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**CHIP Title:** Build a Public Health Infrastructure for Prevention of Oral Health Disease: School-Based Dental Programs

### **Project Description:**

**Problem:** Currently, more than half of California kindergartners have experienced tooth decay, and by third grade, this number rises to over 70 percent. If left untreated, tooth decay affects children's overall health, social-emotional development, and academic performance.

**Current Status:** In California, SB 1433, the kindergarten oral health assessment (KOHA) requirement was signed into law in 2006 and requires children enrolled in public school for the first time (at kindergarten or first grade) have an oral health assessment. AB 1433 was amended in 2017 per SB 379 states that each school or school districts are responsible for reporting KOHA data annually. However, the compliance rate is low for schools distributing, collecting, and uploading KOHA data. Once COVID-19 pandemic, the compliance rate plummeted.

**Solution:** This CHIP project was aimed to conduct an environmental scan of key issues and barriers, identify collaborative partners, and build public health infrastructure for school-based screening programs aimed to create access to oral health screening for families, link them to a dental home, and increase compliance rate of KOHA requirement.

### **Key Findings and Lessons Learned:**

- Learn about the success, key issues, and barriers to building school oral health screening programs.
- Build key collaborative relationship with key stakeholders:
  - State level: Office of Oral Health, California Department of Education, System for California Oral Health reporting (SCOHR), and Medi-Cal Dental (Smile, CA).
  - County level: 61 local health jurisdictions (LHJ) with local oral health programs (LOHPs), county of education (COE), schools and school staff (i.e. Nurses). Community Organizations, dental offices and clinics.
- Re-launch KOHA Statewide Work Group that was paused due to COVID and other issues. Invited past stakeholders and invited new stakeholders such as Local Oral Health Programs, community-based partners, school nurses, SCOHR staff.
- Created SCOHR Process Map Subcommittee. There is confusion about who uploads the data into SCOHR and who is responsible for oversight. The SCOHR Process Map is a tool designed to clarify and simplify KOHA data reporting.
- Workforce development: 4th year dental student resident rotation in dental health professional shortage areas (DHPSA) and presentations at RDH/RDHAP schools.

### **Next Steps:**

- Build collaborative partnership with local and state level school nurses.
- Develop statewide KOHA Surveillance Data Dashboard (In progress).
- Electronic Referral Management system with a key component of referral closure (In Progress).