



POWER 2030 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2020's are bound to bring unforeseen trends in healthcare, including dentistry. While the last decade has seen innovations in technology and delivery models, it has seen many aspects mired in the conventions of an outdated educational system and outmoded models of paying for care. While we now recognize the importance of oral health in overall health, the health care system has not really embraced the reality. Innovations in materials and genomics are poised to make the scope of dental care very different, but dental education remains largely as it has been. Will today's students be able to adapt?

Power 2030 provides bold ideas to direct oral health activities for the coming decade. It builds a foundation for a very different profession for which adaptation will be a rapid and regular feature. It builds upon some current trends and anticipates changes that are only currently being hinted at. No one really knows what things will look like in 2030, but charting the future is not a spectator sport, it is an exercise in engineering. We must deal with the unforeseen, while building for a society that will evolve from our current condition.

Power 2030 presents fifteen proposals to create and prepare for the world at the end of this decade. These are extensions on current activities to improve the oral and overall health of New Mexicans recognizing that preparing for the future is not done in a single election cycle. Like everything else, this plan will have to adapt, but without a vision for the future we can only be reactive. In many ways it is bold and perhaps controversial. This is intentional. Timidity will leave the profession reactive and the public's plight unchanged. We hope that these ideas will stimulate real progress and drive transformation toward a healthier New Mexico.



Prevention

Objective 1: Development of programs to assist families to comply with school pre-entry requirements, improve dental practice pediatric and case management capacity.

Objective 2: Implementation of a statewide incentive program for optimal community water fluoridation.

Objective 3: Development and sanctioning for a collaboration of educators and health professionals to acquire, adapt or create an oral health curriculum for New Mexico students in grades K-5.

Opportunity

Objective 1: Expansion of teledentistry as a rural resource

Objective 2: Pioneer innovative practice models and oral health innovations to serve a more diverse population

Objective 3: Improve the business environment for dental practices in New Mexico to attract quality practitioners and improve distribution

Workforce

Objective 1: Focus on a skills-oriented rather than a certification-oriented career ladder for dental auxiliaries

Objective 2: Encourage creation of specialized staff for management of unique patient populations (pedo, geriatric, special needs) by general dentists

Objective 3: Recruit and develop a higher quality dental auxiliary workforce

Education

Objective 1: Recruit and nurture a more diverse group of pre-dental and dental students with an emphasis to serve underserved communities

Objective 2: Expand the UNM residency program with a new emphasis on dental research

Objective 3: Evolve the emphasis of current staff training programs toward skills rather than degrees

Resources

Objective 1: Reform dental benefits plans toward health maintenance rather than resource management

Objective 2: Develop a viable and appropriately funded senior care program

Objective 3: Overhaul dental Medicaid with a completely new model oriented to restoring and maintaining overall health