PROJECT ABSTRACT

Title: FLOSS (Facilitating a Lifetime of Oral health Sustainability for Substance use disorder patients and families)

Applicant Organization: University of Utah School of Dentistry
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List all grant program funds requested in the application, if applicable:

Project FLOSS aims to achieve two goals:

1. **Develop training programs for oral health providers practicing in advanced roles** (HRSA Focus Area #2). This will be accomplished by:
   a. Increasing the core competencies and skills needed to work with Substance Use Disorder Patients (SUDPs) through training of the dental faculty, workforce and students. A curriculum specific to SUDP oral health needs assessment and treatment will be developed and (1) used to train a minimum of 10 dental faculty at the School of Dentistry (SOD), (2) used to provide CE to about 75 dentists and hygienists, and (3) integrated into dental student curriculum.
   b. Case Managers and Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPSSs) will be trained about the importance of preventing and treating oral health issues in SUDPs, thereby creating a secondary workforce that can educate high-risk populations about oral health. Two sessions of education and training to a minimum of 10 Case Managers and CPSSs will be provided.
   c. Provide a Capstone Honors educational opportunity for a minimum of 2 dental students per year to facilitate student scholarship and research into an oral health project for SUDPs under the mentorship of a faculty member. Outcomes: While all DDS students at the SOD will participate in this program at the treatment planning and clinical level, Capstone students will help to compile data and perform key analyses to answer important questions regarding the overall impact of the program and its potential sustainability, present their findings at national meetings and contribute to peer-reviewed publications and for HRSA progress reporting.

2. **Establish a unique and collaborative academic and direct service program using school-linked dental facilities, (SOD), to provide access to high quality oral health services to SUDPs and their dependents** (HRSA Focus Area #5). This will be accomplished by providing stratified services to a minimum of 300 SUDPs residing in dental Health Professional Shortage Areas including cleaning, exams, emergency extractions and basic dental services. Minor dependents (75-244) and other family members (75-100) of the SUDPs will receive services and oral health education with the aim to create a sustainable dental home.

By achieving these two goals, project FLOSS will also accomplish HRSA Focus Areas #1, #2 and #5. Project FLOSS is designed to facilitate integration of oral, mental, and primary care medical delivery systems by training both oral health and mental health providers and developing the infrastructure for a sustainable high-quality, low-cost access to a dental home in an attempt to achieve overall health and well-being of the underserved, high-risk, medically complex substance use disorder populations and their dependents.