

Dr. Zachary Bryan

Community Outreach – Pathways in Dentistry: Finding and Pursuing Your Passion

- What does dentistry really mean? What draws you to dentistry?
 - Personal stories really draw us into the profession
 - Making change on a small scale (individual relationships), but also having the opportunity to make change on a bigger scale (policy)
- Met a group that was focused on population prevention
 - Increasing wellbeing
 - How do you shape that person's life?
 - How does shaping that person's life shape the community?
 - How does shaping the community shape the population?
 - When you're treating that individual, you're not just treating that individual
 - You're treating the entire system
 - Our oral healthcare system is broken
 - That's why we see inequities in specific communities
 - Many folks don't have access to dental insurance
 - They choose to pay for the necessities
 - Rent
 - Food
 - Gas
 - Etc.
 - When they have oral pain, they go to the ER
 - The ER gives them an antibiotic maybe and then says "make sure you follow up with your dentist"
 - Guess what? They don't have a dentist!
 - It's a cyclic issue
- FQHC
 - Federally Qualified Health Collaborative
 - Serves people who do not have private insurance
 - Many people make too much money to have medicaid, but don't make enough to have private insurance
 - NC just expanded medicaid
 - Great! More people have access to healthcare
 - The Issue? Not enough providers to cover all people with medicaid
- Dr. Bryan's (non-traditional) Journey in Dentistry
 - Associate, Private Practice – Louisville, KY
 - Site Director, Indian Health Service (IHS) – St. Ignace, MI
 - Dental Director, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) – New Haven, CT
 - Director, North Carolina Oral Health Collaborative (NCOHC) – Cary, NC
 - Associate Professor & DISC Director, UNC Adams School of Dentistry – Chapel Hill, NC
 - UNC ASoD is unique in that they train you in leadership
 - Not just in practice, but in more

- Advanced
 - Other Current Positions:
 - Board Member, National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA)
 - Editorial Board Member, Preventing Chronic Disease (CDC)
 - Most prevalent chronic disease in this country:
 - Dental Disease
 - Member, ADA Code Maintenance Committee
 - Noticed gaps in coding procedures
 - Dentists need to think about whole-person health and wellbeing
 - Passage nationally: dentists can now code for vaccines
 - Member, Best Practices Committee, Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD)
 - Consultant & Advisor
 - Mouthwatch (teledentistry)
 - Oral cameras for teledentistry
 - DifferentKind (patient experience)
 - ***Network on LinkedIn
- The Outsize Influence of Non-Clinical Drivers
 - Medical care is responsible for just 10-15% of preventable mortality in the United States
 - Non-clinical drivers influence ~80%
 - eg. Home security, Food access
 - What happens outside the dental office is much more important than what happens in the dental office
- Social and Economic Factors Drive Health Outcomes
 - Economic stability
 - Employment
 - Income
 - Expenses
 - Debt
 - Medical bills
 - support
 - Neighborhood and physical environment
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Safety
 - Parks
 - Playgrounds
 - Walkability
 - Zip code/geography
 - Education
 - Literacy
 - Language

- Early childhood education
 - Vocational training
 - Higher education
 - Food
 - Food security
 - Access to healthy options
 - Community and social context
 - Social integration
 - Support systems
 - Community engagement
 - Stress
 - Exposure to violence/trauma
 - Health care system
 - Health coverage
 - Provider availability
 - Provider linguistic and cultural competency
 - Quality of care
 - RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION RUNS THROUGH ALL OF THESE
- ***If you do the right thing, the money will come
 - Act in an ethical manner, the money will come
- The political determinants of health
 - “The political determinants of health embody **the ways in which governmental entities and political institutions shape healthcare systems** through policy formulation and resource allocation”
 - Factors include:
 - Policies
 - Governance structures
 - Resources
 - Power dynamics
 - Compared US healthcare systems to other countries
 - Australia
 - Switzerland
 - Canada
 - Found that it’s about political build
 - These other countries are not wealthier countries, but their people decided collectively to make healthcare a right and not a privilege
 - When someone comes into your office, it’s important to keep in mind what drew them into your office
- UNC ASoD; DDS Curriculum (ACT) Framework
 - Domains of competence
 - Advocate
 - Professionalism and ethics
 - Leadership
 - Service

- **Dr. Bryan leads this division of the ACT curriculum
- Dent 543 - “Civic engagement and leadership in healthcare”
 - How do you obtain a meeting with your senator
 - How to you write op-eds
- Dent 740 - “Partnering with community to improve oral health”
 - Third year summer course
 - Prep before going out on your experience of community outreach (DISC)
 - You do a community needs assessment
 - Find the areas of concern in the community you’re serving
 - Build a plan on how to intervene
 - Talk about how to intervene with the community leaders
- Clinician
 - Person-centered care
 - Health promotion
 - Clinical skills
 - Practice management and team-based care
- Thinker
 - Critical thinking and decision making
 - Biomedical science application
 - Self-assessment and lifelong learning
 - Pass/fail
 - Geared towards well being of the learner
 - A lot more group-based discussion
 - Peer-to-peer debate
- Entrustable professional activities
 - Assessment
 - Patient history
 - Patient examination
 - Diagnostic tests
 - Plan of care
 - Diagnosis and risk assess
 - Treatment plan
 - Informed consent
 - Re-evaluation
 - Collaborative care
 - Consult
 - referral
 - Provision of care
 - Ancillary therapy

- Preventative care
 - Non-surgical and surgical care
 - Emergent and urgent care
- UNC ASoD's Dentistry in Service to Community (DISC) Program
 - 2022-2023 IMPACT
 - 20 clinics
 - 30 counties served
 - 100+ procedures provided per student (average)
 - \$650K+ in-kind services provided (2022)
 - 4 week rotations
- Short-Term Opportunities
 - Research the issues
 - Research your representatives
 - Begin establishing thought leadership
 - Post on social media, tagging relevant accounts
 - Reach out to organizations active in the space and ask for a meeting
 - Write blog posts
 - Get involved with student-led communities or organizations
 - Follow and engage with relevant organizations and influencers on LinkedIn
 - Read through regulatory boards' meeting minutes
 - Follow policy-related news outlets
- Mid-Term Opportunities
 - Attend health policy conferences (virtual or in-person)
 - Identify state and/or national organizations engaged in issues of interest and join as a student member (fees are often waived or reduced)
 - Join a coalition
 - Establish a campus-based group
 - Write an op-ed or letter-to-the-editor
 - Write a letter or email to legislator(s) and/or policy maker(s)
 - Meet with legislators
 - Identify and meet with lobbyists who work on issues you're interested in
 - Attend a regulatory board meeting or legislative committee hearing
 - Write a policy brief or research paper
- Long-Term Opportunities
 - Take a leadership role within a coalition or professional association
 - Testify at a board meeting or legislative hearing (e.g., serve on a committee or task force)
 - Present to relevant counties' boards of health
 - Present or serve on a panel at a conference
 - Organize an "action day" or policy-related event
 - Engage in longer-term research studies
 - Serve on a county board of health
 - Run for office!
- Let's Connect!

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