



# **Innovation and Collaboration to Improve Oral Health Care**

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# This Presentation

- Oral health care in America – historical challenges
- Changes in the health care system create opportunities for oral health
- An “oral health movement”
- HRSA's work and opportunities for collaboration



# Factors that Impact Oral Health Access

- Oral health – peripheral to health care and health care policy
- Financially out of reach for many
- Dental providers – distribution and potential shortages
- Health care workforce receives little training in oral health



## Factors that Impact Oral Health Access (cont.)

- Low oral health literacy; most vulnerable suffer the most significant oral problems
- Lack of advocates for people with dental problems
- Policy-makers not engaged



# Choose Your Metaphor – The Result is the Same

- Tipping point
- Sea change
- Paradigm shift
- Game changer

**New and irreversible developments in how and where we provide oral health care, and how we pay for it.**



# Drivers in the Health Care System

- Triple Aims
- ACA – access to care for many; and health center expansion, home visiting, quality, innovation
- Mental health parity
- Growth of interprofessional teams
- Focus on Patient Centered Medical Home



# Integrating Oral Health

- Efforts to improve coordination between primary care and oral health – co-location, PCMH, EHRs
- Health center expansion
- Getting services to people where they are



# Financing Oral Health Care

- Expansions for children through CHIP, Medicaid and ACA
- Health centers





# Addressing Provider Shortages

- National Health Service Corps
- Title VII workforce programs
- State Oral Health Workforce Programs
- Teaching Health Center GME
- Expanding the types of dental providers



# Non-dental Providers and Oral Health Training

- Interprofessional Oral Health Core Clinical Competencies
- AAMC curriculum
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physicians, nurse midwives, pharmacists

# Low Oral Health Literacy

- A problem for the health care delivery system in general – building evidence about the relationship between oral and physical health – science to drive practice and policy.
- Perinatal health



# Need for Oral Health Advocates

- US National Oral Health Alliance
- National Network for Oral Health Access
- Programs like Missions of Mercy
- Medicare beneficiaries
- Newly insured



# Engaging Policy Makers

- IOM Reports
- Quality measures
- Foundations
- Congress
- Administration
- States, state government and legislatures



# Contact Information

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