

# T.O.O.T.H. Talks

## Talking Openly about Oral and Tooth Health

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### Project & Goals

- We worked with Family Promise of Spokane to conduct a needs assessment for the community they support in order to create a program fitting to the needs of their residents. Our goal is to educate the residents at Family Promise through Tooth Talks by going over how to access insurance and to help prevent oral disease.

### Background & Critical Issue

The dental hygiene students have been building up partnerships in the last years with organizations that work to solve community needs. Family Promise is an organization where dental hygiene students could have a positive impact by implementing education programs and prevention methods through a group project. Our project goal aimed to educate the adult guests at Family Promise on insurance options, why and how oral health should be maintained, the importance of taking care of baby teeth, and at what times a dental visit should be scheduled.

### Community Partner

Family Promise of Spokane helps families that are in crisis situations rebuild their lives. Emergency shelter is offered where everything a homeless family needs to get back on their feet is provided. Once a family has secured housing stabilization programs are held to ensure families do not reenter homelessness.

Family Promise of Spokane can assist these families by directing local resources in ways they can help.



### What We Did

- We applied our knowledge about public health programs to create an informative program to educate the guests at Family Promise about how to apply for state dental insurance, prevention of periodontal disease and childhood caries and provide information about DentistLink and how to use this website to find providers.
- We began by implementing a pre-test to gain an understanding as to their current oral health knowledge and where we need to focus the education.
- We presented an informative PowerPoint via zoom call to provide this information to the parents and guardians at Family Promise so they can use the knowledge to gain better access to oral care as well as gain knowledge to help prevent these common oral diseases.
- At the end of our PowerPoint, we opened the floor for any questions and had them take a post-test to see how our informational session helped better their understanding of the topics presented.



<http://nursingexercise.com/oral-hygiene-problems-tips-importance/>

### What is Next

- The next goal for the project will be that family promise group continue to implement education programs. Thus, build a stronger partnership not only with dental hygiene students but also students from other professions. This would help provide different level of resources and help the residents at Family Promise to achieve access to care.

<https://arcorafoundation.org/dentistlink-connecting-people-to-urgent-dental-care/>



### Civic Perspective

The mission of family promise is to assist their guests in getting out of crisis situations.

This experience was a great example of social justice issues that are present in our community. We learned that knowledge of the resources around this population can make such a big difference in the lives of people experiencing homelessness. Our partnership opened our eyes to the access to care issues for struggling families and single parents. All of us came into this partnership planning to discuss other topics in our TOOTH Talks, but found the information we ended up presenting to the residents was different because it was more fitted to the residents' needs.

### What We Learned

Throughout this process we were given an opportunity to interact with the guests at family promise. We found that many guests qualified for health insurance but were unaware.

We have learned that state health insurance can become more accessible to communities that need it. This can be accomplished by information sessions such as the one we gave.

### Logic Model

Inputs/Resources	Activities	Output	Outcomes -- Impact		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 EWU dental hygiene students</li> <li>Dental knowledge</li> <li>PowerPoint software</li> <li>Zoom software</li> <li>Family Promise staff</li> <li>Paper and printer</li> <li>Dental hygiene books</li> <li>Donations of dental products from companies such as Colgate, Listerine</li> <li>Dentist Link</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PowerPoint presentation</li> <li>Learning worksheet</li> <li>Visuals</li> <li>Note cards</li> <li>Zoom meetings (TOOTH Talks)</li> <li>Walking through Dentist Link together</li> <li>Talk to dental companies and order products to hand out</li> <li>Ask residents what they would like to know more about</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of residents attending meetings</li> <li>Number of residents attending Zoom meetings for TOOTH Talks</li> <li>Parents are more aware of the importance of baby teeth</li> <li>Residents understand how to sign up for insurance and the benefits they can have</li> <li>Residents start applying for insurance</li> <li>Residents have increased dental knowledge</li> </ul>	<b>Short term</b>	<b>Intermediate term</b>	<b>Long term</b>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents are shown how to sign up for insurance</li> <li>Residents are shown and understand how to brush and floss their teeth</li> <li>Residents can be introduced to Dentist Link</li> <li>Residents are shown examples of healthy teeth and gums and shown when teeth and gums require care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents sign up for insurance</li> <li>They receive dental products</li> <li>They understand the correct way to do home care routines.</li> <li>Residents use dentist link</li> <li>They can detect signs of dental problems</li> <li>Parents take better care of their child(s) oral health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They use the insurance benefits</li> <li>Residents are using good oral homecare practices</li> <li>Residents find a dental home</li> <li>They maintain a homecare routine</li> <li>Residents use dental products</li> <li>They receive treatment for oral health issues</li> <li>They follow up after initial treatment</li> </ul>