

## Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Sub-Group

CavityFree SF is pulling together a group of committed individuals to improve the oral health of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN). This group (and their teeth!) have critical and varied vulnerabilities to tooth decay and disease. They will continue to be underserved or neglected if we do not make a concerted effort to reach them and their families. *Please join us!*

### Overview

CavityFree SF added a focus on Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) as part of our 2019 strategic planning process. In early 2021, CavityFree SF expanded this focus to include transition age youth across their lifespan, as they are often overlooked. We seek to better understand the dental care needs of this community, and to support the provision of appropriate care and care coordination to serve the diversity of children with special health care needs. CavityFree SF's 2020-2025 Goals and Objectives<sup>1</sup> commit us to:

***Expand dental services for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN), particularly those in communities with the highest oral health burden.***

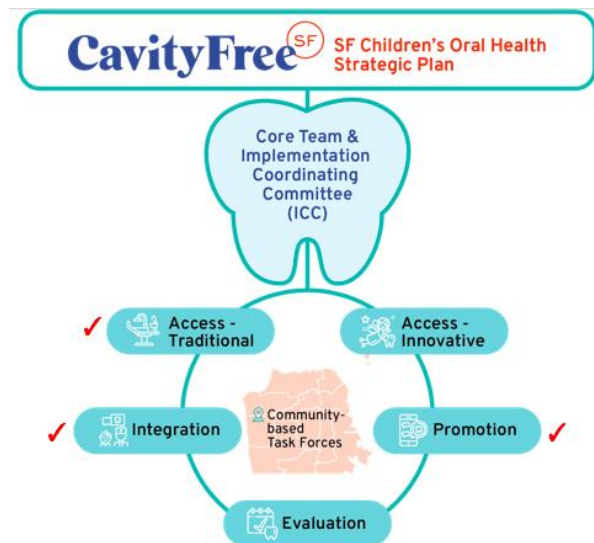
***– CavityFree SF, Access – Traditional Goal 3***

In order to get this critical work started, CavityFree SF is establishing a CYSHCN Sub-Group. This sub-group, part of the *Access – Traditional* work team, will meet separately for at least a year. After this time, it may begin to meet on a regular basis with the larger work team.

### CYSHCN, a Crosscutting Focus Area

Three of CavityFree SF's five work teams (see accompanying graphic) have explicit goals and/or objectives related to CYSHCNs. They are a crosscutting focus area.

The community-based Children's Oral Health Task Forces will also weave a focus on CYSHCNs into their work.



### 2025 Goals and Objectives

The CYSHCN sub-group is part of the *Access – Traditional* work team, which works to **increase access to oral health care services in traditional dental settings for San Francisco children and pregnant women**. The sub-group will work to advise and partner with members of other work teams that have goals and objectives related to CYSHCN.

#### CYSHCN Goal & Objectives (*Access – Traditional* work team)

Goal 3) Expand dental services for children with special health care needs (CYSHCN), particularly those in communities with the highest oral health burden.

3.1) Identify the CYSHCN population that requires special dental care, and the barriers they face in receiving dental care.

3.2) Develop a plan to address several barriers and which Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) require special dental care.

<sup>1</sup> The 5-Year indicators related to disparity do not include children with special health care needs (CYSHCN) yet. This is because CavityFree SF, and all of us in San Francisco, lack information. CYSHCN will be included in the 2020-2025 indicators once we have baseline information on their oral health.



- 3.3) Develop and implement a centralized system to track dental status for CYSHCN who require specialized dental care and coordinate dental care.
- 3.4) Identify dental providers and RDHAPs who are interested in serving CYSHCN and provide them with technical assistance, training, and support to enable both office special dental care as well as virtual dentistry.
- 3.5) Partner with dental schools to incorporate more curricular content on CYSHCN in pre-doctoral programs, and care provision for CYSHCN in postgraduate residency programs.

#### Relevant *Integration* Goal & Objective

Goal 2) Expand dental care coordination services.

- 2.4) Target dental programs to improved services for children with special health care needs

#### Relevant *Promotion* Goal & Objective

Goal 2) Provide updated list of children's oral health resources in San Francisco

- 2.1) Create, maintain, and disseminate a list of current, accessible oral health services, providers, and education in San Francisco and identify gaps in outreach prioritizing communities of color and children with special health needs.

## **Membership**

CavityFree SF is seeking motivated colleagues from key sectors to join the CYSHCN new sub-group. This will include leaders from dental schools (UCSF, UOP), dental care providers (dentists, hygienists), pediatricians, public health policy makers, community-based organizations working with families of children with special health care needs.

#### Current members include:

Dr. Ben Miesel, San Francisco Department of Public Health  
Dr. Lisa Berens, University of California San Francisco  
Dr. David Rothman, D.D.S. Pediatric Dentistry  
Dr. Ray Stewart, UCSF, Division of Pediatric Dentistry  
Dr. Jean Marie Calvo, UCSF, Division of Pediatric Dentistry  
Dr. Allen Wong, Professor & Director of AEGD & Hospital Dentistry Program, UOP  
May Bosco, RDHAP, Child Health and Disability Prevention Program  
Vanessa Aranda, Children and Families Program Manager, SF Health Plan, Care Management  
Ingrid Lin, Director, Clinical Services, Golden Gate Regional Center  
Karen Bohall-Ortega, ACES Program Director, Support for Families of Children with Disabilities  
Prasanthi Patel, Director, Children's Oral Health Program, SF Dept of Public Health  
Aira Villareal, CavityFree SF Program Assistant, SF Dept of Public Health

Dr. Karen Raju, UCSF (Serving as Chair of CYSHCN Sub-Group)  
Dr. Irene Hilton, SFDPH, San Francisco Health Network  
(Serving as Chair of CavityFree SF's Access – Traditional work team)

## **Expectations**

Members are expected to provide expertise, represent their constituencies, and work to push sub-group initiatives forward. Specific expectations include:

- Participate in remote, monthly meetings
- Identify at least one 2025 objective to work on with other members
- Collaborate in planning and execution of tasks related to meeting objective(s)
- Make connections and introductions from your professional network, as needed

Please contact Dr. Karen Raju ([Karen.Raju@ucsf.edu](mailto:Karen.Raju@ucsf.edu)) with any questions or to learn more about how to get involved!