheduling. Rural sites are FAR more anxious to have us back, our largest and most urban district has been more hesitant to

**commit. Returns are not quite up to pre-pandemic levels, but not terrible all things considered. I'm hesitant to think that we will serve all of our schools this year due to timing and the increased time we are spending at each site.**

**Vanessa Rabine, Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties**

**9-10-2021:** We are having schools start to reach out to schedule. Our plan is to continue like we did at the end of the 20/21 school year, using the modified technique and no compressors.

**12-3-2021:** We are currently getting schools screened and planning our return days for services. So far, the delta variant has not changed our plans. We're as ready as we can be!

**3-11-2022:** Molly answered for this program (above).

**Linda Mann, Director Community Outreach, Capitol Dental Care**

**9-10-2021:** We plan to be back into all our schools this year pending their approval. We are still in the process of scheduling them. We do plan to offer schoolwide screenings first in the fall, followed by coming back for sealants.

**12-3-2021:** Most all schools have wanted to schedule. Some districts are only allowing vaccinated individuals to come onsite so we are having to manage the schedule to ensure that staff that have exemptions do not enter- so far this is manageable, but if more districts enforce this, we may lose staff. Anecdotally, I feel consent form return rate is higher this year? I have not looked at the report yet to know for sure. Also, a few schools have had to rearrange classroom size due to COVID, so they do not have spare room for us to set up so have opted to cancel. Our teams have also noted quite a bit of new staff at the schools, so are having to re-introduce the program quite a few times.

**3-11-2022:** We've had a lot of Head Start visit cancellations this year, due to sites being closed down. Our Head Starts have really struggled with staffing and have had to make several sites virtual due to staff shortages. They have also had to temporarily shut down classes due to isolation requirements post exposures. It has been challenging to navigate the ever-changing schedule, but we are making it work with lots of 'make up days' and open communication with our community partners. The decay rate seems to be back to pre-covid levels, as families are more comfortable returning to the dental office for routine care. We have several school sealant schools (5 elementary, and many middle schools) that still need to be scheduled and are recruiting another EPDH/DA team to help us finish off the year.

**Jessica Dusek, Dental Health Coordinator, Salem-Keizer School District**

**9-10-2021:** Currently we have 20 (low-income) elementary schools confirmed for their annual school-based dental screenings. The logistics will be different, as we cannot bring a whole classroom of students into a screening area that doesn't allow for three feet of space between each person in the room. This detail may slow our process, such that schools with enrollment about 500 students may take two days to complete. We have also relied heavily on the volunteer clerical assistants at screenings, and that will be different this year. As our volunteers are a rotation of approximately 30 Assistance League members who are all over the age of 65,

we are allowing them out of this duty (except for any who are highly motivated and wish to continue).

To Salem-Keizer School District's benefit, due to Capitol Dental Care's Community Outreach Program need to re-strategize their efforts, our 2021-2022 school year's school-based dental screenings will be largely staffed by Capitol. This will be a true collaborative effort!

**12-3-2021:** This model has been very successful: CDC staff is helpful, and we have a positive working partnership. For CDC to enter the screening encounters more easily, I provide each screener with a hardcopy of each class's student names, along with birthdates, and boxes for entering student's presence of cavities, fillings, ECC, level, and identified need. We screen class-by-class, so this offers an efficient method of data collection. A potential challenge may be continuing this model next year, although I hope we are able to continue to have CDC support our school-based screenings in this capacity in future school years.

**3-11-2022:** We have a 10% increase of students experiencing decay, and many students are missing the services due to being absent. Student absences are higher than ever. Other than that, things are going well; no lapse in in-person schooling, and all scheduled school-based services (screenings, sealant clinics) have taken place. Schools' staff are welcoming. Space is sometimes an issue, due to bond-measure construction and student distancing requirements. School staff is overwhelmed with coverage issues (high rate of staff absences and substitute shortage) making for a time shortage to connect with parents for follow-up phone calls. I have made more phone calls this year and will continue calling parents to document follow-up or to assist in care navigation.

**Carolyn Tziu, Community Dental Program Manager, Neighborhood Health Center**

**9-10-2021:** We have around 90% of our schools scheduled for this school year. Schools have been on board for us providing our usual screen/seal services on campus, provided they remain open. We feel prepared because this past year gave us ample time to develop our new infection control guidelines and clinical setup. The Delta variant may end up changing our plans, but we are prepared to remain flexible and adjust as we learn new recommendations or if schools need to close again. If schools do close at some point, we are prepared to continue offering services on weekends using our local clinic as a base or at the high school's health center (as we had done during the pandemic this past school year).

**12-3-2021:** All schools have been scheduled but our Canby schools are now tentative as the Canby School District is not allowing outside visitors into the building. I will be checking in with our district contact next month for updates. We've been able to complete five SBSP events at five of our North Clackamas schools so far this school year and they've been very successful.

**3-11-2022:** We have been to 10 of our 17 schools. The remaining schools are scheduled. Canby is still tentative because of the district's protocol on visitors but I've received word from district staff that the protocol will most likely be lifted so chances are very high that we will be able to serve all 5 Canby schools.

**Trina Simmie (McClure-Gwaltney), Healthy Kids Outreach Program Manager, Mercy Foundation**

**9-10-2021:** We are serving our schools starting the 3rd week of September. We will be mainly working out of our vans/mobile units. We were planning to add sealants back in this school year as we had only been providing screening, fluoride varnish, silver diamine fluoride and connection to care this last year. We are tentatively adding sealants back in utilizing the modified glass ionomer technique. We will see how the first couple of schools go and determine if we will continue to move forward with it. At this point, our schools are still planning on keeping what we have scheduled, but there is a lot of unknowns. We feel somewhat prepared because we planned to go with previous year's guidelines for the first 3 schools since we were not hearing definitely from OHA what we needed to do. We knew those guidelines would be safe and prudent.

**12-3-2021:** All is going well with schools we have scheduled and fair number of consent forms at each school. It is taking more time to get through a school with sealants added back in and only working at 1/2 the capacity of staffing. We are prioritizing services to elementary school grades and only for 1 round this year so that we can complete our full services for all of the students that provide a consent form. We have had to postpone the middle and high schools we have scheduled at this time.

**3-11-2022:** We have accomplished having all of our elementary schools scheduled and being seen but 1 and a couple middle schools. We moved to focus on that age group instead of K-12 because of our staffing issues, space issues, and moving our services to mobile van units. Our struggle has also been reduced consent forms, school engagement in recruiting more consents, and scheduling time if additional is needed to complete.

**Alicia Riedman, Dental Prevention Program, Community Health Centers of Lane County; President Oregon Board of Dentistry**

**9-10-2021:** We are scheduled for all of our Head Start sites starting the September 20<sup>th</sup> through October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are on schedule to serve the elementary school kids in starting in October. We delivered our permission packets to almost all of our schools last week. At this time, we only have all-school screenings scheduled. Pre-COVID we combined our all-school screenings with our varnish and sealant days, but due to COVID-19 and staffing we will most likely not combine all of these services on the same day. We feel prepared for the upcoming school year. We will definitely be flexible and patient. I am sure things will look a bit different with cohorts - i.e....schools will not have 3 different grades in the gym at the same time for all school screenings! (School schedules it that way as they go to different stations for other health screenings.) It will be a much longer day as we wait for cohorts to clear out before others come in. Again, this is for the all-school screenings, not our sealant program. Our sealant/varnish program will also be at much slower pace as well due to cohorts. Of course, pre-screening our students for COVID-19 before sealants are placed will take time as well. Every new step added takes time, so that means more time in each school, less kids seen each day.

**12-3-2021:** We have 2 rounds in our schools. We have our round 1 scheduled for all-school screenings and Fluoride (due to staffing, sealants will only be round 2) and are currently in the

thick of things seeing about 300- 400 kids a day. Head Start scheduling was very challenging as classes were quarantined often, making us reschedule constantly. We will complete round 1 for elementary schools by the end of January. Round 2 will be sealants and fluoride. Usually, we have our entire year scheduled by now, but staff is quite busy both in our program and the schools with everyone being so extremely short staffed. It is really hard to schedule clinics from our end as well, not knowing how much staff we will have in the future. I will be sending out round 2 dates in December and this will include our Middle School Sites. Some of the schools have held off on middle school screenings and services wanting to wait until further into the year as Elementary school screenings have taken precedent. It has taken longer for everyone to get schedules into place, but everyone is extremely thankful to have us back in the schools serving the children, and everyone is extremely flexible with the dates offered.

**3-11-2022: Everything is going well. We have all of our schools scheduled through the end of the school year. One of our middle schools canceled per the nurse's recommendation due to ongoing construction and extremely limited space (2 schools are now sharing this space, but we will be able to serve the elementary students in this very tight set-up). As well, I will gently ask near the end of the school year if space has opened up. Our pre-schools and Head Starts have us hopping on scheduling as many have closed at the last second due to quarantine, lack of bus drivers, lack of teachers, and of course snow. Absence rates are up at least 15% at times, but this is slowly starting to improve. We sent a second round of forms out to classrooms with little to no sign up from round one, with a chance for a coffee card and some sweet treats for staff. So many new staff members at the schools, again, a lot of one-on-one education to them about our program. We got some response with new forms turned in for round 2, but not as many as we hoped for. Definitely a rebuilding year after so much time away. Everyone is extremely appreciative to have us back in the schools even with the challenges this year has presented. Schools are so very short-staffed. The principals are stepping in to act as substitute teachers where needed. A team effort all around!**

## **2. Any ongoing staffing issues?**

**Kyle Allen, School Based Health Center Manager, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center**

**9-10-2021:** Yes, we retained our staff throughout the summer. Yadira Martinez will be pursuing dental therapy education so we will likely need to hire a new hygienist to fill her role in the sealant program.

**12-3-2021:** We have now hired a new hygienist that is expected to start in January. One of the issues that came up during that process was around the mandatory vaccination of employees in health care and education. Our Dental 3 agreement also does not include any exception to vaccination. Our HR department determined that we could not ask about this status during the interviewing process and decided that it would need to be asked by HR only after we made a job offer.

**Molly Perino, Dental Program Manager, Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties**

**9-10-2021:** Thank goodness, yes! I used some of the OCF funding for existing programs that was granted last year to cover costs for the outreach coordinator and to purchase extra PPE and

different sealant material to be able to offer GIs with the modified technique. In order to maintain staffing, some dental staff was reassigned to support the pharmacy and medical side in our organization, until we are in a place where outreach can resume at prior years' capacity. As a program, we are being extended a lot of grace in light of the circumstances with the promise of us being able to return to a robust outreach program in the coming year/s.

**12-3-2021:** No update, same staff 😊

**3-11-2022:** All good in the dental 'hood! Same staff and am onboarding an on-call hygienist who has a particular interest in public health who will eventually provide services for us.

**Vanessa Rabine, Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties**

**9-10-2021:** Yes, we have retained our staff through the summer, and we do hope to retain our staff through this next year.

**12-3-2021:** We have retained our staff and do plan to continue retaining our staff.

**3-11-2022:** Molly answered for this program (above).

**Linda Mann, Director Community Outreach, Capitol Dental Care**

**9-10-2021:** Yes, most of them. Yes!

**12-3-2021:** See above

**3-11-2022:** Head Start staffing issues have affected site closures and screening cancellations, and some community partners are requiring vaccinations to be on site. This excludes some of our staff, which has been challenging at times to navigate.

**Jessica Dusek, Dental Health Coordinator, Salem-Keizer School District**

**9-10-2021:** Prior to summer break, I coordinate for Capitol Dental Care's dental sealant teams to visit multiple summer program sites. The importance of this is not only for the students to benefit, but also for the necessity of providing Capitol's staff with adequate work schedules. During the summer, Capitol staff and the school program staff coordinate logistics from the distribution/collection of sealant consent forms to the setting up of portable equipment in a variety of settings. Through the school year, Capitol staff will be able to maintain necessary work hours by conducting school dental screenings--which are much needed especially at this time as there were no school-based dental screenings during the 2020-2021.

**12-3-2021:** Due to Covid-related school-district safety measures, only approved organizations are allowed to enter school buildings. This restriction prevents us from using volunteers such as dental hygiene students.

**3-11-2022:** (Same as above) Our biggest issue has been restriction of using previously available volunteers (hygiene students, etc.).

**Carolyn Tziu, Community Dental Program Manager, Neighborhood Health Center**

**9-10-2021:** Yes, we have retained all staff through the summer and will retain them through next year.

**12-3-2021:** All staff continue to be retained.

**3-11-2022:** All staff continue to be retained. We also just recently hired a new position to take on our referral workload and support education and outreach efforts.

**Trina Simmie (McClure-Gwaltney), Healthy Kids Outreach Program Manager, Mercy Foundation**

**9-10-2021:** We have been needing to hire an additional dental assistant and have had difficulty getting candidates. The recent mandate on vaccine looks like it could be posing an issue with a couple of my staff. I have one dental assistant and one dental hygienist that might not continue so this might pose staffing issues for me.

**12-3-2021:** Update (staffing successes/challenges): We have continued to have difficulty hiring for dental assistant position and now are down a hygienist also. We have not had viable or adequate candidates. Even working at 1/2 capacity we still do not have those positions filled and we have revised flow of services to accommodate. This seems to be a common theme for all our dental offices in the area also so they couldn't spare temporary help for us either.

**3-11-2022:** We have had dental assistant, dental hygienist, and student screener positions open for more than a year. We just hired a dental assistant, but the other 2 positions are still open.

**Alicia Riedman, Dental Prevention Program, Community Health Centers of Lane County; President Oregon Board of Dentistry**

**9-10-2021:** We have lost 2 EPDHs due to retirement, both had already planned this right before COVID-19 hit, so the timing was a coincidence. We lost one EPDH and one Office Assistant 2 Bilingual to our Integrated Oral Health Program, and one Office Assistant 2 Bilingual to EOC due to a promotion. So, we have a few spots to fill, but jobs are posted and interviews begin soon. The rest of our team is back in office and ready to go. Our staff generally stays (most of us have been here 15 years) as we are a stable FQHC.

**12-3-2021:** We have hired one EPDH and one temporary OA. We are finding it difficult to replace our EPDHs as it is apparent all dental offices are having difficulty filling RDH and Dental Assistant positions. Competition for Office Assistants is also a challenge as so many businesses are hiring. We have more interviews scheduled but the wheels are turning slowly. I am not sure how long it will take to get back to the staffing we lost due to retirement etc., but at least a few more months. As stated previously, it is very hard to schedule when not knowing how much staff we will have in the future. We don't want to promise too much to only find that we can't provide

everything promised, but also don't want to schedule too little and suddenly have a ton of staff! Stressful to walk this tightrope without a "crystal ball."

**3-11-2022: We have stabilized our staff for this school year with some amazing new EPDHs and office assistants, although we will need more in the beginning of the next school year as things ramp up again and all school screenings are added to our plate, as usual, in the fall.**

**3. Has *lack of funding* affected services this school year? If yes, please share details.**

**Kyle Allen, School Based Health Center Manager, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center**

**9-10-2021:** We collect most of our consent forms in the September and October school months. With the Delta variant beginning to surge at the start of the school year, my concern is that parents won't participate thereby lowering our overall financial viability for the year. Financial support for dental coordinators to do additional communications to parents and schools on the importance of these dental services and the safety of our program would be helpful.

**12-3-2021:** This continues to be a concern. We have collected around 20% of the forms we are hoping to serve during the year and we will need to continue to collect more throughout the year. My hope is that as we enter January and February that the virus will diminish and that participation in the program will increase.

**Molly Perino, Dental Program Manager, Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties**

**9-10-2021:** Staffing cost!! Hands down. We are spending nearly twice the amount of time on site in schools due to social distancing rules, enhanced cleaning/disinfection processes, and no volunteers able to enter the school to assist with escorting kids to and from class. Made even more complex if the school is on a staggered schedule and multiple days are needed to complete care. Followed quickly by PPE and supplies which are astronomical in cost in comparison to years past. Gloves have gone from \$13.00 per box up to \$65.00 per box at times. If we are going to resume using portable compressors, we will need to invest in some retrofitting of existing units to aid in the reduction of aerosols, or look into new units.

**12-3-2021:** Same! Staff cost is the biggest chunk of my budget concerns. We are spending more time than ever on site due to processes related to COVID, less on-site support due to not allowing parent volunteers. Fortunately, none of our schools are on a staggered schedule this year so we *should* be a bit more efficient.

**3-11-2022: I think my answer to this will forever be the cost of wages vs. reimbursement. We are as lean and mean as they come as far as staff and process, and with the current protocols, it simply takes more time to do what we do and that inherently costs more. Schools are slowing, allowing parent volunteers to re-enter and help us be more efficient with the flow of students. It is no secret that reimbursement rates for dental are lousy and that makes breaking even in this setting a challenge. We all know this work is worth every cent and drop of sweat invested, and I still get side-eye from the CFO when financials are reviewed.**

**Vanessa Rabine, Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties**

**9-10-2021:** This question would have to be answered by Molly and she already submitted a response.

**12-3-2021:** Molly's got this covered!!!

**3-11-2022:** Molly answered for this program (above).

**Linda Mann, Director Community Outreach, Capitol Dental Care**

**9-10-2021:** Incentives for permission slip returns! The better the incentives, the more participation we receive.

Would also love to purchase scrub tops with our logo on them for sealant staff.

**12-3-2021:** Same as previously noted- no progress yet.

**3-11-2022:** Not that I'm aware of. However, our team is staffed a little thin, so we don't always have available days to reschedule screenings when cancellations occur. Our school year is booked pretty solid by the beginning of October.

**Jessica Dusek, Dental Health Coordinator, Salem-Keizer School District**

**9-10-2021:** Capitol Dental Care does a great job providing services in the summer. It would be helpful to have funds for our school district's dental program staff to be readily available to help families navigate follow-up care. It is not until mid-August that I return to work to begin sorting through "treatment needs. More of our students would benefit if we could provide screenings at more schools. With additional funding we could expand our outreach. We expect to provide screenings at 23 (of our 42) elementary schools. With additional funds we could increase our infrastructure to serve more elementary schools and include the dental screening intervention to lower-income middle and high schools. Our school and dental program staff have an established process for promoting and tracking subsequent follow-up care.

**12-3-2021:** Thanks to (carry over) OCF funding I've been able to compensate (non-CDC staff) dental screeners, purchase mirrors/gloves, and order print. A challenge is to secure funds for next school year's expenses.

**3-11-2022:** (Same as above) This school year we've been able to carry on services due to Capitol Dental Care providing staff, and OCF carry-over funding from last year. To be more effective next year we really need more SKSD staffing to help meet the needs of connecting with parents to navigate students' care, while meeting all the details associated with school-based service delivery coordination. As the school district is a large organization, funding requests require jumping through multiple hoops and waiting on approvals.

**Carolyn Tziu, Community Dental Program Manager, Neighborhood Health Center**

**9-10-2021:** Revenue has been low this past year. Any help with funding our part-time positions for this school year would be helpful, especially considering that we don't know how many

services we will be able to provide with Delta. Funding for clinical supplies or oral hygiene supplies is also always helpful.

**12-3-2021:** Funding for referral navigator position (urgent referrals have increased this year), for OH kits supplies and for clinical supplies is always helpful.

**3-11-2022:** Services have not been impacted due to lack of funding.

**Trina Simmie (McClure-Gwaltney), Healthy Kids Outreach Program Manager, Mercy Foundation**

**9-10-2021:** We are in need of additional funding to support our program. Our program has taken a hit because of the inability to have the normal fund raisers like we do for our programs and suspect that our largest event that occurs first week of December will be cancelled or scaled down again this year.

**12-3-2021:** Our Festival of Trees event will be held virtually this year again and suspect we will only have a portion of what would be normal results. We are awaiting hearing on some grants we applied for.

**3-11-2022:** Because we modified our services for working out of mobile vans, we have been able to survive with what we have. If we were allowed to be fully back in schools and fully staffed our funding would not have been adequate. We have continued to apply for grants and our foundation/local funders have continued to support us through fundraisers. We do not know for this upcoming year what the landscape will be.

**Alicia Riedman, Dental Prevention Program, Community Health Centers of Lane County; President Oregon Board of Dentistry**

**9-10-2021:** FQHC, so not sure this is applicable.

**12-3-2021:** Again, not applicable.

**3-11-2022:** Not applicable, although the extra cost for large quantities of disposable gowns and masks, 20-30 a day of each, definitely hurts the budget (and the landfills). I am looking forward to the lifting of restrictions, of course expecting that we all can stay healthy at this time. 😊