

SAN MATEO COUNTY  
ORAL HEALTH  
STRATEGIC PLAN

2017-2020



# Process and Plan

# Oral Health Issues

## For Children:

- Dental decay can begin soon after babies get their first teeth.
- Dental disease is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism.
- When a pregnant woman has a dental disease, her baby is also at an increased risk of developing a dental infection.
- Pain from dental disease impacts nutritional intake and the ability to concentrate at school and work.

## For Adults:

- Dental decay/gum disease are progressive, lead to costly dental treatment if unaddressed.
- Older adults suffer from the progression of dental disease and an overall decline in quality of life.

# Strategic Planning

## ❖ Stakeholders:

- Oral health providers
- Medical practitioners,
- Health educators,
- Philanthropists,
- County health officials,
- Child and adult health advocates

## ❖ Retreats

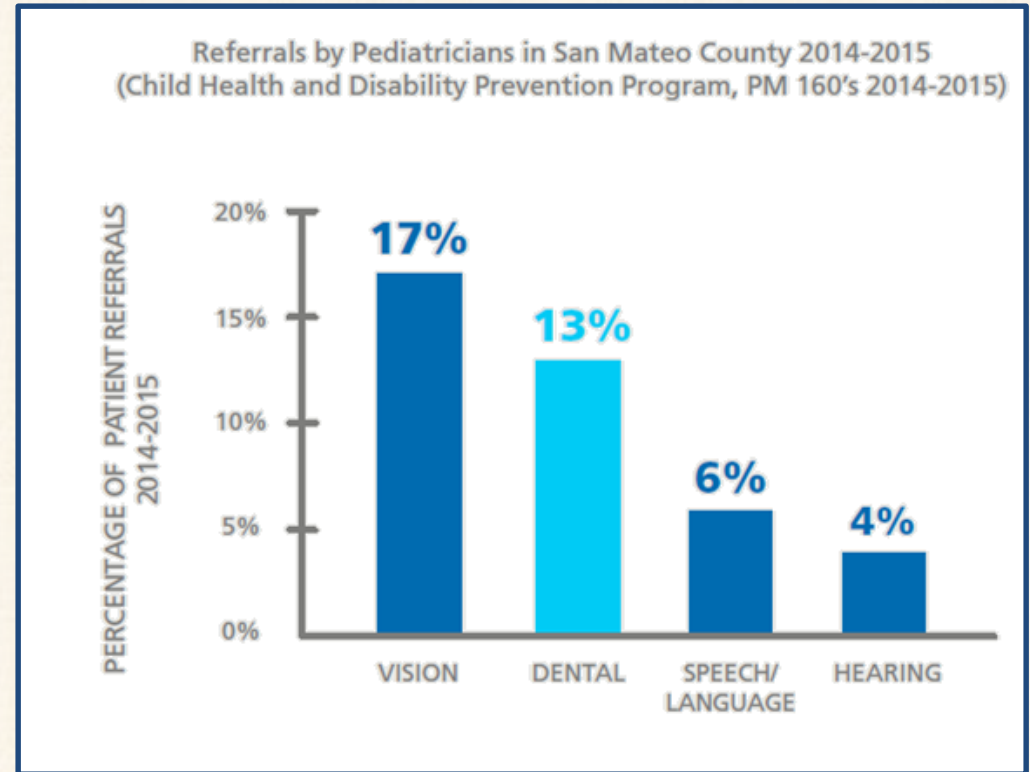
## ❖ Workgroups

# Environmental Scan

- ❖ Wealth disparities in San Mateo County are among the highest in the nation
- ❖ Expansion of Medi-Cal eligibility by the Affordable Care Act, without a parallel increase in resource expansion, has increased disparities in access to care
- ❖ Large gaps in data around oral health exist in San Mateo County
- ❖ Preventive measures have been shown to significantly improve oral health, such as:
  - ❖ Dental Sealants
  - ❖ Fluoride Varnish
  - ❖ Routine Preventive and Primary Dental Care

# Children's Oral Health Needs

- ❖ 40% of 3 y/o children in San Mateo County had untreated dental decay from 2013-2014 (data from VDH Pilot Project)
- ❖ San Mateo County physicians found that dental problems were the **2<sup>nd</sup> most frequent reason** for referral during routine physicals



# Adults' Oral Health Needs

- ❖ In the absence of preventive and restorative care, adults suffer tooth decay, tooth loss, and gum disease
- ❖ According to the Center for Oral Health, among California Skilled Nursing Facility residents who have teeth:
  - 34% need early dental care
  - 14% need urgent dental care
- ❖ According to Public Health Reports in 2010, more than half of pregnant California women reported having dental problems during pregnancy.
  - ❖ Pregnant women with dental infections are likely to pass infection on to babies when they are born

# Key Objectives

- I. Increase access to dental services for children and pregnant women
- II. Increase access to dental services for adults
- III. Build oral health provider capacity
- IV. Increase awareness of the importance of oral health and best oral health practices among diverse sectors of San Mateo County
- V. Establish infrastructure, staffing, funding, and surveillance systems to effectively implement this strategic plan

# I. Increasing Access for Children

- ❖ Expand and deepen oral health partnerships with Women, Infants, and Children sites.
- ❖ Establish an oral health program on-site in schools
- ❖ Continue and expand co-located oral health services at childcare and early learning sites.
- ❖ Increase fluoride varnish application, oral health education, and referrals to dental homes by pediatricians/primary care providers



## II. Increasing Access for Adults

- ❖ Bring dental services and oral health education to older adult residential facilities, and to home-bound older adults.
- ❖ Work with organizations that serve the elderly to educate seniors about oral health.
- ❖ Train medical providers who serve low-income adults, adults with special needs/disabilities on risks of dental disease.
- ❖ Increase referrals to dental professionals by public medical providers serving this population.

# III. Build Oral Health Provider Capacity

- ❖ Collaborate with dental societies to support training of dental providers, provide modest incentives to serve low-income pregnant women, infants, and young children.
- ❖ Increase the capacity of dental programs to serve more patients with disabilities and/or special needs through:
  - Teledentistry programs (like VDH)
  - Population-specific training for dental providers
  - Increasing access to sedation services

# IV. Increase Oral Health Awareness

- ❖ Develop consistent oral health messaging and increase inclusion into overall health education
- ❖ Expand the impact of the San Mateo County Oral Health Coalition in promoting oral health by encouraging partner organizations to spread oral health messages on their websites and social media.

# V. Infrastructure Development

- ❖ Develop:
  - ❖ infrastructure,
  - ❖ Funding, and
  - ❖ Staffing to implement and evaluate this strategic plan.

# Progress To Date

- ❖ Secured funding to hire,
- ❖ Job Descriptions Completed and Advertised
- ❖ Interviews in progress