

Meeting Summary
National Action Framework for Medical-Dental Integration
Partner Engagement Meeting
May 3, 2023 in Atlanta, GA

On May 3, 2023 approximately 65 participants with a broad range of subject matter expertise gathered in Atlanta at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Global Communications Center for a day-long meeting focused on identifying a core set of objectives and actions that will lead to increased medical-dental integration (MDI) and support for whole-person integrated care.

Dr. Karen Hacker, Director for the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) provided a welcome and opening remarks on behalf of CDC. The meeting, which was hosted by CDC's Division of Oral Health (DOH), in collaboration with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) and KDH Research & Communication (KDHRC), coincided with the one-year anniversary of a virtual convening that laid the foundation for potential strategies to advance MDI broadly at various levels: local, state, national, and health care system.

Ms. Nicole Johnson, Associate Director for Policy, Partnerships, and Strategic Communications in DOH and Ms. Ciara Long, a Research Assistant for KDHRC provided an overview of the day which included a presentation outlining the methodology that was used to identify the four pillar areas featured the National Action Framework. These pillar areas – **Awareness; Workforce Development and Operations; Information Exchange; and Payment** form the backbone for the National Action Framework – which is one of CDC's CORE strategies because of its potential to accelerate oral health equity and care coordination that will improve chronic disease management and overall health throughout patients' lives.

Ms. Barbara Park, Public Health Consultant for NACDD, provided the charge to the group before they transitioned to four action planning groups (one for each pillar area) for the bulk of the day.

During the facilitated breakout sessions, participants were guided through a series of questions designed to identify a realistic set of objectives and activities that could be implemented over the next 3-5 years to accelerate collaborations among clinical, public health, community and other partners at three levels of engagement: Micro-level – e.g., consumers or a particular clinic or school; Mid-level – e.g., state health departments and health care systems; and Macro-level – e.g., payers, federal government, and national professional organizations.

The discussions were candid, focused, and robust. They resulted in the identification of priority recommendations and action steps that the CDC, NACDD, and KDHRC team will use to inform the development of a draft action plan containing strategies to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration between oral and medical providers and other

interested partners. The draft action plan will also serve as a springboard for a partner engagement strategy that will be launched later this year.

Dr. Debra Houry, Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Director for Program and Science at CDC, welcomed the group back mid-afternoon from their small group deliberations. She emphasized the importance of the work they are doing and the Agency's commitment to identifying opportunities to promote whole-person integrated care as a strategy for addressing health equity.

After each of the breakout groups had an opportunity to summarize their discussions and recommendations, Ms. Nicole Johnson provided closing remarks. She shared that CDC and DOH are in the process of developing a 'national brand' for the medical-dental integration project that will be trademarked. Modeled after Million Hearts[®] DOH intends to launch the branded initiative later this year to coincide with the release of the draft action plan. NACDD and KDHRRC will be working with DOH over the next year to finalize an inclusive partner engagement approach and structure that will facilitate collaboration and information sharing among diverse groups of partners working to implement and promote successful medical-dental integration projects. Based on the theory of collective impact, the partner engagement strategy will provide opportunities for information sharing and peer-to-peer learning among participants to facilitate implementation of actionable strategies across the pillar areas. Identification and sharing of existing (and needed) resources and tools to implement priorities contained in the draft action plan will also be a focus of the partner engagement strategy.

To stay informed about future activities please register for updates using this link below that CDC/DOH created specifically for this project:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6900952/CDC-Medical-Dental-Integration-Contact-Form>

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