

Tioga Dental Services

Improving Access to Dental Care for Children



ORAL HEALTH NEEDS

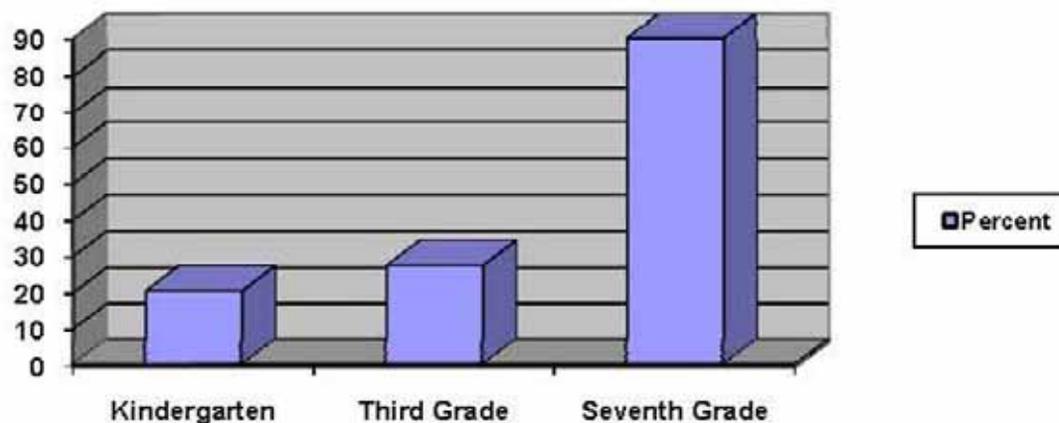
- County population = 41,981 (2010)
- Tioga County is a Low-Income Dental Health Professional Shortage Area. The county is also located within three Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas.
- Poverty Rate of children under 18 (2009)
5th Congressional District = 22% Pennsylvania = 17%
- Percentage of uninsured children (2010)
Tioga County = 9.5% Pennsylvania = 5.3%
- Individuals below poverty level (2009)
Tioga County = 16% Pennsylvania = 12.5%



Percent of Tioga County Students Failing Dental Exam by Grade

2004

Percent of Tioga County Students Failing Dental Exam by Grade



HISTORY

- State Representative Matt Baker responded to constituent's needs.
- Local Dental Summit held mid 1998
- In 1999, Tioga Dental Services was founded by a coalition of community partners that included the Northcentral PA Area Health Education Center, Tioga County Partnership for Community Health, Laurel Health System, and Mansfield University. Tioga County Dental Society and Temple School of Dentistry joined in the planning and development efforts, in order to provide clinical expertise and operations experience.

HEALTHY FAMILIES
HEALTHY FUTURE



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Tioga Dental Services

HISTORY

- Funding obtained through PA Department of Health and HRSA.
- Temple School of Dentistry partnered with TDS to provide a dentist for the clinic. In exchange the clinic became a student training site.
- Laurel Health System provide space in one of their FQHCs.
- Clinic was governed by a local board of directors.
- Staff was supervised by Temple Faculty.
- Provided general dentistry in the clinic as well as hygiene services to local school districts.
- Clinic closed in 2006 due to lack of a dentist.
- Challenges and lessons learned...



CLINIC RE-OPENING

- Committed board of directors
- Convinced the solution needed to be local
- AHEC Applied for Department of Health funding on behalf of the clinic – awarded October, 2008
- Biggest need = RECRUITMENT



STEPS TO RE-OPEN

- Recruited staff
- Renovated clinic
- Paperwork, paperwork, paperwork
- Recruiting patients...NO problem!

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CURRENT OPERATIONS

- Continue to operate in Laurel Health Center FQHC
- Staff members include:
 - Dentist
 - Hygienist
 - Expanded Function Dental Assistant
 - Dental Assistant
 - Office Manager



CURRENT OPERATIONS

- Patient payment mix:
 - MA patients = 73%
 - Sliding Fee Scale = 23%
 - Private Insurance = 3%
 - Cash = 1%
- Total number of active patients = 2138
- Patients under the age of 18 = 1133 (53%)
- Special Needs Patients = 65 (3%)
- Length of waiting list = 6 months
- No show rate average = 19%



CLINIC SUSTAINABILITY

- Local support is imperative.
- Manage no show rate.
- Network with other clinics.
- Grants are wonderful but not a good model for sustainability.
- A dedicated and passionate staff are essential.



FUTURE DIRECTION

- Address space issue
- Increase clinical staff
- Add fulltime Executive Director
- Grant funding for extra services

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Deborah Sawyer, M.S.Ed.
Executive Director



Phone: 570-724-9145
Fax: 570-724-5397
Email: debs@ncpaahec.org
www.ncpaahec.org



63R Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901

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