

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**  
**Between**  
**The Children's Oral Health Network of Maine and Cumberland County**

This is an agreement between "The Children's Oral Health Network (COHN) and "Cumberland County Public Health Department" (CCPHD).

**PURPOSE & SCOPE**

The purpose of this MOU is to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each party as they relate to establishing a collaborative and working relationship between Cumberland County Public Health Department and the Children's Oral Health Network. This MOU is intended to enhance progress on the Oral Health priority in the 2022-2026 Cumberland County Community Health Improvement Plan

**BACKGROUND**

The Children's Oral Health Network of Maine unites hundreds of organizations and individuals statewide in a shared vision: ensuring that all children in Maine can grow up free from preventable dental disease. The Network coordinates and supports collaborative projects and innovative models that bring high quality oral health services to where children are: including primary care offices, childcare settings, schools and through telehealth. This removes barriers to care and utilizes dental professionals more efficiently, making it more possible for ALL Maine children to access the preventive dental care they need.

The Cumberland County Public Health Department brings people, organizations, and communities together to promote wellbeing and protect the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. CCPHD identified "Access to Oral Health Care" as a key public health priority through the Cumberland County Community Health Improvement Planning Process and the need for a more robust infrastructure for children's preventative oral health care in preschools and schools as a key priority strategy to address the problem.

**RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU**

COHN makes the following commitments:

- Partner with the CCPHD Director to help with design and planning functions
- Engage dental partners to participate in the collaborative effort to bring services to all schools
- Share information COHN has collected about current school oral health status as well as maps and student projections for services needed
- Help connect the CC oral health initiative with the state's School Oral Health Program and other COHN efforts to expand school oral health services statewide. Support CC partners in ensuring that this initiative is sustainable and to leverage other resources to support the institutionalization of this effort for the long-term.
- Assist with development of a plan for project management and coordination of this initiative in collaboration with the CCPHD Director, based on available resources. This may include:
- Facilitation of project meetings

- Outreach to school contacts to assess readiness and build support in order to stage the expansion of services.
- Development of MOUs/agreements between the county and each implementing partner regarding the schools they will serve. This includes managing subgrants to each partner to support their staff time for coordination of the coverage strategy, and for the costs of onboarding and training new staff to deliver the services they commit to under the coverage strategy.
- Facilitate connections to a consultant with mapping, modeling, and evaluation expertise to inform a plan for staged expansion of services to all schools county-wide, including projections of the numbers of children needing services in each school in order to enable the project partners to plan and hire appropriate staffing to support their agreements under the initiative. Additionally, assist the County with developing and implementing an evaluation plan to track the implementation, results, and lessons learned from this initiative.

The CCPHD makes the following commitments:

- Partner with the COHN Executive Director to help with design and planning functions
- Identify and apply for grant funding to support oral health infrastructure improvements in CC.
- Participate in meetings of local providers and COHN to make improvements in the local children's oral health infrastructure.
- Participate in the state-wide "Oral Health Equity Collaborative" organized by the Cross Cultural Community Services and supported by COHN.

## FUNDING

Full implementation of this agreement depends on the availability of sufficient resources. COHN will partner with CC to secure the resources needed to carry out these activities, and will share in the work of implementing the initiative and managing the funding if the County requests this type of assistance.

## EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURES

This MOU shall be effective upon the signatures of both parties.

*Becca Matusovich*

Becca Matusovich, Executive Director  
Children's Oral Health Network of Maine

4/30/2023

Date



Liz Blackwell-Moore,  
Cumberland County

4/30/23

Date