

Featured Collaboration:

Capitol Dental Care & Willamette Family, INC.



#LiveHealthyLane

Live Healthy Lane strives to support the implementation of evidence-based preventative screening and referral policies and services by physical, behavioral and oral healthcare providers. Our partners at [Capitol Dental Care](#) (CDC) are setting a prime example by providing unique models for dental services across the state.

“The CDC Outreach Team has been partnering with various organizations to provide Trillium members with dental services outside of a traditional dental office, since many find accessing dental care in a traditional office difficult due to transportation or anxiety challenges,” said Karen Hall, CDC Oral Health Integration Manager, “One of these partnerships is with Willamette Family, Inc.”

Through surveys and secondary research, CDC and Willamette Family, INC. found that there is a need for dental care at the Willamette Family Medical Clinic. Willamette Family surveyed their women’s residential program, men’s residential program, downtown IOP, medical patients coming to the clinic, and patients going to the Rapid Access Center to see if there was a need for an alternative dental program. Results showed promising interest in the program and revealed that many of the Willamette Family patients and clients were interested in utilizing dental services onsite.

“[Patients] have a lot of anxiety and fear and a lot of embarrassment from going to a dental office,” Colleen Smith, Willamette Family Associate Director of Health Clinic and Rapid Access Services said, “We are talking about some fairly young individuals that have severe dental issues. We knew this was an issue but we didn’t know how extensive it was until Jonnie got in and she’s reporting back the high level of care that is needed.”

Jonnie McBride, CDC Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist (EPDH), has been supporting this program since the very beginning.

“For me one of the big reasons I sought out a program like this was to give back to the community,” Jonnie said, “There’s a lot of underserved clientele in Oregon and our whole nation as far as medical and dental goes.”

Jonnie leads all the initial dental work for this program. She works out of the Willamette Family Medical Clinic four days a week. Three Thursdays each month she visits Willamette Family’s [Cheshire Facility](#), a women’s and children residential facility for Substance disorder recovery, [Carlton House](#) that provides residential services to men, and their sister [clinic in Springfield](#) for behavioral health services. Occasionally Jonnie also sees residents at [Cornerstone Housing facilities](#) - another partner of Live Healthy Lane - for dental screenings and advising.

Jonnie is there to help people understand the importance of dental care and to make the environment friendly. Jonnie’s friendly and caring nature gives her the chance to build trust and relationships with those in need, and those who experience common fears about going to the dentist.

“There are no qualifications,” Colleen explained, “...[this] is a very low barrier system and we did that on purpose. Specifically with our population here including individuals with chronic mental health and substance abuse disorders, their main way to get dental care is to go to the ER.” This program provides clients with an alternative to receiving care.

The program’s main goals include providing quality preventive dental services to clients, in a safe environment, and providing additional dental navigation and support to improve client’s perceptions of obtaining dental care. As access to care continues to be an issue for our community, it is partnerships like this that make a difference. Together we can do more than each of us can do alone.

Feature written in March, 2019 by Lilian Morrill, Community Health Intern at Live Healthy Lane, in collaboration with staff from Capitol Dental Care and Willamette Family, INC.