

MORNING SPEAKER TALKING POINTS

Presenters (Public Session 9a-1030a)

Mert Aksu, JD, MHSA, DDS, Dean, Detroit Mercy

- Most people are aware of the importance of consistent prenatal care for a healthy pregnancy, but less well known is the impact of regular dental care
- Hormonal changes during pregnancy put women at increased risk for
 - periodontal disease
 - cavities
 - pregnancy gingivitis — tender gums that bleed easily
- Mothers' oral health during pregnancy could have an impact on babies
- Pregnant women with cavities can transmit cavity-causing bacteria to their infants
- **This project combines care delivery with oversight from an academic institution that can monitor provision rates statewide and concurrently conduct research.**

Chris Farrell, RDH, BSDH, MPA, Oral Health Director; Dept. of Health & Human Services

- Pregnant women don't seek or receive dental care often due to lack of access to affordable care
- **A grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) funded this project that allows Detroit Mercy Dental to partner with six medical sites around the state to provide prenatal and perinatal oral health care to high-risk populations of pregnant women**
- We are pleased to work with Detroit Mercy Dental on this important initiative
- The gap in dental insurance coverage for this population that this effort will fill is crucial to ensuring oral health
- Combined with the long-standing history that Detroit Mercy Dental has in helping under-served populations throughout SE Michigan, we feel this partnership could **establish a model** for future programs of this nature

Dan Thompson, COO; Michigan Primary Care Association

- Congrats to Detroit Mercy for getting this grant, which totals \$969,400 over 15 months, and began June 1 and formed a **strong partnership with MPCA and DHHS** to work with women and their physicians to ensure sure they both understand the importance of a comprehensive oral health plan and have access to dental care
- By **integrating a registered dental hygienist within the prenatal medical visit**, clinics **normalize** oral health as part of the overall health of the patient.
- The hygienist will care for the mother, **educate** her about healthy behaviors like brushing with fluoride toothpaste, and plan for both the **mother and child** to visit the dentist before the child's first birthday

For more information and to obtain quotes, visit:

<https://www.udmercy.edu/about/news/articles/2017/11-30-dhhs-grant-dental-patients.php>

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Peter Chang, MD, MPH, CEO; Grace Health

- We are so thankful for the initial funding from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan and the support of almost \$1,000,000 from the State of Michigan to continue this important program
- We are doing something innovative here that is being recognized on a national stage
- This program was recently published in a paper commissioned by the Roundtable on Health Literacy, Health and Medicine Division, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- Most importantly, I want you to think about the 300 patients we reached in our first year and then project that onto your clinic and know that you are going to reach roughly the same number of pregnant moms and their children so that we can reduce dental disease in families and make a huge impact in the communities we serve
- As the CEO of an integrated health care system, I can tell you that the **silos are being broken** and we are **streamlining the linkage between medical and dental care**

Doug Saylor, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Great Lakes Bay Women's Care Bay City

- We have historically been a leader in providing quality patient care, and we are happy to join with Detroit Mercy on a grant-funded project that will efficiently deliver patient-centered care to pregnant mothers
- By seeing patients where they already are, in this case it is mothers at prenatal visits, we can incorporate oral health care services as part of a comprehensive visit for the patient
- I speak for my whole team when I say that dental health is not only a huge priority from the obstetric perspective but, at least in Bay City and probably elsewhere, the need is overwhelming
- In addition to the obstetrical benefits, we have already seen first-hand what a difference dental health can make for the psychological well-being of our patients
- We need to **transform the perceptions of medical providers** into a mindset that oral health care during pregnancy is not only normal but the best option

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