



**Palm Beach County's Interagency Council
for People with Developmental Disabilities
Dental Home Initiative - Grant Project Overview**

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Partners

- Palm Beach County Interagency Council
- Quantum Foundation
- Arc of Palm Beach
- Arc of the Glades
- Boca Habilitation Center
- Palm Beach Habilitation Center
- United Cerebral Palsy
- Seagull Services
- Royal Palm Beach Community High School
- Jewish Association for Residential Care (JARC)
- Coalition for Independent Living Options
- Palm Beach State College
- Benco Dental Supply Co.
- Local Dental Providers
- Palm Beach Oral Health Coalition
- FoundCare, Inc. (FQHC)
- Arc of Florida





Background

- In 2013, Palm Beach County Interagency Council initiated a collaborative partnership to assist people with disabilities establish a dental home.
- Funding provided by the Quantum Foundation and Allegheny Franciscan Ministries.
- Project modeled after the Head Start Dental Home Initiative in Orange County.
- In December 2015, funding was provided for a third year by Quantum Foundation to develop a sustainable model.



Primary Objective

- **Establish a system to ensure that individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Palm Beach County have access to and receive oral health care services from a dental home.**
- **Provide an innovative “systems-of-care” approach with the support of a registered dental hygienist serving as the liaison to clients, parents, caregivers, caseworkers, centers, and dental providers.**



Interdisciplinary Collaboration

- **Facilitated by a community dental hygienist who works with families, centers, caseworkers, behavioral therapists, nutritionists, dental health professions, and academia to ensure access to care.**
- **This collaborative methodology is a family-centered, client-based systems approach, utilizing a team that best understands the client's needs.**



Goals Moving into Year 3

- **Develop a sustainable program.**
- **Identify the oral health needs of persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities.**
- **Work with community partners to increase provider participation in delivering preventive and restorative care.**
- **Increase staff, caregiver, and client knowledge and skills regarding sound oral health care and nutrition.**



Program Services

- **Conduct oral health screenings.**
- **Evaluate treatment needs and urgency for care.**
- **Assess barriers to care.**
- **Assist in establishing a dental provider.**
- **Apply preventive fluoride varnish.**
- **Provide oral hygiene instruction.**
- **Distribute oral hygiene kits.**
- **Educate and train group home managers, case workers, and center staff on a variety of oral health care topics.**



Findings in Year 3

- **360 screenings conducted.**
- **63 did not have dental homes.**
- **31 of the 63 established dental homes and have started treatment.**
- **26 urgent cases have been reduced to 7.**
- **65 clients unaware that they required care were advised to see their dentist or provided referrals.**
- **312 fluoride varnish applications administered.**
- **360 home care kits distributed.**
- **Oral hygiene instructions and demonstrations provided.**
- **50% of the clients who participated in years one and two of the pilot program showed marked improvements in their home care.**



Conclusion

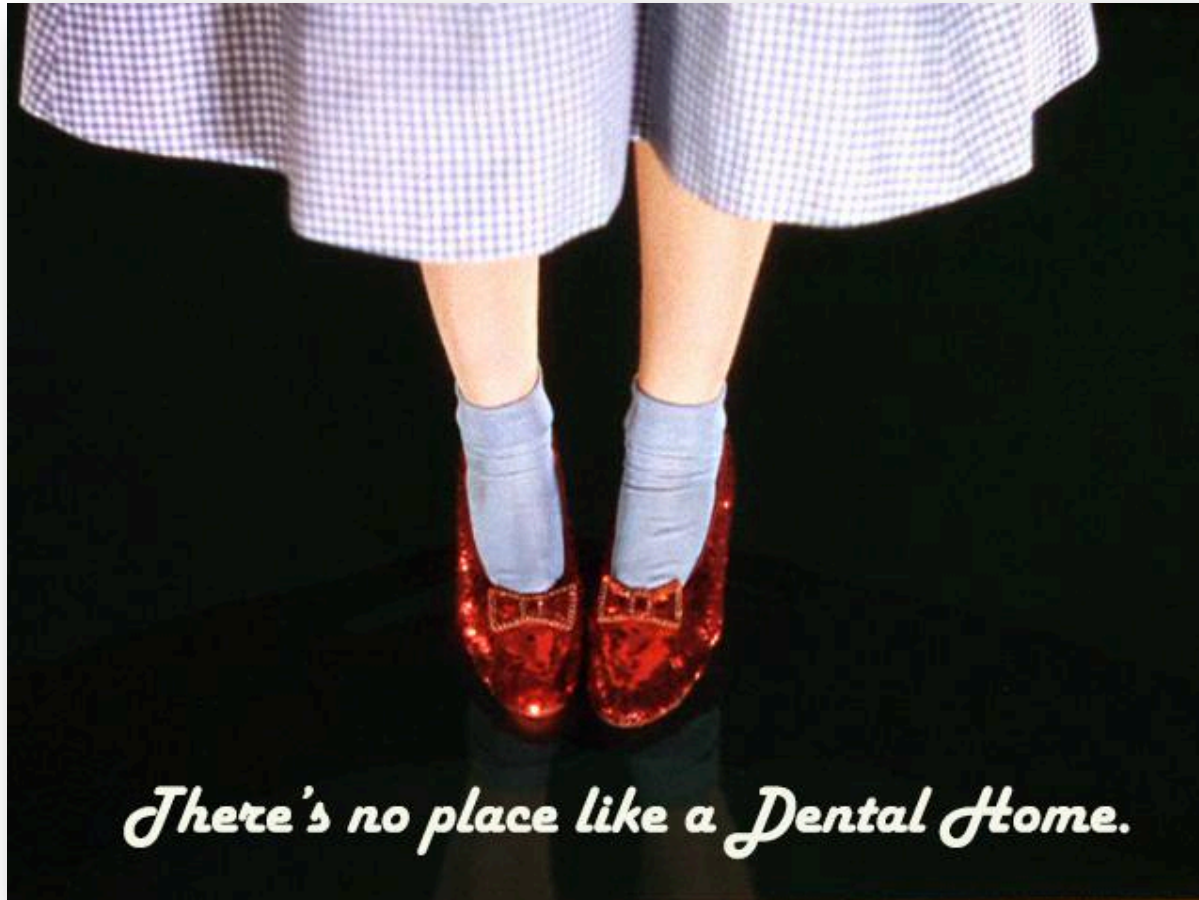
- Quarterly screenings are effective.
- Non-urgent cases have been significantly reduced.
- Most non-urgent cases require preventive hygiene services.
- Oral home care has improved.
- Dental homes may not be traditional dental homes.
- Increased partnership decreases financial barriers.
- Utilizing a dental hygienist to act as liaison is effective.
- Financial resources, transportation, consistency in care, and providers capable of delivering services remain barriers that continue to require the services of an oral health care coordinator.



Before and After



By utilizing an innovative systems approach, the Dental Home Initiative has been instrumental in increasing dental services for our most vulnerable population.




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