**Facilitator’s Discussion Guide**

* *Introduce facilitator and assistant facilitators*
* *Purpose of data collection: We are interested in learning more about the children’s dental and oral health needs in the Worcester/Holyoke community. We also want to know how you think we can work together to improve oral health for kids in Worcester/Holyoke. Please feel free to share your experiences living in the Worcester/Holyoke community*

*Rules to consider for the discussion today*

* *Everyone will have a chance to voice their experiences and opinions, although it is ok to not feel the need to answer every question if you have similar feelings and experiences as expressed by the other focus group participants.*
* *Respect all points of view.*
* *Assure confidentiality of responses.*
* *One at a time. Please do not interrupt one another*
* *There are no right or wrong answers, but rather differing points of view. We encourage you to share your point of view even if it differs from what others have to say.*

***Everything you share with us will be confidential. Only general themes will be reported. Quotes will only be used if they cannot be tied back to the respondent.***

*Does everyone agree to this level of confidentiality?*

*Do you have any questions before we begin?*

**Questions for families**

1. When you have a question or need information about children’s dental health, how or where do you go to get the answer/information you need?

**Prompts:** Internet, pediatrician, your dentist? Newspaper? MassHealth mailings?

2. Have you experienced any problems/challenges in getting your child dental care in Worcester/Holyoke? If so, what problem or challenges?

**Prompts:** Transportation? Cost? Language/access to translator services? I can’t get off work; can’t get someone to stay with other family? I can’t find a provider who will accept my insurance? Child anxiety?

3. Do you know of any programs or resources in Worcester/Holyoke that have been successful in addressing some of the problems/challenges you experience in getting your child dental care? **Prompt:** Ronald McDonald Van, SEAL, SBHC’s

4. What suggestions do you have about what would make it easier to get your child dental care in Worcester/Holyoke?

**Prompt:** More dentists; more dental services in convenient locations (such as school-based clinics); expanded dental office hours; more dentists accepting MassHealth

*Thank you for participating in today’s discussion. Your input is valuable as this grant develops programs to help improve access to dental care for children in your community. We have a brief survey estimated to take less than five minutes that we would love for you to fill out. This is voluntary and would help add to the discussion we had today.*

*\*Be prepared to have resources available for families.\**

*Suggestions for additional questions if time allows:*

1. Is there anything else that should have been talked about today that is important for children’s dental health?
2. What do you think are the most important things to do to keep children’s teeth healthy?