

Communities of Practice Questionnaire

1. Name of your organization Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools/Smile Keepers Dental Program
2. What is the structure/type of your organization? Please select from the following.
 County Health Department FQHC Non-profit
 Other (please describe) County Office of Education
3. Please briefly describe the history/background of the program.

Smile Keepers began providing preventive dental services to Tuolumne County Schools in 1995. At that time, Smile Keepers was operated under the direction of an FQHC and started the program in 4 local schools in Tuolumne County. The program grew to additional schools and Smile Keepers also received grant funds to buy a mobile dental van. The mobile van was driven to school sites for screenings, dental cleanings and sealants for children with parent permission. Children needing dental work were referred to our dental clinic for treatment or to their local provider. In 1999, the FQHC was closing its doors and the program was picked up by the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools. The mobile dental van was sold by the FQHC when the clinic closed. Smile Keepers is entirely grant funded and currently has 4750 students participating in Tuolumne County.

4. Which population is being served by the program?

Smile Keepers is providing dental education, screenings, fluoride varnish applications and follow up referrals for children as young as 4 months through high school age. We currently see approximately 500 (infant to 5 years) preschool children a year and approximately 4200 kinder through 8th grade at all elementary schools. Smile Keepers also provides dental outreach clinics for adults on a limited basis. At this time, Smile Keepers provides service to all special education students in high school, transition programs, elementary schools and early start programs. All services are provided with parent permission.

Smile Keepers also provides dental education in all prenatal education classes held at our local hospital.

5. What type of service delivery model is/are used in the program? Please select all that applies.
 Dental clinic model (e.g. permanent setting) Mobile- portable model
 Virtual model (e.g. telehealth/teledentistry) Event-based model
 Outreach and education model

6. What type of dental and oral health services are provided? Please select all that applies.

- Screenings Cleanings Fluoride varnish Sealants X-rays Fillings
- Referrals to dental and oral health services Care coordination/case management
- Patient education Other (please describe) _____

7. What type of integration service is/are provided? Please select all that applies.

- Medical services Behavioral health services Vision services Hearing services
- Transportation services Translation services Nutrition services None

8. Who are the staff that supports the program? How many staff are involved in the program? What are their roles?

Staff	Number of Staff	Role
Dentist	1	Volunteer Advisory Dentist to program coordinator Signs yearly fluoride prescription for Tuolumne County program Provides consultation when needed
Dental Hygienist	1	RDHAP acts as Clinical Supervisor and provides program components, mobile dental outreach services, supervises RDA.
Dental Assistant	1	RDA acts as Program Director/Coordinator. Provides program components, assists RDHAP with mobile dental outreach, provides program coordination of all services with school districts and program partners, grant writer.
Non-dental clinical staff	7	Volunteers are assigned to each dental professional for program support in the field...ie...taking notes for screening, delivering program supplies,
Community health workers		
Other		

9. What is the source of funding?

- Foundation/organization grant
- Public funding (e.g. local, state, federal)
- Private donations (e.g. individuals, businesses)
- Other (please describe) _____

10. How is the program evaluated?

Smile Keepers receives funding from First 5 and there is an evaluation component attached to the work plan. This information is reported to the First 5 director. Some funders ask for written reports on how funds were used.

11. Are there any reports?

First 5 Tuolumne County has reports generated from 18 years of data.

12. Are there any barriers/challenges to your program?

Our biggest challenge is staffing and support for these positions. We are often forced to reconsider opportunities because of funding restraints. Another challenge is getting the early oral care message home to parents. The attitude toward “baby teeth” is still challenging.

13. What are the lessons learned and/or are there any plans for improvement?

I have learned to do things small and well...especially at the onset of a project. I've learned it takes about 5 years for any project to develop “legs”. I have learned that a rigid person does not fit well in a school environment.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact COHTAC at oralhealthsupport@ucsf.edu.