

DDS DENTAL NEWS

LOWER FAIRFIELD CENTER DENTAL CLINIC



Elaine Colangelo, RDH and Dr. Mark Feigen of LFC Dental Clinic

Oral health has always been part of the mission of DDS and in 1977 a dental clinic was opened in Lower Fairfield Center (LFC) to serve our consumers. The purpose of this clinic was to provide dental care to LFC consumers and to insure that their dental health needs were met.

Elaine Colangelo, a dental hygienist, joined LFC in September of 1989. She considers LFC her second home. According to Elaine, coming to the Center and providing preventative dental care is the best part of her week. Elaine works closely with staff to improve and maintain good oral hygiene for all of the consumers who use dental services in LFC. Elaine is very proud of the work that she doing and the service she is able to provide to the consumers, who are like family to her.

In the summer of 1991, Dr. Mark Feigen joined Elaine in providing comprehensive dental care to the LFC consumers. For the last twenty years, he has been there once each week delivering dental care. Throughout the years he has preformed a wide variety of dental procedures including dental prophylaxis, dental restorations, extractions, root canals, crowns, bridges, dentures and any other oral health procedure that has been required by our consumers. With his gentle and patient approach he makes most dental visits stress free for the consumers and their staff.

Through the years the physical space and equipment needed occasional updating. The first step was to increase the physical space in order to allow the consumers in wheelchairs easier access to the clinic. Updating the equipment was a team effort. LFC's new Residential Manager, Assistant Regional Director, and Ms. Colangelo applied for the capitol equipment fund from the Department. They made the task of remodeling of the dental clinic a priority, and were able to secure the appropriate funds. Teamwork continued when the Henry Schein Company was chosen to supply and install the equipment. Henry Schein provided the best equipment, price, quality, and service for the money spent.

The maintenance staff, Josh Booker, John Tryjada and Peter Forcelli under the supervision of Steve Hinckley, replaced the old carpet, installed a new floor, fixed the plumbing, and painted the walls. The lighting that they installed brought new life to the 33 year-old clinic, making it bright and inviting.

Once the space was prepared, the equipment was chosen by the LFC staff in consultation with Jules Paoletti, NE Regional Manager from Special Markets Equipment at Henry Schein. Ron Staniszewki, Equipment Specialist at Henry Schein, and his team of technicians Mike, Pat and Bruce made it all happen. Ms. Colangelo said, "I felt that they had a magic wand and waved it toward Lower Fairfield Center."

The end result is stunning and very functional. The clinic has new lighting, a new and comfortable dental chair for the consumers, a new autoclave for sterilizing of instruments, and new cabinets with sink. The result of this dedication and teamwork is a facility that will make it easier to deliver dental care to our consumers, who are the real beneficiaries of this remodeled clinic.



The Connecticut Dental Health Partnership (CTDHP) is the dental program for everyone on HUSKY and Medicaid. CTDHP has **more than 1,200 dentists** across the state, a **responsive call center** to help you and your clients and a team of seven Dental Health Care Specialists who perform **dental care coordination**.

CTDHP has significantly improved oral health care for **over 560,000 State clients**.

Through this workshop you can get information on:

- How to access dental providers across the state
- Scheduling assistance in making an appointment
- Referrals for dental providers in your area
- Transportation assistance for your clients
- Care coordination for your clients who need it
- What procedures are covered
- Why good oral health is essential for everyone
- How CTDHP works with clients with special health care needs.

Training is for DDS Case Managers, IFS Resource Teams and Clinical Staff

5 Sessions will be facilitated by Connecticut Dental Health Partnership (CTDHP)

- Wednesday, March 9th • 10 a.m. – Noon • DDS East Hartford Training Room
155 Founders Plaza, 255 Pitkin Street, East Hartford, CT
- Tuesday, March 15th • 10 a.m. – Noon • Ella Grasso Center
Armory Road, Stratford, CT
- Tuesday, March 29th • 10 a.m. – Noon • DDS Cheshire Office
25 Creamery Road, Cheshire, CT
- Tuesday April 5th • 10 a.m. – Noon • Norwich Office Room 341 3rd Floor
401 W. Thames Street, Suite 202 Norwich, CT
- Wednesday, April 27th • 10 a.m. – Noon • DDS Wallingford Office
104 South Turnpike Road, Wallingford, CT

To register:

Pick one date and e-mail your request to:

DDS.Training@ct.gov