

Chapter 5. Dental Workforce

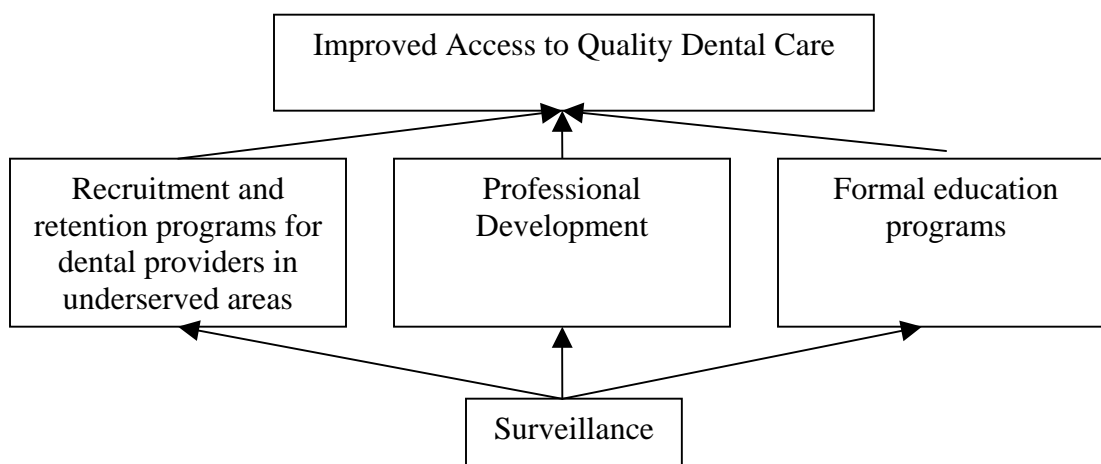
Background

South Carolina relies on two programs to recruit dentists into the state to serve vulnerable and underserved populations. For many years the National Health Service Corps was the only resource the state had to enhance the dental workforce. The DHEC Director of the Office of Primary Care manages the program.

An additional resource was made available in 2005, the Rural Dentist Program (RDP). The RDP is a program of the Medical University of South Carolina and administered by South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (SCAHEC). SCAHEC coordinates the activities of RDP with DHEC's Division of Oral Health.

A Coalition workgroup was established, based on their priority assessment in 2008, to further develop objectives.

Logic Model



Objectives

5.1 The Advisory Council and Coalition will have representation from organizations involved in the recruitment and retention of dental providers.

South Carolina Baseline The Director of the DHEC Office of Primary Care has been a committed member of the Coalition since its initiation.

Healthy People Reference Not available

Original State Oral Health Plan Reference – Priority 4, Strategy 5.1 (See Appendix J)

Measurement Type - Process

Data Collection Method – Evidence of attendance and meeting minutes from the Quarterly Advisory Summit

5.2 The Rural Dentist Program, administered by the South Carolina AHEC in coordination with DHEC's Public Health Dentistry Program, will manage the Rural

Dentist Program, which uses state appropriated funds to provide loan repayment assistance to qualifying applicants.

South Carolina Baseline: Eight contracts were issued in 2006.

Healthy People Reference Not available

Original State Oral Health Plan Reference – Priority 4, Strategy 4.4 (See Appendix J)

Measurement Type - Impact

Data Collection Method – Annual Contract List

5.3 The DHEC Office of Primary Care administratively located at DHEC, will manage the state’s National Health Service Corps program.

South Carolina Baseline Not available.

Healthy People Reference Not available

Original State Oral Health Plan Reference – Priority 4, Strategy 4.4 (See Appendix J)

Measurement Type - Impact

Data Collection Method – Through an established surveillance process, DHEC monitors placement of National Health Service Corps assignees.

Comments

A Coalition workgroup will be established in 2008 to further develop the objectives for the Workforce section of the state plan. Specific attention will be given to dental workforce issues and the state’s only dental school’s priorities and professional development. Infection control programs will be addressed under professional development.