

FirstHealth Dental Care Update

Montgomery County Board of Education

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Sharon Nicholson Harrell, DDS, MPH, FAGD, FICD, FADI, CDE ®

Dental Director/Chief Diversity Officer

FirstHealth of the Carolinas

Why did FirstHealth Get Involved in Dental Care?

- School health nurses identified dental care as the #1 unmet healthcare need for low-income children.
- Medicaid reimbursement to private providers was low and did not cover costs along with high no-show rate of some Medicaid recipients.
- FirstHealth recognized that access to care for children would directly impact the future health of our community.

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Dental Care in Children

- Tooth decay is the most common childhood chronic disease. 5 times more common than asthma.
- More prevalent in underserved children.
- 20% of children have 80% of the decay. We serve the 20%.

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Who are the 20% that we serve?

Children on Medicaid

Children without insurance (household income is at 200% of the poverty level or less)





Tooth Decay Still Exists



Dental Decay

Dental Health Effects on School Performance

- ***Impacts attendance***
- ***Diminishes academic success***
- ***Affects self-esteem of children***

Our Purpose



To Provide Comprehensive Dental Care to Underserved Children up to Age 21

Practice Philosophy of FirstHealth Dental Care

To treat each patient with the utmost respect while delivering the highest quality of comprehensive, preventive-focused care

Dental Care Center Impact

- Since 1998, FirstHealth Dental Care has provided dental care to more than 30,000 underserved children.

- Approximately 70% of patients seen in the 1st year of operation had either never seen a dentist at all or had not seen a dentist in over a year.









MONTGOMERY COUNTY LOCATIONS: EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL (BISCOE) AND WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL (MT GILEAD)

How the Process Works at East Middle and West Middle

Middle School Children with signed consents are walked over to the center by Dental Office Coordinator

Parents bring children who are not middle schoolers



Cara Haywood, FNP, Manager

Partners who help to identify patients in pain and in need of dental care:

- **FirstHealth School-based Health Center FNPs & nurses**
- **Montgomery County Schools nurses**
- **NC Division of Oral Health hygienist**

Portable Dental Children's Program

Providing expanded access to dental care to Montgomery County schoolchildren



Portable Dental Program started on October 4, 2022.

We decided which school to start with based on returned consents. Parents must give consent for child to be seen at school.

We inform the school as far ahead of time as we can.

We set up equipment in a designated room that will accommodate 2 dental chairs, has a sink, and lots of power plugs.

Our equipment will stay in room until we leave that school.

Our staff will go to class to get patients and return them when treatment is complete.





Loading the Dental Truck

Dr. Paul Hood, Dentist and Jessica Seaford, Dental Hygienist





Star Elementary in Montgomery County





Montgomery Central High School





Portable Dental Program – Candor Elementary



Jessica Seaford, Dental Hygienist
Vanessa Brito-Hernandez, Dental Assistant
Dr. Paul Hood, Dentist
Bonafacia Deloya, Front Desk Receptionist

Dental Care Center Staff at Mt. Gilead Elementary

Schools Visited in School Year 2022- 2023

- Troy Elementary - 24 visits, $7,606 in care provided
- Mt. Gilead Elementary – 31 visits, $8,658
- Page Street Elementary - 32 visits, $10,479
- Green Ridge Elementary—35 visits, $10,670 in care provided children

Schools Visited in School Year 2022 - 2023

- Star Elementary - 35 visits, $11,945 in care provided
- Candor Elementary – 87 visits, $24, 590 in care provided
- Montgomery Central – 159 visits, $66,717

(Includes Montgomery Early College)

TOTAL PORTABLE – 403 Visits $140, 665

Care Provided by FirstHealth Dental Care

East with portable: 695 visits $183,471
Includes Candor, Green Ridge, Star, and East Middle

West with portable: 470 visits $165,143

Includes Montgomery Central, Mt. Gilead, Page Street , Troy, and West Middle

TOTAL VISITS FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLCHILDREN: 1,165

TOTAL VALUE OF DENTAL CARE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY: $348,614 SCHOOLCHILDREN:



What Services Did We Provide?

- 805 exams
- 757 cleanings
- 855 fluoride treatments
- 1,505 preventive sealants
- 717 fillings
- 12 extractions



Our Providers: Dr. Kimberly Vinson and Dr. Paul Hood



Grant Support

FIRSTHEALTH MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION HAS PROVIDED OVER $113,000	MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION - IN 2003—DENTAL SEALANT PROJECT—WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE SEALANTS FOR ALMOST EVERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILD IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY	DELTA DENTAL
OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH	KATE B. REYNOLDS CHARITABLE TRUST	THE DUKE ENDOWMENT







Most Important Factor in Success of School-based Dental Program

- Superintendent
- School Board
- Principals
- Teachers
- Staff

- We thank all of you for your support!



Why We Do What We Do

One Hundred Years from now…It will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child



Thank You for Your Time! Questions?

Contact Information

Dr. Sharon Nicholson Harrell, DDS, MPH, FAGD, CDE

Dental Director, FirstHealth Dental Care

Chief Diversity Officer, FirstHealth of the Carolinas

sharrell@firsthealth.org

910-692-5111

