NACHC ORAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES:

Key Priorities: Ensuring Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care | Assuring Access to Dental Care

IMPROVE ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH THROUGH

› PARTNERSHIPS TO BROADEN OUR REACH
  • Promotion of key resources:
    › National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health (NIIOH) “Smiles for Life” curriculum
    › National Oral Health Innovation and Integration Network (NOHIIN)
      › Primary Care Associations (PCAs) and national partners engaged in promoting oral health as an essential component of overall health
      › Key Activities: Highlighting challenges and sharing successful models in oral health and primary care
    › Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) – previously Oral Health 2020 Network
      › Inaugural and continuing member of the National Oral Health Connection Team - health equity working group

› ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS TO BUILD THE ORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE
  • Broker relationships between health centers/PCAs with local and regional dental schools and dental hygiene programs including the New York University Langone Dental Residency to assist with recruitment
  • Promote A.T. Still University dental schools (Arizona School of Dental and Oral Health/Missouri School of Dental and Oral Health) recruitment fairs to health centers and encourage health centers and PCAs to endorse students through the Hometown Scholars Program

› SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE TO BUILD ORAL HEALTH CAPACITY
  • Elevate the importance of oral health within PCAs, and develop executive leadership at health centers to promote optimal oral health
  • Conduct education sessions at national conferences
  • Encourage and support the use of expanded care teams- including Public Health Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, American Dental Association’s Community Dental Health Coordinators, Expanded Function Dental Assistants, and Community Health Workers/Promotoras

› PROFILING INNOVATIVE MODELS IN HEALTH CENTERS TO PROVIDE INSIGHT FOR ORGANIZATIONS
  • Developed a Social Determinants of Health Caries Risk Assessment as part of the Agricultural Worker Children Dental Sealant Pilot
  • Highlight advances in oral health and dental care, including teledentistry

Contact Katja Laepke at klaepke@nachc.org with any questions.