



Philanthropy and Oral Health: Roles in Dental Workforce Development

Len Finocchio, Dr.P.H.
Senior Program Officer
California HealthCare Foundation



California HealthCare Foundation

- Independent philanthropy committed to improving the way health care is delivered and financed in California
- Three strategic areas of work:
 - Market and Policy Monitor
 - Better Chronic Disease Care
 - Innovations for the Underserved



Philanthropic Tools

- Fund direct services
- Build capacity for service delivery
- Commission research
- Inform policy making
- Communicate and advocate
- Convene, consensus building
- Catalyze & spread innovations



Improving Oral Health

- Drinking water fluoridation
- Oral health literacy
- Medicaid/CHIP expansions
- Delivery system capacity
 - Clinics, operatories, dental public health
- Workforce development
 - More in the pipeline, diversity of providers
 - Expanding providers with dental expertise
 - Incentives & programs in underserved areas



CHCF Strategies to Improve Oral Health

1. Research and illuminate access, capacity and policy challenges
2. Inform policy makers to facilitate decision making & optimize public resource use
3. Explore & promote innovative models that address challenges



Philanthropy and Workforce Development

- Commission research
 - Define research questions
 - Support data collection & analysis
- Agenda development & consensus building
- Inform policy making
 - For legislators, educators, providers
- Strategic funding & leverage

Supply

- Number
- Composition by type
- Demographics
- Location
- Skill set, productivity, regulation
- Pipeline/training

Benchmark where possible (e.g. - per 100,000)

Demand

- Need
- Utilization
- Unmet need
- Identify disparities

Benchmark where possible (e.g. – preventive visits per year)



Supply-side Solutions

- Train more providers
 - Existing
 - Create new categories
- Expand scope of current providers
- Increase productivity
 - Clinical efficiencies
- Expand dental expertise of medical providers



Demand-side Solutions

- Improve oral health literacy
- Better self care
- Improve dental public health
- Routine preventive visits
- Expand insurance coverage



Addressing Unmet Need

- Prioritizing populations in need
- Assessing solutions:
 - Cost-benefit
 - Available resources
 - Programmatic hurdles
 - Political and policy hurdles
 - Timeframe

Other Considerations

- Philanthropies seek to:
 - Catalyze innovation
 - Leverage existing resources
 - Make long-term systemic change
 - Address policy barriers
 - Make solutions sustainable without on-going philanthropic support