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Dental Director's Report

Joint Commission Success

On Monday, March 18, 2019 we had our unannounced Joint Commission site visit. As you are aware, Infection Control was an agenda item for the visit. Congratulations to all staff that made our efforts successful. The examiner toured the Zion location sterilization area where I provided a brief overview of our sterilization process. Moreover, they were presented a draft of our Sterilization and Instrument Processing policy along with our Instrument Processing Assessment tool. They were pleased with both. At this juncture, we strive for sustainability of our efforts for success. We will continue with process improvements as well as process audits and staff trainings.

Dental Workforce

We are moving closer to adding a dental hygienist to our staff. Their role will be to provide direct care to patients which includes preventive service as well as periodontal services. They may also be engaged in community oral health projects, as well. Moreover, they are trained in oral health education as well as oral health promotion. We continue to recruit a dental assistant for our Northshore location. The inclusion of a dental hygienist will increase access to care.

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Dental School Student Externship Faculty Update

For many years our Midlakes Health Center has hosted dental students from UIC as a part of the student's academic training. On March 28, 2019, I attended a faculty update for dental preceptors at UIC. For over 4 years, I have been an Adjunct Faculty member at the dental school. Our Midlakes site hosts third- and fourth-year dental students as a part of the student's extramural clinical rotation. FQHC's are unique as we serve a diverse patient population not seen in dental schools.

None, for information only.