Community Dental Health Coordinator

Empowering Communities Through Education and Prevention

By Dee Joyce, CDHC
Why The CDHC Program Was Right For Me

- Community outreach
- A chance at a dental career
- I have always had an interest in oral health
- The newspaper ad interested me
- My husband encouraged me to apply
- I had the perfect cheerleaders by my side
- Financial assistance through grants
What is a CDHC?

- Community health worker - training focuses on oral health
- Located in underserved communities
- Recruited from the same types of communities they serve
- Work in clinics, schools, Head Start centers, institutional settings, churches, social service agencies and others
- Work under a dentist’s supervision within the confines of state dental practice acts
- Main goal is to bring more people into the oral health system
CDHC Job Responsibilities

A CDHC in a Clinic:
- Oral Cancer Screenings
- Fluoride Treatments
- X-rays
- Sealants
- Polishing
- Sterilization
- Schedule Appointments
- Maintaining Patient Records

A CDHC in the Community:
- An Oral Health Advocate
- A Peer Counselor
- A Navigator
- An Oral Health Educator

Important: Clinical services can only be performed under the supervision of a dentist.
CDHC Programs in the US and Virginia

- CDHCs are currently working in 9 states: Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Montana
- More than 100 students are currently in training and CDHC programs are available in all 50 states
- Virginia’s first class of CDHCs began training last year with 5 students enrolled; 4 completed training and are now in internship; the second cohort is now training at PHCC
CDHC Training - What It Includes

- Online instruction for 1 year
- Monthly clinical practice and skill checks
- CPR training and certification
- X-ray certification
- Community project
- 6-month Internship (520 hours - 1040 hours)
CDHC Training

Focuses on community outreach, care coordination, educational and social interventions, prevention.

CDHCs are trained to:

- Collect information to triage patients
- Provide dental health education
- Coordinate care
- Help patients navigate the health care system
- Address social, environmental, and health literacy issues
- Provide clinical services
CDHC Curriculum

- CDHC basic training models include:
  - Advocacy and Outreach
  - Communication and Cultural Competence
  - Interviewing Skills
  - Legal and Ethical Issues
  - Introduction to Dentistry
  - Screening and Classification
  - Prevention of Dental Caries
  - Prevention of Oral Cancer
  - Financing and Payment of Dental Care
Floss the teeth you want to keep.

Brush at night to keep your teeth; brush in the morning to keep your friends.
Community Projects!
Partnerships are

- Pregnancy Care Center
- Southern Area Agency on Aging
- Piedmont Community Services
- Harvest Foundation
- Smart Beginnings
- United Way
- Department of Social Services
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Community Fellowship

- Denta Quest
- Bassett Family Practices
- Henry County Public Schools
- Head Start
- Maplewood Apartments
- Grace Presbyterian
- Liberty University Medical
- Grace Network
From Just 1 Partner!
My Biggest Event yet!  

24 Volunteer Dental Professionals!
Thank You To My Community!

Dr. James Hartigan

Dr. Walcey Burris

Dr. John Wheless
Questions?

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