



Senior Dental Days Grand Rapids, Michigan

Program Overview

Senior Dental Days, organized by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM), is an annual event that serves low-income older adults in Grand Rapids, Michigan and the surrounding areas. AAWM works with nonprofit agencies to identify and invite older adults based on financial need. Participants receive free dental cleanings, x-rays, screenings, and referrals to a permanent dental home. The events are staffed by volunteer dental students, dental school faculty, dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants.

Program History and Development



Senior Dental Days 2014 at Grand Rapids Community College

Senior Dental Days began in 2011 as a partnership between AAWM, the Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging (COHA), and Dr. Elisa Ghezzi. AAWM recruits and schedules participants, completes forms, and arranges meals and transportation for volunteers. Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) staff recruits hygienists and obtains use of a facility and equipment. In addition, GRCC Dental Clinic provides space for the event and needed supplies. Hygienists and dental assistants can earn continuing education units by participating in the event; this was approved by the state of Michigan after Dr. Ghezzi initiated conversations with legislators.

Program Sustainability

- Senior Dental Days is funded by grants from the Delta Dental Foundation, the Michigan Dental Association Foundation, the West Michigan Dental Society, Grand Rapids Community College, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, and Health Intervention Services – Grand Rapids.
- The entirety of the program's funding comes from foundation grants.
- One hundred dental students, dental school faculty, dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, and AAWM staff volunteered their time in 2014.
- The annual budget of the program is \$2,000.

Program Impact

- In 2014, the program served 42 older adults during the one-day event.
- Senior Dental Days surveys both volunteers and participants regarding program effectiveness and satisfaction.
- Awareness was raised in Kent County, Michigan about the continuing need for accessible, low-cost dental care for older adults.

*"You all made me feel so welcomed and cared for, this day truly was a blessing."
– individual who received dental care at
Senior Dental Days 2013*

Program Contact Information

Program Website: http://www.aaawm.org/organizational_news/tag/Dental



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Program Features

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

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

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