



Montana Rural Health Association

Dental Hygienists CAN provide Oral Health Care in YOUR Rural Community!



Montana Rural Health
Summer 2014

In 2014 the National Governors Association issued the report, *The Role of Dental Hygienists in Providing Access to Oral Health Care*. The report outlined the underutilization of the dental hygiene workforce by identifying the preventive care dental hygienists are currently educated to provide and the restrictions that limit them from doing so in public health settings.

2003 legislation in Montana provided an opportunity for dental hygienists to provide direct care in public health settings with a Limited Access Permit (LAP) endorsement. The endorsement allows dental hygienists to provide preventive services, such as dental cleanings, fluoride applications, sealants, x-rays, and preventive education in long-term care facilities, hospitals, and specific settings for children at high-risk for cavities. Utilization of dental hygienists in public health settings offers a preventive approach to dental care in Montana.

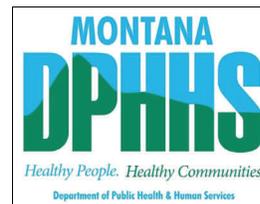
Why is the LAP so underutilized in Montana you may ask? Although dental hygienists are highly trained and confident in providing skilled preventive dental care, a lack of knowledge by facilities and public health settings regarding the LAP offers barriers. Another barrier is the complexity of obtaining and successfully utilizing the LAP by dental hygienists and creating a sustainable financial model of public health dental care.

In April 2014 the Montana Dental Hygienists' Association (MDHA) provided a full day of LAP training for dental hygiene providers. The training

addressed the application process, how to get reimbursed for services, and focused on reducing the complexity in providing on-site preventive care. Since the training, LAP endorsements have more than doubled. The training is now on-going by MDHA leadership to support the advancement of the LAP workforce to improve the oral health of Montanans.

The word is now out! Dental hygienists CAN provide on-site preventive care in your community! If you would like additional information about LAP dental hygienists providing on-site preventive care or would like a speaker for an upcoming event please contact:

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Montana is One of Nine States Selected for New Grant to Continue Building a More Highly Educated Nursing Workforce

Princeton, N.J.—The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), on August 1, 2014, announced that Montana has been chosen to receive a \$300,000, two-year grant in Phase II of its *Academic Progression in Nursing* program (APIN). APIN is advancing state and regional strategies aimed at creating a more highly educated, diverse nursing workforce. It is run by the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) on behalf of the Tri-Council for Nursing, consisting of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National League for Nursing, American Nurses Association, and AONE, which is leading the four-year initiative. “Action Coalitions” in all nine states that were part of Phase I of the program have met or exceeded their benchmarks, and are receiving funding to continue their work for two additional years. Funding from RWJF to the states over the four years will total \$5.4 million.

In addition to Montana, the states receiving Phase II APIN grants are California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Texas, and Washington state. The grants will allow them to continue working with academic institutions and employers to expand their work to help nurses in their states get higher degrees, so they can be essential partners in providing care and promoting health, as well as more easily continue their education and fill faculty and primary care nurse practitioner roles. The Action Coalitions in all these states have been encouraging strong partnerships between community colleges and universities to make it easier for nurses to transition to higher degrees.

The Montana grant will be made to the Montana Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center in the MSU College of Nursing on behalf of the Montana Action Coalition. The Action Coalition in Montana will continue to focus on nursing education, specifically developing a model of nursing education that fosters seamless transition from one level of nursing education to the next. Dr. Cynthia

Gustafson, executive director of the Montana Board of Nursing and co-lead of the Montana Action Coalition, said, “We are thrilled to be one of the nine states receiving the APIN grant because it gives our state significant resources to work together as leaders in education, practice and regulation in order to open up pathways for nurses to be prepared for the future health care needs of Montanans. We’ll be focusing on increasing the number of Native American nurses in Montana by working cooperatively with nursing education programs to provide inclusive environments for student success. It is an exciting time for nurses and for our citizens to understand the importance of how nurses, as the largest group of health care providers, really make a difference in advancing the health of Montanans!”

In its groundbreaking 2010 report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommended that 80 percent of the nursing workforce be prepared at the baccalaureate level or higher by the year 2020. At present, about half of nurses in the United States have baccalaureate or higher degrees. While acknowledging the contributions of Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses and associate-degree-prepared Registered Nurses, the IOM report said a better educated nursing workforce can help ensure that our nation’s population has access to high-quality, patient- and family-centered care and can meet the growing need to provide preventive care in schools, communities, and homes.

“The APIN teams have been making great progress developing initiatives and curricula that are encouraging and making it easier for more nurses to earn their BSN degrees,” said Pamela Austin Thompson, MS, RN, CENP, FAAN, national program director for APIN, chief executive officer of AONE, and senior vice president for nursing at the American Hospital Association. “We know that the nation needs a well-educated nursing workforce to ensure an

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adequate supply of public health and primary care providers, improve care for patients living with chronic illness, and in other ways meet the needs of our aging and increasingly diverse population. The strategies these nine states are implementing, and the models they are developing for other states to replicate, will help us meet the IOM's target for BSN and higher prepared nurses."

As part of Phase II of this work, each state Action Coalition will develop a sustainability plan to ensure that the work to promote seamless academic progression for nurses in their states will continue beyond the grant period. During Phase II, each state also will develop a robust diversity plan and focus on academic-practice partnerships to expand and support the work to date.

RWJF is also helping advance recommendations in the IOM report by supporting the [Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action](#)—a collaborative effort to advance solutions to challenges facing the nursing profession in order to improve quality and transform the way Americans receive health care. It is coordinated through the *Center to Champion Nursing in America*, an initiative of AARP, the AARP Foundation, and RWJF. It supports state-based Action Coalitions in all 50 states and the District of Columbia; Action Coalitions are leading the APIN work in each of the nine funded states.

"Advancing a more highly educated, diverse workforce where nurses are able to practice to the top of their education and training is essential to achieving the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's mission to advance a culture of health in our nation," said RWJF Senior Adviser for Nursing Susan B. Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN. "In the last two years, APIN grantees have laid important groundwork to build that workforce. We are pleased to provide the financial support they need to continue their essential work."

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve the health and health care of all Americans. We are striving to build a national Culture of Health that will enable all Amer-

icans to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.

About the Tri-Council for Nursing

The Tri-Council for Nursing is an alliance of four autonomous nursing organizations each focused on leadership for education, practice and research. The four organizations are the: American Association of Colleges of Nursing; American Nurses Association; American Organization of Nurse Executives; and the National League for Nursing. While each organization has its own constituent membership and unique mission, they are united by common values and convene regularly for the purpose of dialogue and consensus building, to provide stewardship within the profession of nursing. These organizations represent nurses in practice, nurse executives and nursing educators. The Tri-Council's diverse interests encompass the nursing work environment, health care legislation and policy, quality of health care, nursing education, practice, research and leadership across all segments of the health delivery system.

The Montana Center to Advance Health through Nursing is committed to leading nursing practice through collaboration in order to advance the health of Montanans. Please visit mtcahn.org to learn more about the Montana Action Coalition.

This article was authored by Lisa Lederer and Kailyn Dorhauer and Published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).

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NRHA Conference Calendar



Improving the Health of 62 Million Rural Americans
www.RuralHealthWeb.org

September 30 - October 1, 2014

Rural Health Clinic Conference
Kansas City, MO

October 1-3, 2014

Critical Access Hospital Conference
Kansas City, MO

February 3-5, 2015

Rural Health Policy Institute
Washington, DC

April 14

20th Rural Multiracial and Multicultural
Health Conference
Philadelphia, PA

April 14

Rural Medical Educators Conference
Philadelphia, PA

April 14-17

38th Annual Rural Health Conference
Philadelphia, PA

