Oswego, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties

<u>Goal 1</u>: Integrate oral health into systems, policies and programs which improve overall health (Goal 1, NYS Oral Health Plan).

<u>**Objective</u>** #1 – By 12/31/2020, electronic medical and dental health records will share key health information between providers, implement policies to include oral health systems in the regional health information organization (RHIO), and support oral health as a standard of care in primary care settings.</u>

| ACTIVITIES/STRATEGIES | LEADS | BY WHEN (mm/yyyy) | EVALUATION/ SURVEILLANCE | Not Started | In Planning | In Progress | Complete | Deleted | Revised |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|
| Identify and disseminate information (to primary care providers) regarding EHR models that have successfully integrated oral health standards and protocols utilized by all providers. An example could be oral health prompts in the EHR at the point-of-care. | Steve Jennings, Irene Parobii | | | | | X | | | |
| Define the appropriate oral health standards and persuade providers (pediatricians) to follow. | Coalition | | | | | Х | | | |
| PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLETION: 9/2 (FDRHPO) is going to confirm if prior FDRH | | | e | | | - | - | | |

3/28/19 - Irene Parobii reported per the FDRHPO Practice Transformation Team, that Complete Family Care and Watertown

regarding advancing oral health standards in their quality work with primary care providers. Irene will report back to the Coalition.

Internists, who are both using MEDENT software for their EHR, are prompted to ask patients about their last dental visit every 6 months. The Practice Transformation Team is aware of oral health standards, but currently, this is an elective in EHRs for providers. To achieve a NCQA standard to become a patient-centered medical home, providers have to meet certain standards and guidelines. For the practices gathering oral health information from patients, it is currently unknown how this information is evaluated. It was reported that Pediatric Associates, Watertown Pediatrics, and Carthage Pediatrics EHRs also ask prompting questions about dental status, sugary drinks consumption, and access to community water fluoridation. Caressa Flowers, RN reported that Watertown Pediatrics, prior to applying fluoride varnish treatment (FVT) asks the following Y/N questions: "Does your child visit a dentist regularly?" and "Does your child brush their teeth twice a day?"

9/26/2019 – Irene Parobii could not attend the meeting; Steve Jennings reported that efforts to incorporate oral health fields into pediatric/primary care practices' electronic health records is ongoing. Irene is setting up a meeting with Ian Francis, Practice Transformation Specialist at the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization and Steve Jennings, as well as other partners interested, to get an update on the practices that have EHRs currently prompting providers to ask oral health questions, as well as the potential/a plan of recruiting other providers to add the templates.

Oswego, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties

<u>Goal 1</u>: Integrate oral health into systems, policies and programs which improve overall health (Goal 1, NYS Oral Health Plan).

| Objective #2 – By 12/31/2020 | increase the use of fluoride | varnish annlications by r | ediatric primary | care providers to 75% |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| $\frac{ODJUUVU}{MZ} = Dy 12/31/2020$ | , merease the use of muoride | varinsii applications by p | culatile primary | |

| ACTIVITIES/STRATEGIES | LEADS | BY WHEN (mm/yyyy) | EVALUATION/ SURVEILLANCE | Not Started | In Planning | In Progress | Complete | Deleted | Revised |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|
| Convene a training session(s) to educate pediatric primary care medical providers on pediatric oral health, risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, and the use of evidence-based preventive strategies, including the use of fluoride varnish. Could have one session or more to accommodate geography. | Steve Jennings, JCPHS | - | | | X | X | | | |
| 2. Convene a workgroup to work on FVT billing protocols for pediatricians, and assist them with billing successfully. | Steve Jennings, JCPHS | - | | Х | | | | | |
| 3. Support FVT in the pediatric setting by offering providers not currently doing, free FVT kits to initiate the FVT as a standard of care; as well as guidance on billing (see Activity 2). | Steve Jennings, JCPHS | Ongoing | | | X | X | | | |

PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLETION: 9/27/2018 - Child and Adolescent Health Associates in Watertown is now doing FVT with pediatric patients, after being provided FVT kits by the Jefferson County Public Health Service. They join River Hospital Clinic, Samaritan Family Health Centers, Pediatric Associates of Watertown, and the North Country Family Health Center. It was unknown whether Watertown Pediatrics and Carthage Pediatrics were providing FVT; they were both contacted 9/27/18 to determine

participation. Carthage Pediatrics confirmed they are providing FVT and billing for it. Watertown Pediatrics (Jenny) confirmed they are not providing FVT, but are very interested in doing so; they were sent information on appropriate billing codes to use, and Fidelis requirements (and contact information) to set up billing through Fidelis; JCPHS also will provide 50 FVT kits to Watertown Pediatrics to get them started and the kits were ordered 10/1/18; JCPHS will follow-up with them routinely to assess progress and troubleshoot problems.

3/28/2019 - Dr. Dionne Richardson, NYS Dental Director, and Erin Knoerl from the NYSDOH Division of Family Health attended the meeting, and are willing to support the coalitions FVT outreach work by supplying kits to entice non-active pediatric primary care practices to start FVT with their patients. Additionally, Dr. Melinda Clark, a pediatrician from Albany Medical Center and statewide FVT champion, has been engaged with to provide trainings for LHDs and private practitioners in the four-county region, likely in the spring of 2020. The trainings will provide CE credits (CNE, CHES and CME). It was mentioned that Fidelis may no longer be requiring physician attestation of training before paying for FVT. Dr. Richardson and Stephen Jennings are following up to get clarification. 4/30/2019 - Stephen Jennings followed-up with pediatric primary care practices in Jefferson County, and learned that Watertown Pediatrics had not yet begun providing FVT due to the loss of a practicing physician, and an overwhelming increase in patients having flu symptoms and flu diagnoses. After discussing the issue with the office manager (Jenny), Mr. Jennings conferenced directly with Dr. Joseph Gianfagna, and treatments and billing commenced that day. Mr. Jennings is continuing to communicate with the practice to ensure billing goes smoothly, and that FVT continues to be provided. On 4/26/19, Mr. Jennings reached out to Jilayne Salisbury, practice administrator for Samaritan Family Health Center clinics, to check on FVT status. Ms. Salisbury reported that the physician resident who was to start this program, only ever did it with pediatric patients she directly saw, and despite being gung ho about instituting in all clinics as her project for residency, never started one in the clinics. Ms. Salisbury reported that the Clayton and LeRay clinics saw by far the most numbers of pediatric patients, while the Watertown and Adams centers saw predominantly adults. It was agreed to focus on the Clayton and LeRay clinic sites, and pending FVT kits being supplied by the NYSDOH will be used to initiate the program at these sites.

9/26/2019 – FVT kits were received in August by the NYSDOH, and transferred to SMC to begin programming at their Clayton and LeRay clinic sites. Jilayne Salisbury of SMC reported that she is working with her providers to begin, and that she needed assistance from partners regarding provider protocols/guidance on how to discuss dental health with parents of pediatric patients (and age-appropriate guidance for discussions with the young patients themselves), and to have patient education tools to disseminate. Pediatric Associates of Watertown advised Bright Futures and Smiles for Life curriculums have guidance for providers on how to have discussions with patients. Erin Knoerl of the NYSDOH also remarked that Dr. Melinda Clark is available to answer questions and provide guidance for providers in the KNCS region. Pediatric Associates, the North Country Family Health Center, and the NYSDOH all offered to serve as a resource for SMC. Erin Knoerl and Dr. Dionne Richardson of the NYSDOH gave an update on their HRSA State Oral Health Workforce Grant, which includes assistance to the Keep the North Country Smiling coalition Counties. A provider training with FVT kits will be facilitated in each county in the late spring/early summer of 2020. Dr. Melinda Clark will facilitate the trainings. St. Lawrence County, because of its size and service geography, would like to have 2 trainings in different locations, and the NYSDOH is going to try to honor that request. After FVT, the grant will work with the coalition in dental health as relates to

opioid addiction. The NYSDOH sent FVT kits to each local health department in Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, and St. Lawrence Counties over the summer. Jefferson provided their kits to Samaritan Medical Center Family Health Center. Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties have not distributed the kits yet, and will either meet with primary care providers ahead of the NYSDOH training, or wait until the training. Oswego County is considering passing their kits onto Connextcare, the county's FQHC. Michele Catlin of Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center in Ogdensburg (St. Lawrence County) advised that their primary care clinic is going to begin FVT for pediatric patients. Diane Oldenberg reported that Connextcare's Oswego County school-based health centers in Sandy Creek, Pulaski, APW, and Mexico school districts will all offer FVT by January 2020.

Oswego, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties

Goal 2: Prevent oral diseases and address risk factors through evidence-based interventions. (Goal 2, NYS Oral Health Plan).

<u>**Objective**</u> #1 - By 12/31/2020, increase the percentage of Oswego, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence County populations receiving fluoridated water by 10% from 2017 baseline.

| ACTIVITIES/STRATEGIES | LEADS | BY WHEN (mm/yyyy) | EVALUATION/ SURVEILLANCE | Not Started | In Planning | In Progress | Complete | Deleted | Revised |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1. Continue to advocate for community water fluoridation preservation in communities where it already exists, and expansion into communities where it does not exist. | Steve Jennings, JCPHS | Ongoing | | | | Х | Х | | |
| Educate the public about the benefits of fluoride by incorporating effective messages in member agencies' health promotion campaigns. | Steve Jennings, JCPHS | Ongoing | | | | X | X | | |

PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLETION: 9/27/2018 – Much of the past year-to-date has been focused on the Village of Potsdam in St. Lawrence County, where they were considering ending community water fluoridation. After a hearing 9/4/18, a vote was taken by the village board 9/17/18. By a vote of 4-1, community water fluoridation was maintained. Great effort by the St. Lawrence County Health Department and Board of Health occurred to defend fluoridation. Dr. Johnny Johnson from the American Fluoridation Society traveled in to present compelling arguments that supported maintaining fluoridation. Local, respected dentists, primary care

physicians, specialist physicians, nurses, hygienists and other members of the public testified in support of fluoridation. Many families with young children attended meetings and the public hearing wearing light blue "I LOVE FLUORIDE" t-shirts. The Watertown Daily Times covered meetings, and issued two editorials in support of retaining fluoride in Potsdam. The web news outlet North Country Now also provided detailed coverage of meetings. Links to some of the coverage are here: <u>http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/news05/village-of-potsdam-to-continue-fluoridating-the-water-20180918</u> <u>http://northcountrynow.com/news/village-potsdam-approves-controversial-fluoridation-municipal-water-4-1-vote-0243080</u>

http://northcountrynow.com/news/fluoridation-meeting-draws-crowd-potsdam-residents-suggest-alternative-dental-health-programs http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/news05/potsdam-holds-public-hearing-on-fluoridation-20171003

http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/news05/potsdam-residents-voice-opinions-on-water-fluoridation-as-the-village-plans-to-voteon-matter-on-sept-17-20180908

https://121-wdweb.newscyclecloud.com/opinion/potsdam-should-retain-water-fluoridation-20171021

https://121-wdweb.newscyclecloud.com/opinion/potsdam-should-keep-fluoridating-its-water-20171011

http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/opinion/chew-on-this-potsdam-should-continue-adding-fluoride-to-its-water-supply-20180809

3/28/2019 – We were pleased to welcome Dr. Andrew Williams to his first KNCS coalition meeting. Dr. Williams, St. Lawrence County Board of Health Chairman, and Dr. Lee Akin, oral surgeon in Potsdam, were both honored as co-recipients of the inaugural Dr. Thomas R. Curran Fluoridation Champion Award from the New York State Oral Health Coalition for their work in leading efforts to stop a significant anti-fluoridation attempt in the village of Potsdam. Drs. Williams and Akin received the award at the Coalition's annual meeting in Troy, NY on 3/1/19. 4/19/2019 – Stephen Jennings and Mary Kimbrell from the Lewis County Public Health Agency attended an oral health/fluoridation spokesperson training by nationally recognized oral health leader Matt Jacob. The training was held at the Madison County Department of Health in Wampsville. In addition to Madison County and Keep the North Country Smiling representation, Cortland County sent representatives. NYS Department of Health Dental Director Dionne Richardson, DDS attended, as well as Erin Knoerl from the NYSDOH Division of Family Health. Bridget Walsh from the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy also attended. Coalition communication strategies were discussed to advance oral health. Matt will send the slide deck from his presentation, which will be forwarded to the KNCS coalition.

9/26/2019 – No reported anti-fluoridation activities since March 2019. Steve Jennings reminded counties and partners to keep eyes and ears open on any movements in any municipalities in their counties and to make us aware. Additionally, Erin Knoerl of the NYSDOH reminded members that there continue to be state monies available to municipalities that a) want to establish community water fluoridation, and b) want to repair or upgrade existing community water fluoridation equipment, and that applications are accepted until the money runs out.

Oswego, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties

<u>VOID: Goal 2</u>: Prevent oral diseases and address risk factors through evidence-based interventions. (Goal 2, NYS Oral Health Plan).

VOID: Objective #2 – By 12/31/2020, SWISH and SPIT fluoride rinse program in schools to be opt-out instead of opt-in.

| ACTIVITIES/STRATEGIES | LEADS | BY WHEN (mm/yyyy) | EVALUATION/ SURVEILLANCE | Not Started | In Planning | In Progress | Complete | Deleted | Revised |
|--|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|
| Develop an advocacy strategy to approach BOCES superintendents and school district superintendents to change the SWISH and SPIT fluoride rinse program in schools policy from opt-in to opt-out. | Nicole Quintin | | | X | | | | | |

PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLETION: 9/27/2018 – The coalition decided to change the activity/strategies from approaching "the NYSDOH, State legislators, and the governor" to "approach BOCES superintendents and school district superintendents." The revised course of action is to engage local schools directly, rather than try to amend state policy. All counties can work toward advancing this approach. A concerted effort will begin with Jefferson County BOCES and school districts. A strategy will be to encourage school wellness committees put fluoride rinse programs into school policy. 3/28/2019 – VOID: This initiative is no longer supported by the NYSDOH and is not funded, and thus the KNCS coalition will cease to work on.

Oswego, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties

Goal 2: Prevent oral diseases and address risk factors through evidence-based interventions. (Goal 2, NYS Oral Health Plan).

<u>**Objective**</u> #3 - By 12/31/2020, all pediatric dental practices will educate children and families about the importance of HPV vaccine to prevent oral cancers, as a standard of care.

| | ACTIVITIES/STRATEGIES | LEADS | BY WHEN (mm/yyyy) | EVALUATION/ SURVEILLANCE | Not Started | In Planning | In Progress | Complete | Deleted | Revised |
|---|--|------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Provide pediatric dental offices with posters and other materials to use for patient education. In Jefferson County, dentists will give patients a referral (from a tear sheet developed by the JCPHS) to the JCPHS or to the child's own pediatrician for vaccination. Beyond pediatric practices, other offices receptive, who serve adults and children, will also be provided materials and resources for young patient/parent education. | Diane Oldenberg, | Ongoing | HPV vaccination rates, the numbers of referrals given to patients at dental offices, and the number of dental providers educated. | | | X | | | |
| 2 | 2. Evaluate if a need for a special HPV clinic exists and conduct a clinic if needed. | | | | Х | | | | | |

PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLETION: 9/27/2018 – A presentation by Faith Lustik, Health Planner with the Jefferson County Public Health Service, was provided to the KNCS coalition about the opportunity for pediatric dental practices to promote the importance of HPV vaccination to children and families, to build acceptance and encourage participation. Increasing HPV vaccination rates is a goal of county local health departments' Immunization Action Plans (IAPs). The coalition was very receptive, and elected to amend the 2017-2020 workplan and add it as an objective.

3/28/2019 – Faith Lustik was unable to attend today's meeting, but sent a report to Steve Jennings noting public health detailing visits were conducted at Watertown Pediatric Dentistry, Dr. Ian Ward's office, Sunshine Dental, Dr. Korwek's office, Watertown Dental

Health Group, AQUA Dental, and Great Beginnings. Faith developed a presentation and delivered to the NYSDOH HPV Education Workgroup; Faith also joined the workgroup and is attending monthly meetings, with dental outreach being the focus of the March meeting. Provided outreach to 5 new pediatric practices to engage on the HPV dental project. Provided the NYS Dental Society HPV items to use in e-blasts. Met with the Health Initiative in St. Lawrence County, which is also the NYSDOH HPV grantee covering Jefferson County, to partner on strategy. Provided an Erie County dentist with the materials developed for this project. There were no reports from other counties.

9/26/2019 – Steve Jennings reported that Faith Lustik with the department, through her Immunization Action Plan work, continues to conduct public health detailing at dental offices and visited another 5 since March 2019, and all practice visits were positive with receptivity. Lisa Lagos, Jefferson County's Public Health educator is going to visit another 5 practices. The goal in Jefferson is to detail 10 dental practices per year. Follow-up visits will occur annually to assess progress and actions. In addition, planned media campaigns, to include social media, billboards, radio, television, provider champions, and videos will include messaging that aligns with dental. Steve reported that Faith Lustik is also a member of the NYS HPV Coalition, and that the coalition is collagorating with the NYS Dental Association to educate parents about the importance of HPV vaccination and how to provide information to parents of middle school children. Patti Hogle of the Health Initiative advised that this is an area where she could provide coalition partners assistance, and through the HI's contract with the NYSDOH, hired a media consultant to create resources, and will send these items to Steve Jennings to disperse to the KNCS coalition. Patti also related there is a "Someone You Love" video available, and that she could provide copies for those interested.

Oswego, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties

Goal 3: All children will be well and have access to oral health care and cleaning resources for proper oral health hygiene.

Objective #1 – By 12/31/2020, increase the number of children and adolescents aged 2 to 20 years in Medicaid and Child Health Plus who have had at least one preventive dental visit within the past year to 65% from the 2010 baseline of 37.3% for Medicaid and 63% for Child Health Plus. (NYS Oral Health Plan) *(need to know Oswego, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence County individual experiences)*

| | ACTIVITIES/STRATEGIES | LEADS | BY WHEN (mm/yyyy) | EVALUATION/ SURVEILLANCE | Not Started | In Planning | In Progress | Complete | Deleted | Revised |
|----|---|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 2. | Evaluate network adequacy and utilization of dental services in public insurance programs such as Medicaid Managed Care and health insurance programs. (NYS Oral Health Plan) Increase the number of safety net dental clinics and improve their capacity to provide care by: A. Developing an action plan to address barriers B. Maintaining and expanding the availability of school-based health preventive dental programs in targeted high-need, underserved communities. (NYS Oral Health Plan. | Steve Jennings, Nicole Quintin, Aislinn Peck, Diane Oldenberg, Kim Curry, Kindra Cousineau, Ray Babowicz | | | X | X X X | x x | x x | | |

PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLETION: 9/27/2018 – No progress has been made to evaluate network adequacy and utilization of dental services in public insurance programs in the region. Regarding increasing the numbers of safety net dental clinics and improving their capacities to provide care, an effort to address barriers was presented to the coalition by Betsy Bray, RDH from the NYS Dental Association/Foundation, seeking participation in the Association/Foundation's Dental Demonstration Project, through which volunteer dentists provide oral health treatment to people in need of such care within Article 28 facilities and Federal Qualified Health Centers. In addition, the NYSDA/Foundation Dental Demonstration Project enrolls new patients into

ongoing treatment in a dental home, thus eliminating the need for them to seek emergency room care for dentistry. Dentists and dental hygienists who volunteer as part of any Dental Demonstration Projects will be recognized by the New York State Dental Foundation's new Volunteer Registry; this is also where you can sign up to volunteer for any and/or all of these Projects. Betsy will work with Nicole Quinton, Dental Director of the North Country Family Health Center, who plan to conference following the meeting to address setting up a Jefferson County Demonstration Project as a first step in this region.

School-based health preventive dental programs have been maintained and expanded. Programs in Watertown, South Jefferson, and Alexandria Bay school districts in Jefferson County have been maintained. Programs at Jefferson-Lewis BOCES and Lyme are planned, to be facilitated by the North Country Family Health Center. A program at LaFargeville is planned, to be facilitated by Carthage Area Hospital. Programs in Port Leyden, Copehnagen, Glenfield, and South Lewis school districts in Lewis County have been maintained. A program in Sandy Creek school district has been maintained in Oswego County. Programs are planned for Phoenix, Mexico and Altmar-Parish-Williamston school districts are planned, to be facilitated by ConnextCare (formerly Northern Oswego County Health Services). An update regarding St. Lawrence County school districts will be provided at the next coalition meeting.

3/28/2019 – The NYSDA Dental Demonstration Project at the North Country Family Health Center's (NCFHC) LeRay Dental Clinic site on 3/9/19 went very well. The event was advertised on social media, and 50 slots were filled in 2 days. Continued advertising on social media, as well as flyers and posters, generated a waiting list, however, those identified with very acute needs were seen by the NCFHC. The actual event served 44 individuals, with 23 experiencing pain in the last 30 days; 22 had not had care in over 3 years. Dental providers completed 13 prophylaxis, 2 fluoride treatments, 19 restorations (4 amalgams and 15 resins), and 33 extractions (3 uncomplicated and 30 surgical). Approximately \$25,700 in care was provided that day. The program was successful and it is hoped to do another one in the future.

9/26/2019 – Nicole Quintin reported that post NYSDA Dental Demonstration Project data from the NCHFC's 3/9/19 event showed of 49 patients, 16 (33%) were scheduled and treatment completed, with preventive recall scheduled and dental home established. 14 (29%) were scheduled and either "no showed" or canceled their appointments. 19 (38%) never scheduled post-event. Betsy Bray, NYSDA Oral Health Workforce Director-Dental Demonstration Project advised these numbers were on track for post-event average as compared to other projects. Nicole Quintin noted that unfortunately, there are many patients who will only seek care when they have a problem. Still, that 16 have a dental home whereas before they did not, was considered progress, and the other patients now know they have a place to go when they need services; outreach to those who no-showed or never scheduled continues. Patients that canceled were offered opportunities to reschedule. Those that no-showed were called and queried as to any barriers they were having to receiving care. NCHFC staff will continue to reach out to the 33 patients that still need preventive/restorative treatment in the next few weeks, and Nicole will report progress. Len Lanphear of the Health Economics Group, presented on the Dental Network Access Program, a New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) sponsored effort to help make dental care more affordable for the uninsured population by offering discounted rates for dental care while providing access to a nationwide network of dentists. 56 counties in NYS

sponsor the program and promote purchases by citizens. 5 counties do not sponsor, but allow purchases by citizens. 1 county does not participate. Len wanted coalition members to be aware of the program, which dental providers in our counties are participating, and to promote it to the public, and to encourage more dental practices to participate. Each coalition member received a packet on the program.

Oswego, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties

<u>Goal 4</u>: Increase capacity, diversity, and flexibility of the workforce to meet the needs of Oswego, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence County populations. (Goal 6, NYS Oral Health Plan).

<u>**Objective**</u> #1 - By 12/31/2020, create opportunities for all dental, dental hygiene students and residents to work in dental professional shortage areas for a significant period through externships, internships and partnerships. (NYS Oral Health Plan)

| | ACTIVITIES/STRATEGIES | LEADS | BY WHEN (mm/yyyy) | EVALUATION/ SURVEILLANCE | Not Started | In Planning | In Progress | Complete | Deleted | Revised |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1. | Increase the workforce, hygienists particularly, through stronger recruitment and retention efforts. | Steve Jennings, Nicole Quintin | | | X | | X | | | |
| 2. | Explore loan repayment incentives for dentists and hygienists linked to services reimbursed by public insurance programs. | Stephen Jennings, Nicole Quintin | | | Х | | | | | |
| 3. | Recruit/attract professionals to the North Country from other areas of the state or country where there is an over-saturation of providers. | Steve Jennings, Nicole Quintin | | | Х | X | X | | | |

PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLETION: 9/27/2018 – This objective has not yet been fully addressed. It was suggested that a conversation take place with Cheryl Mayforth, Director of Jefferson County Employment and Training about the issue of recruiting and retaining dental hygienists. It was also suggested that the Northern New York Community Foundation be engaged in exploring the prospect of establishing a scholarship program for dental hygiene students, who would obtain their educations and honor the scholarship by returning to the North County region to work. 3/28/2019 – The North Country Family Health Center (NCFHC) reported they are fully staffed right now, and with a recent salary study, completed a market increase in pay for hygienists, which has

helped with retention. Dr. Williams reported that St. Lawrence County's FQHC is currently short 2 dentists, but are adequately staffed at the hygienist level for the moment. Active recruitment is underway, and they've asked to be able to recruit NPHSA scholars.

9/26/2019 – Nicole Quintin reported that NCHFC is fully staffed, though they will need to recruit a new dentist for the Lowville site. Aislinn Peck of the Lewis County Public Health Agency noted Lewis County community providers are sufficient at the moment, but retirements are looming. Diane Oldenburg of the Oswego County Department of Health noted Oswego County community provider levels seem ok at the moment. Connextcare (FQHC) is opening a new site in Oswego, and McCue Dental has also entered the county; Diane noted it's been much better for people and they seem to be able to access providers. Kindra Coussineau of the St. Lawrence County Health Department noted that more providers are coming into the county but not accepting Medicaid. Dr. Dionne Richardson of the NYSDOH wanted members to be aware the a recent federal, dentist loan repayment program request for application opportunity just became available.

OTHER:

9/26/2019 – Steve Jennings reported 3 HRSA Oral Health Infrastructure Awards were given to each FQHC in the KNCS region, including ConnextCare (Northern Oswego County Health Services) (\$299,908); North Country Family Health Center (\$300,000); and United Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country (\$299,406). Each FQHC will use the dollars to make capital improvements and/or expand dental health services. Additionally, coalition members were reminded that on Friday, 9/27/2019 at Noon, a New York State Virtual Town Hall on Oral Health would occur with facilitation by the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) and the NYS Oral Health Coalition.