



**Agenda Action Form Overview**

The Board is requested to approve this Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000022 to approve Durham Dental Hope project grant with the University of North Carolina Adams School of Dentistry.

**Background/Justification**

The objective of this project is to evaluate school-based oral health delivery with a focus on reducing the development of dental caries in elementary-aged children. The goals include oral health measures such as decline in untreated disease, increased ability to treat children in a school setting and providing cost effectiveness treatment options. The program will help establish positive oral health for participating Durham Public School students and reduce the disease burden in their developing permanent dentition.

In addition to treating students in DPS Elementary Schools, the information collected on outcomes will be used to help direct policy changes by interacting with the Durham County School Board, North Carolina Dental Society, North Carolina Dental Board, North Carolina State Medicaid, North Carolina Public Health and others.

**Target population**

- Durham County Public School Children age 5-10 years of age (Grades K-5).
- Prioritize schools with Tier 1 target for Low Socioeconomic status – High caries risk.
- Final Population – 300 children each class or total of 1500 completing interventions.

**Oral Health Interventions**

- Preventive – Goal is to reduce incidence of caries by 70 % using evidence-based caries preventive approaches:
  - Fluoride toothpaste and tooth brushing
  - Fluoride Varnish
  - Sealants
  - Health counseling and education to children and families

**Oral Health Care Delivery Model**

- Workforce – The goal is to use an efficient and cost-effective delivery system that helps reduce access to high quality care.
  - Tooth Ferry Coordinator, Dental Hygienists, Dental Assistant, Hygiene students– Primary work force for screening, fluoride application and sealants.
  - Dentists, pediatric dental residents, dental students, dental assistants – primary work force for diagnostic/restorative/surgical care.
- Location for Oral Health Care Delivery – The goal is to provide care to school children at Durham County Schools using a combination of delivery systems including:
  - In schools - portable equipment (screening and preventive interventions).
  - At schools - Mobile Dental Van (DCDPH Tooth Ferry Bus) (surgical care).
  - Fixed clinic – depending on patient convenience and complexity of care need the DCDPH or UNC clinics will be used
  - Engagement with parents, teachers, practitioners, school nurses etc...
  - Teledentistry – communication method for In School Team and Mobile Van. It will also serve as a communication method for Dentist, parent, and nurses.



**Policy Impact**

Recognition of these funds are in line with current Board policy and do not require an exception.

**Procurement Background**

Not Applicable

**Fiscal Impact**

Grant funding will be applied towards existing County positions, supplies, Tooth Ferry maintenance, and training needs. The Department will receive from the UNC Adams School of Dentistry \$190,797 in FY 2021, and \$140,797 in FY 2022.

**Recommendation**

The County Manager recommends the Board approve this Budget Ordinance Amendment No.21BCC000022 for the Durham Dental Hope project grant with the University of North Carolina Adams School of Dentistry.