



LIVINGSTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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April 23, 2025

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners

From: Matt Bolang

Re: Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program

LCHD was approached by MDHHS to help provide coverage to be compliant with the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment program that was established as a requirement in Public Act 261 of 2020. Currently, Livingston County is the only county in the state that does not provide this program. Although there is no “requirement” for LCHD to participate, MDHHS does provide funding that covers the cost to administer the program. This reimbursement comes to LCHD through our existing Comprehensive Agreement as a new project.

Through some coordination with MDHHS, LCHD contacted Smiles on Wheels, a private company based in Jackson, MI that currently provides these services through many local health departments in Michigan and have some presence in Livingston County through our Head Start programs. The Smiles on Wheels contract is set up to charge up to 90% of the MDHHS allocation to Livingston County, minus a 10% administration fee that LCHD keeps covering some minor personnel costs. For FY 25 this allocation is \$77,582.

Since this would be a new program in the Comprehensive Agreement, I am requesting BOC approval to participate in the KOHA program. If supported, I am also requesting that the County enter into a contract with Smiles on Wheels. I am also requesting that the date of the contract and acceptance of the funding be back-dated to May 1, 2025 to allow Smiles on Wheels to be able to bill for work performed to prepare for the next school year.

Here is a little more detail about the program:

Public Act 261 of 2020 was revised to include the Michigan Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) Program which is designed to ensure that children entering kindergarten receive a dental screening to identify and address potential oral health issues early. The program mandates that all kindergarten students undergo an oral health assessment, which can be completed up to six months before the school year begins or during the kindergarten year.

Dental screenings are conducted by licensed professionals and take only a few minutes, similar to hearing and vision screenings. The assessment helps detect signs of tooth decay or infection, ensuring children start school with a healthy mouth, which is crucial for learning, eating, sleeping, and overall well-being. The program was established in response to the high prevalence of tooth decay among young children, which can lead to missed school days and hinder academic performance.

Parents can have their child screened at school-based events, community screenings, or by their own dentist. If completed by a private dental provider, the exam may be billed through insurance, but screenings conducted through designated health programs are free of charge. The parents may also decline to participate in the program if they choose, there is no penalty for non-compliance with PA 261.

For more details, visit: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/childrenfamilies/familyhealth/oralhealth/koha>

I encourage you to support participating in the KOHA program. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.