

Year One Highlights

Colorado Medical-Dental Integration Project



 DELTA DENTAL

An Initiative of the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation

The first year of the Colorado Medical-Dental Integration Project (CO MDI) has been fruitful. All 16 grantees across Colorado are at some stage of integrating a dental hygienist (RDH) as a part of a medical care team. The Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation board and staff couldn't be happier to watch it evolve. The true joy comes in knowing access to preventive care is expanding. Being at the forefront of medical-dental integration has taught us many lessons and there is a whole lot to the CO MDI story thus far:

- All CO MDI grantees have a designated dental operator room. They will all be equipped for the RDH to provide care at the top of his/her license. 9 clinics are delivering patient care. Phase II grantees are beginning start-up and are learning from the Phase I grantees.
- As of August 1, CO MDI practices reached 1,319 children and adults in pediatric and family practice medical settings; this was with Phase I grantees with an average start-up in April.
- As part of the evaluation we've completed 71% of the leadership interviews and the provider survey had a completion rate of 81%. All RDHs have been calibrated to collect patient and family level evaluation data.

CO MDI organizations are executing new ways of providing preventive dental care to our state's most vulnerable families. Three practices without prior dental experience have successfully developed referral relationships with dentists to provide restorative care.

Our board recently supported funding expansion to ensure this project's success over the next four years. Our vision is to create sustainable medical-dental integration models that can be replicated in other settings across Colorado. With this in mind, the CO MDI team looks forward to what we'll accomplish in year two.

The Learning Network and Coaching

All grantees are now taking part in a learning network, where they learn from each other and receive extensive technical assistance and coaching. Our first learning network in-person session is September 30, 2015. This session is part of the support provided by DDCOF to ensure the successful integration of the dental hygienists into each practice. Other learning network activities include monthly grantee group calls and practice specific coaching as needed.

The CO MDI project team has provided:

- 35 site visits and 121 formal technical assistance calls.
- 12 consultations with billing, insurance and dental software specialist.
- 5 group technical assistance calls.
- Over 600 requests regarding equipment, billing, coding, provider applications, scope of practice, practice set-up, etc.

Background Information

Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation awarded 16 medical organizations funding for purchasing equipment and hiring a dental hygienist. Preventive dental care is delivered both in the medical exam room and in a dental hygiene room in the medical office.

The dental hygienist works to the full scope of their license, providing screenings, education, fluoride varnish application, sealants, x-rays, cleanings, scaling & root planing, and referrals to dentists for restorative care.

CO MDI is rolling out in two phases: Phase I grantees began in January 2015 and Phase II grantees begin Fall 2015. A multi-year evaluation led by the University of Colorado ACCORDS is examining the project. CO MDI aims to increase access to oral health care, examine the impact on behaviors and oral health outcomes, and test the financial sustainability of various practice models. For more information, visit the [Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation website](http://www.deltadentalcofoundation.org).

the Colorado MDI Project

Increasing Access to Preventive Care



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The Colorado Medical-Dental Integration Project (CO MDI) integrates preventive dental services into medical facilities by adding a dental hygienist as a part of the health care team.

Children visiting their doctor for well-child care will also be able to see a dental hygienist in a convenient and familiar setting. CO MDI targets families with limited access to preventive dental services due to:

- Geography
- Insurance status
- Transportation
- Other barriers

The Foundation awarded 16 organizations funding for purchasing equipment and hiring a dental hygienist. As part of this five-year initiative the hygienists will:

- Provide preventive dental services.
- Coordinate care with the medical care team.
- Collaborate with dentists in the community for comprehensive care.

CO MDI is rolling out in two phases: Phase I began in January 2015 and Phase II will begin Fall 2015. The project team will support each individual practice through start-up and implementation.

A multi-year evaluation led by the University of Colorado ACCORDS will examine CO MDI. It will focus on:

- The impact of integrated dental services on children's oral health outcomes.
- Parent, provider and leadership characteristics and behaviors.

Phase I

- Denver Health - School Based Health Centers
- Doctors Care
- Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center Foundation
- Inner City Health Center
- Maria Matias in partnership with Rocky Mountain Youth Clinic - Aurora Clinic
- Metro Community Provider Network - South Aurora Family Health Services Center
- Summit Community Care Clinic - School Based Health Centers in Summit and Lake Counties
- Worthmore Dental Clinic in partnership with Ardas Family Medicine

Phase II

- Centura Health - St. Anthony North
- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
- Denver Health - Eastside Connections for Kids Foster Care Clinic
- Marillac Clinic - Mesa County Health Department Site
- Miramont Family Medicine - West Fort Collins Clinic
- Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association
- Peak Family Medicine
- Valley-Wide Health Systems - La Junta Clinic



16 organizations were awarded grants to serve **18 communities** in up to **24 locations** across Colorado