

# Dental Therapy Will Improve Access



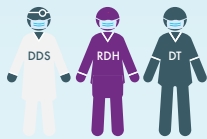
## RESTORATIVE CARE IS NEEDED

Hygiene and prevention are the cornerstones of good oral health, but...



### DECAY HAPPENS

WE **NEED MORE PROVIDERS** IN UNDERSERVED AREAS WHO CAN ADDRESS DENTAL DISEASE.



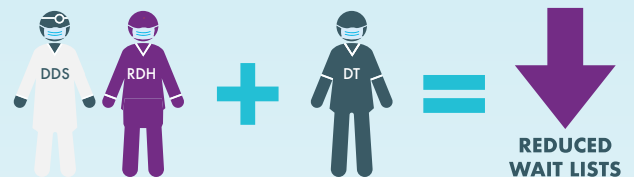
### CREATING A DENTAL HOME

REQUIRES A **COLLABORATIVE** AGREEMENT BETWEEN A **DENTAL THERAPIST** AND A **DENTIST**.

# 92%

### OF MICHIGAN'S COUNTIES

CONTAIN A FEDERALLY DESIGNATED DENTAL SHORTAGE AREA—WHICH MEANS **THERE IS LESS THAN ONE DENTIST FOR EVERY 5,000 PATIENTS.**



### ADDING DENTAL THERAPISTS TO THE DENTAL CARE TEAM WILL:

- HELP **REDUCE WAIT** LISTS
- **EXPAND THE ORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE** IN UNDERSERVED AREAS
- **ALLEVIATE THE STRAIN** ON THOSE ALREADY WORKING IN THESE AREAS.

## GUARANTEED TO HELP THE UNDERSERVED

By statute, DTs are only able to practice in underserved communities and populations. DTs will only be able to:

- ✓ PRACTICE IN SHORTAGE AREAS
- ✓ PRACTICE IN SAFETY NET SETTINGS (I.E. FQHCS)
- ✓ SEE 50% MEDICAID/UNINSURED PATIENTS



The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health and the Michigan Primary Care Association are partnering with other statewide organizations to improve oral health and access to dental care in Michigan. To contact us, please email [mdavis@mpca.net](mailto:mdavis@mpca.net) or call (517) 827-0879.