The link between oral health and systemic chronic conditions has been established: patients with suboptimal control of their chronic medical conditions are disproportionately affected by poor oral health. This is especially true with vulnerable populations who lack timely access to appropriate medical and dental services for prevention, screening and management of their health needs (Institute of Medicine, 2011). In response to this disparity and challenges associated with seamless care of those most at risk, HRSA developed the Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care Practice (IOHPCP) (Health Services Resource Administration, 2014). The recommendations include competencies for primary care providers, strategies for implementation and recommendations for systems level adaptations to facilitate translation into practice through collaboration between oral health providers and primary care providers. The university campus presents an opportunity to develop and evaluate integrative models of interdisciplinary education as the home of many health profession schools and future providers that will treat many of the same patients after graduation. This project is among the first on campus to pilot IPE in both clinical and didactic courses, over multiple semesters. Faculty thread evidence based practice and clinical competencies specific to oral and systemic health into didactic and clinical practicum courses, and used faculty practice sites for IPE learning activities. Student outcomes evaluation included knowledge base, clinical and diagnostic reasoning skills, and communication skills.

### Goals of Project
- The goal of this project is to demonstrate the tripartite mission of the School of Nursing in a way that is relevant to students and faculty through a collaborative approach to clinical education with two professional disciplines, Family Nurse Practitioner and Dental Hygiene. This will be accomplished by threading evidence based practice and clinical competencies specific to oral and systemic health into didactic and clinical practicum courses at faculty practice sites and evaluating the effect on student outcomes in areas of knowledge base, clinical and diagnostic reasoning skills, communication, quality and safety.
- This project will explore the feasibility of interprofessional education through select shared didactic, clinical and laboratory experiences and identify facilitators and barriers to interprofessional education at this campus.

### Outcomes
- Students will complete RIPLS surveys to evaluate the IPE learning experience.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in the core oral health competencies.
- Students will become familiar with the roles of primary care providers in underserved care.
- Students will observe the complex systemic health needs of underserved patients and the link with poor oral health.
- Faculty will analyze the data from the student evaluations and develop recommendations for IPE at the Baltimore campus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 days for Oral Health Screening/ Fluoride Varnish and Health promotion</th>
<th>11 DH students, 1 FNP student participated</th>
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**Population Served:** Adults with chronic and severe mental illness who attend day program

**85 Adults were screened**
- 8 had **acute** oral health issues (abscesses & pain)
- 67 had **urgent** oral health needs (extensive decay)
- 10 had good oral health requiring routine care

### Fall 2014: Outcomes
- FNP/DH Screenings in Cecil County Elementary Schools
- 10-15 DH Students and 20 FNP Students
- Expect to screen +/- 400 elementary school students and toddler/preschool age students
- Health Assessment Course: Hygiene Faculty Oral Health Teaching to 59 FNP, CRNA, AGCC, PMHNP students
- DH students in clinical practice with CRNP in primary care setting
- FNP students observing Dentist in Perryville Clinic for routine restorations as well as advanced oral surgeries

### Reflections from Students

- "It was eye opening to see patients who can’t have their urgent oral health needs met due to resources"
- "I improved my communication skills due to the barriers in oral health literacy and education in this population"
- "WOW!! I saw first hand how behavior and nutrition can be impacted in special needs patients with urgent oral disease issues"
- "I had to adjust the pace of my exam and the health teaching to accommodate the patient’s anxiety and learning needs"
- "I learned so much from watching the Dental hygiene students teaching the patients"
- "I learned so much about how challenging chronic health conditions can be for patients"