



Prepare to Care

... Mouth Care Matters ...

Oral Health Education for Direct Care Professionals



New Prepare to Care Oral Health Specialty Training Coming Soon!

The Mouth Care Matters Project is looking for direct care professionals and employers around central Iowa to participate in a new project to provide oral health care training to those who provide direct care in home-based, community based, or facility settings. With training to begin Fall 2015, prepare to provide quality oral health care!

“There is no health without oral health!”

Surgeon General, Report on Oral Health, 2000

Why Should Direct Care Professionals Take the Oral Health Specialty Training?

- » Receive recognition of professional achievement through an Oral Health Specialty Certificate issued by the State
- » Be more confident in providing oral care
- » Be among the first in the state to take and evaluate the training
- » Provide better care to the people you serve, including skills to deliver care in challenging situations during oral care
- » Gain knowledge on oral implants and equipment
- » Ensure your personal safety while performing duties
- » Ease time constraints for those providing direct care.
- » Be a role model in promoting the importance of oral health care for those you serve
- » Receive free training through the Mouth Care Matters project
- » Receive a payment for helping to test the new Oral Health Specialty Training
- » Receive a certificate for completing and evaluating the training

Oral cancer results in nearly 8,000 deaths each year. More than half of these deaths occur among persons 65 years of age and older.

Oral health problems can cause pain and suffering as well as difficulty in speaking, chewing, and swallowing.

Loss of self-esteem is associated with loss of teeth.

Poor oral health has been linked to many health problems, including stroke, heart attack, diabetes, and the number one cause of death in nursing homes: pneumonia.

What is the Mouth Care Matters Project?

Mouth Care Matters is an initiative of the Lifelong Smiles Coalition supported by the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation. Mouth Care Matters will develop and test an Oral Health Specialty Training for direct care professionals over the next two years. Through a partnership with the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and the College of Nursing, the Oral Health Specialty Training curriculum will be developed and will become the first state recognized specialty under the State's new Prepare to Care curriculum designed for those who work in direct care. This training will increase access to and improve oral health care of older Iowans who are homebound or living in nursing homes, improving their overall health, comfort, and dignity. Iowa CareGivers was awarded funding

for this project from Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, and the Iowa Department of Public Health through a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Cooperative Agreement (#DP13-1307).

What is the Oral Health Specialty Training?

The Oral Health Specialty Training is a specialty training of the Prepare to Care curriculum, Iowa's Direct Care and Support Curriculum.

Through both classroom instruction and hands-on practice, you will learn:

- » The value of good oral health for the people you serve
- » To identify normal hard and soft tissue anatomy of the oral cavity
- » To identify common oral health problems
- » Observations to be documented and/or reported
- » Basic oral care, including brushing and positioning, for persons with and without teeth
- » To identify pharmaceutical side effects and medical conditions that impact oral health
- » How to use equipment, products, and a variety of approaches to support the independence of the person served
- » How to use equipment, products, and a variety of approaches to support the dependent person served

How Can I Participate in the Oral Health Specialty Training in Central Iowa?

The Oral Health Specialty Training can be taken by individuals who have already completed the Prepare to Care Core training, which is available free of charge both online (<http://directcare.training-source.org>) and in-person through June 30, 2015. The Oral Health Specialty Training will be available to direct care professionals starting Fall 2015 in the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) region. The DMACC region includes all or portions of Adair, Audubon, Boone, Carroll, Clarke, Crawford, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hardin, Jasper, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Polk, Poweshiek, Shelby, Story, and Warren counties.

Enroll individually or talk to your employer about participating in the pilot project!

Learn more about Oral Health Specialty Training for Direct Care Professionals at:

<http://www.iowapreparetocare.com/>

For more information on oral health for older adults, visit:

<http://www.toothwisdom.org/care/state/iowa>

Supported by the Lifelong Smiles Coalition



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Who are Direct Care Professionals?

Direct Care Professional is an umbrella name for the 78,000-strong workforce in Iowa. Direct care professionals are defined as individuals who provide supportive services and care to people experiencing health conditions, illnesses, or disabilities and receive compensation for such services. They may work in home-based, community-based, or facility settings. They may have job titles such as direct support professional, supported community living worker, home health aide, direct care worker, and universal worker. The umbrella term also includes other job titles like hospice aide, personal assistant, and certified nursing assistant.