



## Elder Smiles Johnson County, Kansas

### Program Overview

The goal of Elder Smiles was to improve the oral health of older adults living in long-term care facilities by providing preventive oral health care, referrals for restorative care, and dental homes for ongoing care. For older adults without a dental home, Elder Smiles provided the participant with a dental home in the community or a volunteer dentist that served the facility. The Johnson County Health Department (JCHD) administered the program.

### Program History and Development



Elder Smiles started in 2004 after JCHD conducted a survey of all adult care facilities in the county to determine the need for on-site dental services. Eleven adult care facilities, accounting for 40 percent of the total adult care beds in Johnson County, stated that they were interested in bringing on-site oral health services to their residents. With support from initial grant funding, the Elder Smiles program began with two long-term care facilities and grew steadily to enroll 19 facilities.

### Program Sustainability

- Elder Smiles was self-sustaining from private pay and Medicaid reimbursements. The cost of a routine dental cleaning was \$50.
- JCHD program staff members were responsible for the day-to-day management of the program.
- The REACH Healthcare Foundation provided the initial grant funding to start the program.

### Program Impact

- From 2008-2012, Elder Smiles completed 516 visits to residents in long-term care facilities.
- Elder Smiles collected data on patient visits, existence of a family dentist, and numbers of referrals made.
- As of 2012, 444 individuals had received preventive dental services, 247 had received oral hygiene education, 305 had received fluoride varnish, 144 had received nutritional counseling, 13 had received dentures, and 57 individuals were referred to locations with more restorative care services.
- Participating providers advocated to dental schools to include geriatric dentistry in their training curriculum, based on the need found during this project.

### Program Contact Information

Program Website: <http://archived.naccho.org/topics/modelpractices/database/practice.cfm?practiceID=673>



## Elder Smiles Johnson County, Kansas

### Program Features

Note: A checked box below indicates an existing program feature.

Age	Service Delivery Model	Dental and Oral Health Services
<input type="checkbox"/> 0-17 (Children and Youth) <input type="checkbox"/> 18-60 (Adult) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60+ (Older Adult)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dental clinic model (e.g. permanent setting) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobile-portable model <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eligibility and enrollment model (e.g. referrals, care coordination) <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual model (e.g. telehealth) <input type="checkbox"/> Event-based model <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach and education model	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screenings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cleanings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fluoride varnish <input type="checkbox"/> Sealants <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X-rays <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive services <input type="checkbox"/> Fillings <input type="checkbox"/> Scaling/root planing <input type="checkbox"/> Extractions <input type="checkbox"/> Oral surgery <input type="checkbox"/> Root canals <input type="checkbox"/> Dentures, partials, relines, repairs <input type="checkbox"/> Crowns <input type="checkbox"/> Bridges <input type="checkbox"/> Orthodontics
Specific Populations	Staffing	Other Program Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless individuals <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with physical disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with specific or complex medical conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with low income <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with no dental insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees/immigrants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dentist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dental hygienist <input type="checkbox"/> Dental therapist <input type="checkbox"/> Dental assistant <input type="checkbox"/> Dental/dental hygiene students <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing staff <input type="checkbox"/> Community health workers <input type="checkbox"/> Non-dental clinical staff <input type="checkbox"/> Non-clinical staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referrals to dental and oral health services <input type="checkbox"/> Care coordination/care management <input type="checkbox"/> Patient education <input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver education <input type="checkbox"/> Provider education <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/coalition
Geography	Payment for Care	Integration with Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> No charge to client <input type="checkbox"/> Sliding fee scale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Out of pocket <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial dental insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical services <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral health services <input type="checkbox"/> Vision services <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy services <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation services <input type="checkbox"/> Translation services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nutrition services
Service Delivery Setting	Program Funding	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Dental school <input type="checkbox"/> Community/safety net clinic <input type="checkbox"/> Private dental office <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long-term care facility <input type="checkbox"/> Senior center/community center <input type="checkbox"/> Private residence <input type="checkbox"/> Fairgrounds/stadium/parking lot <input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Public housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foundation/organization grant <input type="checkbox"/> Public funding (e.g. local, state, federal) <input type="checkbox"/> Private donations (e.g. individuals, businesses)	

This profile was prepared using publicly available information. Date of last update: March 2016