

New York State's Dental Workforce: Recruitment, Training & Retention

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The March 21, 2007 New York State AHEC System Advisory Board meeting held in Albany focused on the 1) dental workforce (dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants), 2) associated recruitment, training and retention issues, and 3) models and examples of recruitment/pipeline programs, training and continuing education programs.

The meeting featured the following presentations:

“Oral Health Plan for New York State and Dental Workforce Implications,” Jayanth Kumar, DDS, MPH, Director, Oral Health Surveillance and Research, Bureau of Dental Health, NYS Department of Health

“Distribution of the Dental Workforce in New York State,” Steven Schreiber, PhD, Director, Data Resource Center, NYS AHEC System

“Recruitment of Dentists in Underserved Areas, CHCs and Academic Centers,” Joseph Bernat,



Steven Schreiber, PhD, NYS AHEC System Data Resource Center Director; Joseph Bernat, DDS, University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine Associate Dean; Katherine Felon, AM, Jefferson Community College Academic Dean; Shana Lassiter, MA, Columbia University College of Dental Medicine Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Associate Director; Frank Rinehart, PhD, Monroe Community College Science, Health and Business Dean; Jayanth Kumar, DDS, MPH, NYS Department of Health Bureau of Dental Health Oral Health Surveillance and Research Director; and Mary J. Sienkiewicz, MBA, NYS AHEC System Associate Director

DDS, Associate Dean, School of Dental Medicine, University at Buffalo

“Diversifying the Dental Workforce: The Role of an Office of Diversity within an Academic Dental Institution,” Shana Lassiter, MA, Associate Director, Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Columbia University College of Dental Medicine

“Dental Assistant Retraining,” Jane Munro, MS, Center Director, Western New York Rural AHEC

“Summer Externship with the Western New York Rural AHEC,” Joseph Bernat, DDS, Associate Dean, School of Dental Medicine, University at Buffalo

Lottie Jameson, MS, Executive Director, Hudson Mohawk AHEC facilitated a general session discussion focused on possible solutions to the issues, other issues to be addressed, and roles for the NYS AHEC System at the community, regional and statewide levels.



Joseph Bernat, DDS, University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine Associate Dean, with Jane Munro, MS, Western New York Rural AHEC Center Director

“Distance Learning Training: Dental Hygienists,” Frank Rinehart, PhD, Dean, Science, Health and Business, Monroe Community College and Katherine Felon, AM, Academic Dean, Jefferson Community College