

# Minnesota and CODA: Moving Forward Together

National Oral Health Conference

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# Dental Therapy in Action

- Minnesota has been educating Dental Therapists since 2009
- Two Educational Programs
  - Metropolitan State University and Normandale Community College (MnSCU)
  - University of Minnesota School of Dentistry (UMN)
- All graduates eligible for Advanced Dental Therapy (ADT) certification



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# Dental Therapy Programs in MN



## 1. Prerequisites:

- MN Licensed Dental Hygienist
- Baccalaureate degree
- Completion restorative functions training
- 1,000 hrs. practice in DH
- Professional portfolio submission

## 2. Length of Program: (Previously)

- 18 months
- Full-time commitment

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*Improving oral and craniofacial health by educating clinicians and scientists who translate knowledge and experience into clinical practice.*



## 1. Prerequisites: (Previously)

- Baccalaureate degree
- Pre-professional courses (32 credits)
- History of academic success
- History of volunteerism or community involvement

## 2. Length of Programs: (Previously)

- 28 months
- Full-time commitment

  
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# NEW Dual Degree Dental Hygiene/Dental Therapy Program

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## 1. Prerequisites: (Previously)

- Baccalaureate degree
- Pre-professional courses (32 credits)
- History of academic success
- History of volunteerism or community involvement

## 2. Length of Programs: (Previously)

- 28 months
- Full-time commitment

## 1. Prerequisites: (Fall 2016)

- Baccalaureate degree **NOT REQUIRED**
- Pre-professional courses (32 credits)
- History of academic success
- History of volunteerism or community involvement

## 2. Length of Programs: (Fall 2016)

- **32 months**
- Full-time commitment



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# Minnesota DT: Graduates by Year

YEAR	UMN	MNSCU	CUM TOTAL
2011	9	7	16
2012	9	-	25
2013	9	4	38
2014	9	5	52
2015	6	-	58
2016*	8	12	78
2017*	7	6	91

\* Anticipated



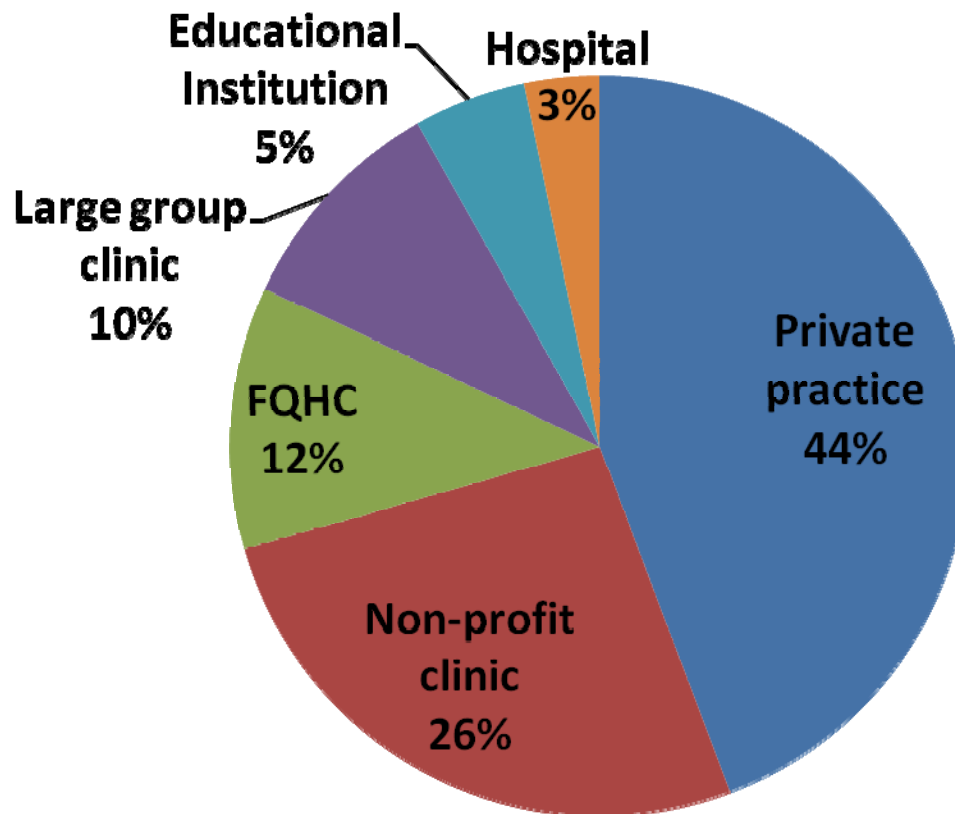
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# MN Dental Therapist: Employment Stats

- 54 Licensed Dental Therapists (March 2016)
  - 21 of those have achieved ADT certification



# Dental Therapy Employment Sites by County

20 different  
counties!



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# MN Dental Therapy: Review of Impact and Effectiveness

- Decreased travel and wait times
- Clinics saw more new underserved and Medicaid patients
- Increased dental team productivity
- Reduced clinic operating costs
- **No complaints or concerns** about quality or safety
- DTs working in a variety of treatment settings



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## Early Impacts of Dental Therapists in Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Health  
Minnesota Board of Dentistry  
*Report to the Minnesota Legislature 2014*

February 2014



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# Request for Accreditation

- September 2009, MN Board of Dentistry (BOD) initiates formal request for accreditation process
  - Law required graduation *from a dental therapy education program that has been approved by the board or **accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation** or another board-approved national accreditation organization*
- Separate requests from UMN, MN Dental Association, and MNSCU followed
- Requests were for an “expedited process” to consider accreditation



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# Input to CODA DT Standards

- Facilitated by the MN BOD, MN DT stakeholders submitted joint recommendations in 2013 and 2014 to the draft standards
  - MN Board of Dentistry
  - MN Department of Health
  - MN DH Association
  - MN DH Educators' Association
  - MNSCU
  - UMN



# Response to Criteria #2 & #5

- Facilitated by the UMN, same stakeholder group supported a joint response
- Response was comprehensive and included both US and International information
  - 1425 pages
  - 78 Supporting documents



# MN DT Programs: Now What?

- BOD initially created “Program Requirements for Dental Therapist and Advanced Dental Therapist Programs in the State of Minnesota” for DT program approval
- Both dental therapy programs have met the BOD’s program approval process
  - 2010 provisional approval
  - 2013 final approval



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# MN DT Programs: Now What?

- MN “Program Requirements” vs CODA guidelines

MN DT Requirements	CODA DT Standards
1 - Institutional Infrastructure 2 - Program Planning and Assessment	1 - Institutional Effectiveness
3 - Education Program	2 - Educational Program
4 - Program Administration, Faculty and Staff	3 - Faculty and Staff
5 - Educational Support Services	4 - Educational Support Services
6 - Patient Care Services	5- Health, Safety, and Patient Care Provisions

# MN DT Programs: Now What?

- Comparison of two specific standards

MN DT Requirements	CODA DT Standards
2-1 "... program must develop a mission statement appropriate to oral health education that addresses teaching, patient care, scholarship and service."	1-1 "... program must develop a clearly stated purpose/mission statement appropriate to dental therapy education, addressing teaching, patient care, research and service.
3-18 "Graduates must be competent to apply interpersonal and communication skills to empathetically care for diverse patient populations and function within the health care environment."	2-13 "Graduates must be competent in managing a diverse patient population and have the interpersonal and communications skills to function successfully in a multicultural work environment."

# MN DT Programs: Now What?

- Both dental therapy programs are currently “approved” until 2020
- UMN anticipates a thoughtful application process



# Dental Therapy Nationally: Now What?

- Consistency in Education
- Guidance for Policy Makers
- Establishment of DT as a Profession
  - Opportunity for DT Professional Identity
  - Opportunity for DT Professional Cohesion
- Employment Portability



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# Dental Therapy Nationally: Now What?

- Opportunity to assess DTs contribution to the Quadruple Aim
- UMN efforts include:
  - Team based care
  - Rural Oral Health pro
  - Integrating ADT into a NP clinic





# Questions?



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