



Name of Project: Oral Health Services for the Home and Community Based Services for the Frail Elderly (HCBS/FE) waiver population of Kansas

Name of Organization: Kansas Department on Aging
Topeka, Kansas

Description of Program:

Until recently, many Kansas senior citizens could not access dental care and their quality of life suffered for it. Thanks to a new service approved in Kansas, dental access will be greatly improved. A new oral health service covers preventive and restorative treatment as well as the purchase, adjustment and repair of dentures for seniors.

This past fall, Kansas received approval to add oral health services to the Home and Community Based Services/Frail Elderly (HCBS/FE) waiver. As a result, low income seniors who qualify for HCBS/FE services can receive dental care paid for by Medicaid. In the past, Medicaid only covered certain dental procedures, such as extractions, in an emergency situation.

The Area Agencies on Aging, who work directly with Kansas seniors, identified the need for oral health services for the clients they serve. The Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA) is very pleased to have received approval to add these services to the waiver. Now our challenge is to get dentists committed to the program. A comprehensive outreach and public awareness program has been developed and implemented to reach dentists around the state.

Kansas dentists who would like to enroll as a provider need to complete the non-physician application, checking the Title XIX services on the application, which then should be submitted to the processing entity. There is no fee to participate and enrollment processing takes about two weeks. Seniors who want to participate are asked to contact the Area Agency on Aging, which determines eligibility for the HCBS/FE waiver.

The Kansas Department on Aging developed the following key partnerships with public and private agencies and organizations to develop and implement the Oral Health Services: Kansas Dental Association; KDA (private); Kansas Health Policy Authority; KHPA (public) Oral Health Kansas; OHK (private) Electronic Data Systems; EDS (private); Kansas Department of Health and Environment; KDHE (public) and KAMU, Kansas Association of the Medically Underserved. (Private).

Below are some outcomes listed for this project:

- **OUTCOME** – To develop and implement the oral health program targeted to the Home and Community Based Services for the Frail Elderly population.
Result: Program implemented October 2007.
Result: Identification of program partners & stakeholders.
Result: Tracking system developed of participants and dollars spent.
Result: 139 FE customers have utilized \$128,183 worth of oral health services.
- **OUTCOME:** To develop an outreach program to educate stakeholders regarding the new service.
Result: Presentations have been made to over 250 dentists, providers and stakeholders. KDOA has been contacted for additional presentations and information.
- **Result:** Dental conferences, study groups and meetings have been targeted for additional presentations to case managers, social workers and dentists.
- **OUTCOME:** To develop a marketing and public awareness program to educate senior citizens and the general public about the new service.
- **Result:** Articles are being sent to statewide newspapers and Kansas Dental Association newsletter printings.
- **Result:** Marketing materials and brochures have been developed.
- **Result:** Study groups and meetings have been targeted for additional presentations for the general public and targeting senior citizens.

To learn more about the Oral Health Services for the Home and Community Based Services for the Frail Elderly program, contact Joyce Smith, Director, Community Based Services at 785 -291-3356 or Joyce.Smith@aging.ks.gov