

Program Planning Project

Kathryn Graves, Gabriela Burciaga, Mikayla Bell and Rosangela Pino

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Abstract: Nursing home residents frequently require partial or complete assistance in conducting activities of daily living, including oral care. They often house individuals that use oral prosthetics like removable partials and dentures. For most of these residents to receive adequate daily oral health practices they must rely on nursing home staff.

Patients with oral prosthetics are at higher risk of being vulnerable to harmful bacteria in their mouth, especially if they or the nursing home staff aren't educated properly on caring for oral prosthetics. Education is an essential factor in the improvement of oral health for vulnerable and underserved populations such as nursing home residents. Therefore, the purpose of this project is teaching the staff of the Bunyan Home how to properly care for dental prosthetics. The main objective is educating residents and staff on the importance of denture health including the proper way to clean dentures and the signs and symptoms that could indicate denture disease or ill-fitting dentures.

By creating an education presentation, we will improve the overall oral health of elderly population in nursing homes. This demonstration will be completed by way of the "tell, show, do" method tailored to specific needs of the residents and their caregivers. An explanation of common concerns, visual indications to watch for, and other possibilities that may arise from poor denture care will be presented. Education of the periodontal breakdown process caused by bacteria and its timeline will also be included. Very few lay people are aware that the oral cavity can be overtaken by bacteria or fungus especially when there is a dental prosthetic involved.

Faculty Mentor: *Julie Martin*