

Oral Health Coalition of Alabama Subcommittee Report

Date: July 13, 2009

Select one: Availability and Access
 Education and Awareness
 Surveillance and Monitoring

Recorder: L. Hampton

Reporter: L. Hampton

Chair: L. Hampton

Co-Chair: Simpson

Three Key Objectives

- To provide the state with assistance in information dissemination and building public awareness on oral health related issues
- To serve in an advisory capacity in the development, implementation and monitoring of the state strategic plan for oral health
- To create and reinforce relationships between key stakeholders to ensure the success of state efforts in improving oral health care in Alabama

Discussion Summary: Objectives addressed at May 8th Head Start Oral Health State Launch are identified with strategies corresponding to each objective.

- To create and reinforce relationships between key stakeholders to ensure the success of state efforts in improving oral health care in Alabama

Head Start Dental Home Initiative was held May 8, 2009 in Montgomery. This national partnership between American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the Office of Head Start will eventually include all 50 states. Alabama was chosen in the second cohort.

The goal of the program is to obtain quality dental homes for Head Start children. A State Leadership Team has been identified and Dr. Charles Hall hired as the state lead in Alabama. Opportunities and roles for improving oral health were identified for dentists, Head Start staff, parents and classroom practices for young children.

Dentist

1st Look (Pediatricians) Dentist would be encouraged to provide risk assessments. (Dentist/Staff) would identify children who are high risk; in need of dental home

NOTE: Please submit Subcommittee Report with Progress Report updates, and any updates to Subcommittee List/OHCA Member List.

Encourage dentist to see Medicaid as more than just a source of income but rather a larger service structure for the greater good. Paradigm shift.

Head Start

- Staff can assist with enrollment of children in Medicaid/ALLKids
- Meeting area as pilot (HS/Dental Provider)
- Patient's Rights information disseminated at the sites (what to expect from dentist and what parents must do)
- Educate parents and staff on the importance of oral health utilizing
 - Home visits-Early Head Start with pregnant women
 - Promote lifestyle changes
 - Emphasize prevention vs. treatment

- To provide the state with assistance in information dissemination and building public awareness on oral health related issues

Information Dissemination:

The State lead group will insure information regarding oral health is disseminated across Head Start and between partners to include:

- EPSDT: periodicity schedule to staff and Head Start Standards to dentist
- Provide technical support for planning & implementing comprehensive dental services utilizing:
 - Pediatric Dentistry Today
 - website: www.aapd.org/headstart for more information about the state initiative
 - Defining Dental Home and the importance for children and their families
 - Providing a Head Start overview for oral health providers
 - Newsletters (head Start and professional organizations)
 - Health Reports at TV stations
 - AAPD/Head Start Initiative information
 - Build cooperative relationships with providers and rapport
 - Investigate possibilities of mobile vans providing initial screenings
 - Work with parents to get them to dentist
 - Assist in identifying dental home (verify information presented at enrollment)
 - Public Service Announcements
 - Parental incentives

Parents

- Provide information and opportunities for understanding Head Start
- Help parents understand their role in their child's health care
- Identify benefits to having Medicaid/ALLKids
- Parent meetings

Classroom

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- Insure Oral Health Curricula used in classroom and identify additional resources for use including:
 - AAPD- Infant Oral Health Program (video) knee brushing; parents
 - 1st look Program information
 - Pediatricians/General Dentists as resources and partners in education
 - Age 1 or eruption of 1st teeth through (word of mouth)
 - Bright Smiles Program to be used by teachers

Barriers and challenges:

- Educating Parents
- Head Start mandates
- Parent response follow-up
- Perception of Medicaid clients
- Hours of operation (more flexibility needed)
- Parent Orientation Need for Head Start to include oral health overview
- Transportation in rural areas
- Workforce (lack of dentists)