

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

DHCFP Dental Services Update

Division of Health Care Financing and Policy

Dr. Keith Benson DMD

April 4th 2023

Department of Health and Human Services

Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.





Introduction

Dr. Keith Benson DMD: NV State Dental Officer

- Born and raised in Carson City, Nevada
- Education: UNR Health Education ([Go Wolfpack](#)), UNLV Dental School, UNM AEGD Residency
- 8 years public health dentistry FQHC, [NHSC Loan repayment](#), Los Lunas NM
- 3.5 years public health dentistry NDOC, Carson City NV
- September 19th 2022 started at DHCFP/NV Medicaid



NV Medicaid Dental Benefits

1. Comprehensive dental benefits for **children** including orthodontics.
2. Palliative, emergency care, and denture benefits for **adults**.
3. Palliative, emergency care, denture benefits, examinations, prophylaxis, Scaling and Root Planing, and fillings for **pregnant individuals**.
4. **New service as of Jan 1st 2023!** Comprehensive dental benefits for patients, 21 and over, on state **Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) waiver**



Liberty Dental Benefit Administrator

Cover 91% of Medicaid Nevadans by providing service in Washoe and Clark County

- Value added benefits:
- Pregnancy benefits: root canals, teledentistry, and two additional cleanings per year.
- All members: Silver diamine fluoride (twice per year) and comprehensive exams for adults.



Dental benefits expansion ID waiver

- Expanded dental benefits available starting Jan 1st 2023
- American Rescue Plan funding allowed program to begin
- Eligibility: Adults 21 and over on the Nevada Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (ID Waiver Approximately 3,000 adults)
- Historically underserved group
- [Home - Every Smile Matters Nevada](#)



ID Waiver benefits

Challenges

- Underserved population: Pediatric Dental Cliff, dental education/training, reimbursement in Nevada
- Medical and behavioral modifications
- Availability of anesthesiologists Ambulatory Surgery Centers and Operating rooms



1115 Waiver

1115 Demonstration Waiver

- October 17th 2022 waiver submitted to CMS for approval
- Estimated approval late summer early fall 2023
- Extends dental benefits to adult patients of record at FQHCs with a diagnosis of diabetes
- 5-year demonstration
- Goals: Demonstrate improved medical and dental outcomes by extending benefits, demonstrate reduced costs to the state



HRSA Grant

Major Highlights

- Dental clinic Tonopah
- High school pipeline for dental assistants
- Train school nurses for dental screenings and teledentistry
- Public health collaborative utilizing public health endorsed hygienists



Nevada Challenges

- 1) Early childhood caries: getting patients 0-3 into the dental office and educating mothers
- 2) Anesthesia access for children and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- 3) Rural access to dental care
- 4) Access of dental care for low-income adults



Questions?



Contact Information

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