

PROJECT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Oral Health Models for Success: Medical-Dental Integration (Fluoride Varnish, Pregnancy) and School-Linked Dental Programs

Speaker Biographies

PDM Virtual Meeting

June 6, 2024

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Paula Lee, RDHAP, MPH

Policy Lead and School Dental Program Coordinator, Office of Oral Health
California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Paula Lee is the State coordinator for school-based/-linked dental programs. She also works on state and national quality improvement initiatives with medical, dental, and behavioral health integration. She is passionate about building public health infrastructure for the prevention of oral health diseases. Prior to working at the State, she spent more than 11 years working at a Federally Qualified Health Center and at a private dental practice. As a volunteer, Lee provided dental care services and oral health literacy in school-based/-linked dental programs to children, families, and community members in Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Lee received an MPH from UC Berkeley and a BA in business administration from Sacramento State University. She currently serves on the Government Relations Council for California Dental Hygiene Association as well as for the California Health Care Foundation Leadership Program, where health care leaders expand leadership skills and systems capacity to meet the challenges facing California's health care system.

Lynn Walton-Haynes, DDS, MPH

Dental Program Consultant, Office of Oral Health
California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Dr. Walton-Haynes joined the Office of Oral Health in October 2018 and is responsible for providing consultation on the development and establishment of dental policy, preventive programs, and performing quality assurance activities relating to dental programs. She provides guidance on the implementation of the California Oral Health Plan strategies and related interventions including culturally appropriate services, quality improvement, and evaluation activities. Dr. Walton-Haynes leads OOH efforts to assess and improve capacity for integrating oral health care and primary care across the lifespan. She also serves as the OOH liaison for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Dr. Walton-Haynes earned her DDS from the University of California, San Francisco, and her MPH in epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to her current role, she practiced dentistry for over 15 years and served more than 20 years as a public health epidemiologist at the state and county levels.



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Anastasia Coutinho, MD, MHS

Medical Consultant II, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Dr. Coutinho is a full-scope family physician with a passion for providing equitable services to patients and their families. She has a niche in reproductive health, including prenatal care, and works to mitigate the health disparities that exist among Californians. She graduated from the University of Vermont College of Medicine and completed residency at Sutter Santa Rosa, which partnered with Santa Rosa Community Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center. She currently works for the California Department of Health Care Services and Lifelong Family Medicine Residency Program, where she strives to create the provision of equitable healthcare services for all.

Savannah Wilson, BSDH

Oral Health Project Coordinator, Modoc County Local Oral Health Program

Savannah Wilson is the Project Director for Modoc County's LOHP. She started working with Modoc County in 2016 through a First5 fluoride varnish grant and helped the county with CHDP dental-related objectives. In 2017, she helped with the initiation of the LOHP in Modoc and has helped in various aspects of the program. Over the last 7 years, her public health and dental hygiene career have expanded. Aside from her independent work as an RDHAP, she has helped launch fluoride varnish programs in medical settings throughout the county and is working on expanding Modoc's school-based dental program. Her next goal is to obtain an MPH to continue her public health career path.

Dr. David Tepel, Director, Oral Health Program

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)

Dr. Tepel graduated from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 2006. He has been with DOHMH since 2014 and has been the program director since 2020. In this capacity, he oversees oral health matters that impact vulnerable populations, as well as NYC's school-based dental care which takes place in nearly 1000 public schools. He provides guidance on clinical matters, dental public health planning, education promotion, and policy initiatives. Dr. Tepel has co-authored numerous abstracts presented at major public health conferences. He also continues to treat patients in private practice as a General Dentist.



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Travis D. Tramel, Ph.D., MA, RDHAP

Gerismiles Mobile Dental Hygiene Practice

Dr. Tramel founded GeriSmiles Mobile Dental Hygiene Practice in 2015, a Riverside-based mobile practice that brings dental professionals into schools, health fairs, homeless shelters, and churches.

Prior to starting his own business, Dr. Tramel worked in various dental office settings, including ten years for a national dental corporation as a hygienist. During his time there, he trained over 300 hygienists on corporate processes while maintaining a wholistic approach to managing disease. After practicing dental hygiene for nearly fifteen years, he returned to school to obtain a license as a Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice (RDHAP). This license allows a dental hygienist to practice outside of the traditional office and bring preventive services directly to the patient.

Dr. Tramel graduated from Oakwood College with a bachelor's degree in biology. Following this, he enrolled into the dental hygiene program at Loma Linda University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene. Dr. Tramel also holds a Ph.D. in clinical Christian counseling.

Sarah Vogel, MA

Oral Health Project Coordinator, Humboldt County Local Oral Health Program

Sarah Vogel has been the Oral Health Program Coordinator for Humboldt County's Public Health Department since November 2022. Her prior experience in oral health began in 2008 when she moved from Sacramento to Humboldt County to oversee the TOOTH AmeriCorps program, which provided school-based education and fluoride treatments to primary students. During the pandemic, she was part of an interdisciplinary team that opened the first and only Narcotics Treatment Program in Humboldt, which provides medication assisted treatment for hundreds of individuals with opioid use disorder. Sarah has a master's degree in nonprofit administration from the University of San Francisco.



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