

REPORT ON MARYLAND'S EARLY HEAD START/HEAD START ORAL HEALTH FORUM

BACKGROUND JUSTIFICATION

The 2004-2005 Head Start Program Information Report revealed that approximately 80% of the 11,783 children included in Early Head Start/Head Start total enrollment numbers had completed a professional examination in the last 12 months and approximately 80% of the number of children needing treatment received it. The Forum was designed to explore needs, resources, and considerations to improve EHS/HS children's oral health in Maryland. Following the award of the grant for a Maryland Head Start Oral Health Forum by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, a Statewide Early Head Start/Head Start (EHS/HS) Oral Health Forum was held in Anne Arundel County on May 3, 2006 in conjunction with an EHS/HS Leadership Symposium. The Symposium also included Children's Mental Health and Management tracks. Early Head Start/Head Start staff and health professionals were invited to participate in the Oral Health Forum to form an action plan for Maryland. Approximately 75 people attended the Oral Health Forum. The evaluations revealed that 85%-95% of the participants agreed or strongly agreed that the Forum had met their needs.

The Head Start State Collaboration Office in the Maryland State Department of Education and the Office of Oral Health in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene have a long standing relationship, with the State Dental director serving on the Head Start State Collaboration Advisory Council. The Collaboration Office has a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Maryland School of Pediatric Dentistry to improve parent and Head Start staff skills in oral disease prevention and to increase the availability of examinations and treatment. Under the auspices of the Collaboration Office and with the help of the Office for Oral Health, an Ad Hoc Head Start Oral Health Work Group has worked intermittently on oral health issues for the past several years.

PLANNING/PROCESS GROUP

Planning for the Oral Health Forum was initiated by the Head Start State Collaboration Office in the Maryland State Department of Education and the Office of Oral Health in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by convening a small work group that included representatives from the Maryland Head Start Association, the Administration for Children and Families Technical Assistance Specialists, and the Oral Health (HRSA) Specialist and the Early Childhood (ACF) Specialist from Region III. The small work group developed recommendations for a larger work group to plan the Oral Health Forum. Besides the members of the core planning group, invitations for the larger group were extended to representatives from the University of Maryland Dental School, the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, local health department dental programs, the Office of the Maryland WIC Program, the Head Start Parent Advocacy Group, the Maryland Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the Maryland State Dental

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Association, the Maryland Dental Hygienists' Association, and the Maryland Academy of Pediatrics. With the assistance of the vendor, the larger group made decisions regarding forum facilities, speakers, the agenda, participants and methods.

TIMELINE

November 2005 Receipt of Award

December 2005 Small Group Planning Team convened

- *Location selected and contracted*
- *Professional facilitators selected and contracted*
- *Members of large planning group identified*

March 2006 Large Group Planning

- *Agenda developed*
- *Participants identified and Save the Date sent*
- *Forum materials identified and gathered*

April 2006 Vendor-

- *Mail invitations and track*

May 2006

- *Conduct forum*
- *Develop recommendations*

June 2006

- *Work in small planning group to develop recommendations into a Statewide Action Plan*

July- September 2006

- *The small group continued to meet to develop a final draft that will be shared with members of the large planning group, Head Start, and with members of the newly formed Children's Oral Health coalition for comments and a final plan produced.*

METHODS TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN

The focus of the Maryland Oral Health Forum covered the topics of access to care, prevention of oral disease, and education. The topic area work groups discussed issues that need to be addressed to further children's oral health in Maryland and developed the attached recommendations for improving children's oral health. A small work group has been meeting to work on the Action Plan. The group is looking at the feasibility of plan components and how they can be implemented. The plan will be reviewed by a wide group of stakeholders, including the members of the large planning group listed above, representatives of the Maryland Head Start Association and members of the newly formed Children's Oral Health Coalition. A draft of the plan is attached.

Mentioned in the Forum work groups was the need to form partnerships that would benefit the children's oral health. Following the Forum, the Director of the Oral Health Office and the Head Start Collaboration Director attended an Oral Health Forum in Atlanta where a team from Maryland recommended forming a

Maryland Children's Oral Health Coalition that would combine influence and efforts from private and public sectors to address State and local children's oral health issues and strategies encompassing all children, including Head Start children. With technical assistance from HRSA, planning is underway for a Children's Oral Health Coalition. A group of Forum participants and other invitees considered vital to a coalition are being assembled.

INVITEES/PARTICIPANTS

Invitees to the Oral Health Forum were determined by the large work group. In addition to those organizations in the planning group, other invitees/organizations included:

- Early Head Start and Head Start Directors and Health Coordinators,
- Home Visiting Consortium,
- Judy Center Directors and Service Coordinators,
- Federally Qualified Health Centers/Community Dental Clinics,
- Maryland Center for Maternal and Child Health,
- Children's Dental Health Project, and
- Maryland Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Maryland Board of Dental Examiners
- Head Start Parent Group
- WIC
- Maryland Oral Health Association
- Maryland Academy of Pediatrics
- Maryland Dental Hygienists' Association
- Region III Technical Assistance Specialists
- Region III Content Specialists (Health, Oral Health, Early Childhood)

Participants at the Forum received the attached materials, including the agenda and articles/brochures on children's oral health obtained from the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resources Center.

FOLLOW UP TO FORUM

Once drafted, the Action Plan developed as a result of the Maryland Oral Health Forum will be distributed to a wide audience for comments, including members of the new Children's Oral Health Coalition, the Maryland Head Start Association, and the members of the Forum planning committee. The challenges noted in the recommendations. We

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must find a way to meld resources and efforts into resulting improvements in EHS/HS children's oral health through the work of many agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Implementation of the plan will be guided by the Collaboration Office and the Office of Oral Health, utilizing the members of the Children's Oral Health Coalition, the Head Start State Collaboration Advisory Council, the Maryland Head Start Association, the Region III Head Start Oral Health and Early

Childhood Specialists, and the Maternal and Child Health in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The Collaboration Office and the Office of Oral Health are collaborating on up-dating and producing oral disease prevention brochures for the parents of EHS/HS children and for EHS/HS staff.

**Maryland Head Start Collaboration Office
&
DHMH Office of Oral Health & Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors**

Present

**Head Start Leadership Symposium
“Paths To School Readiness”
Oral Health Conference**

May 3, 2006

8:30 – 9:00 am	Registration/Continental Breakfast (Hallway adjacent to Auditorium)
9:00 – 10:00 am	Plenary Session – Auditorium Welcome : Veronica Land-Davis Introductions: Linda Zang and Kelly Sage Panel Discussion: “Paths to School Readiness” Dr. Al Zachik – Mental Health Dr. Harry Goodman – Oral Health Robert Curatola, Program Specialist, ACF Region III
10:15 am	Break
10:30 am 11:30 am (Auditorium)	Oral Health Mini Plenary (Auditorium) Oral Health Charge for Action Planning
10:30 am – 12:00 Noon	Management Track Human Resources: Norma Pipkin (Bridge Room) Mental Health Track Community and Domestic Violence (A 300) Siobhan Ponder
12 Noon – 1:00 pm	Lunch (Cafeteria Administrative Building)
1:00 PM	Oral Health Track 1, A 300 Oral Health Track 2, A 302 Oral Health Track 3, A 303 Oral Health Facilitators: H. Susie Coddington Betty Myers Harriet Tuxhorn

Management Track
Information Management: Robert Curatola (Bridge Room)

Mental Health Track
Social Emotional Development: Steve Rohde (A 300)

**2:45 pm
Planning**

Oral Health Track 1 – 3 Continue Action

2:45 pm – 4:15 pm

Management Track
Supervision: Jeff Koppel (Bridge Room)
Mental Health Track
Mental Health Pilot Program (A 300)
Peg Anawalt, Cassandra Fallin, Nancy Pelton

4:15 pm

End of Conference

Time	Oral Health Track 1	Oral Health Track 2	Oral Health Track 3	ECE/HS Management Track	ECE/HS Mental Health Track
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast (all) – HALLWAY ADJACENT TO AUDITORIUM – First Level				
9:00	Plenary Session: Panel Discussion – “Paths to School Readiness.” AUDITORIUM Welcome & Introductions - Veronica Land Davis Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Al Zachik – Mental Health • Dr. Harry Goodman – Oral Health • Robert Curatola, a program specialist from the ACF Region III 				
10:15	Break (all)				
10:30	Oral Health Mini-Plenary – Dr. Harry Goodman – AUDITORIUM		Human Resources –		Community and
11:30	Charge for Action Planning (Remainder of Day) – Kelly or Linda? AUDITORIUM		Norma Pipkin - Bridge Room		Domestic Violence – MCC ** Room A 300
12:00 –	Lunch (all) Cafeteria				

1:00					
1:00	Action Planning Group - Oral Health & Education	Action Planning Group - Oral Health & Accessibility	Action Planning Group - Oral Health & Prevention	Information Management - Robert Curatola, Program Specialist - ACF Region III Bridge Room	Social-Emotional Development – MCC ** Room A 300
2:30	Break (all)				
2:45	Continue Action Planning	Continue Action Planning	Continue Action Planning	Supervision – Jeff Koppel Program Specialists ACF Region III Bridge Room	Mental Health Pilot Program Overviews – MCC coordinates ** Room A 300
3:45	Mini-Plenary to Share Action Planning Group Deliberations - AUDITORIUM				
4:15	End of Conference				
Time	Oral Health Track 1	Oral Health Track 2	Oral Health Track 3	ECE/HS Management Track	ECE/HS Mental Health Track

Maryland Head Start Oral Health Action Plan

Overarching Goal:

Children and their families' birth to age 5 will receive necessary oral health care to ensure that they arrive at school with healthy minds and bodies.

Strategies:

Key: * = importance (* = low importance, *** = high importance)

✓ = amount of effort/time (✓ = least amount of effort/time, ✓ ✓ ✓ = most amount of effort/time)

\$ = cost (\$ = low cost, \$\$\$ = high cost)

Access to Oral Health Services

- 1) Strengthen collaboration between Head Start, oral health providers, Medicaid, local health departments, and other organizations that advocate for children. Include partners on Head Start health advisory committees. *** ✓ ✓ \$
Action Steps:
 - Partner with other health advocates, such as obesity and diabetes prevention programs to spread oral health messages.
 - Develop relationships with family planning clinics to address the oral health needs of pregnant women.
- 2) Expand the Pediatric Dental Fellow Program at the University of Maryland Dental School. *** ✓ \$
- 3) Recruit more dental providers through the MDC-LARP program. *** ✓ ✓ \$\$
- 4) Develop prevention education and training programs for oral health providers, especially general dentists, that address pediatric and special health needs populations, including pregnant women. *** ✓ ✓ ✓ \$\$

Oral Disease Prevention and Oral Health Education for Children, Parents, Teachers, and Healthcare Providers

- 1) Train pediatricians to provide oral health risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, and early intervention at well child visits. *** ✓ ✓ ✓ \$\$\$
- 2) Develop a case management program to increase access to providers. *** ✓ ✓ ✓ \$\$\$
Action Steps:
 - a. Develop a training program to assist Head Start health coordinators to provide case management for oral health.
 - b. Assist Head Start centers, parents, and caregivers with arranging transportation to scheduled dental appointments.
- 3) Increase oral health literacy of parents and caregivers by increasing understanding and knowledge of oral health. *** ✓ ✓ ✓ \$
Action Steps:
 - Provide oral health speakers for Head Start parent advisory groups.
 - Sponsor family nights that focus on oral health.

- Provide articles for newsletters that address different oral health issues for young children.
 - Sponsor or participate in health fairs.
 - Disseminate oral health information to parents/caregivers, teachers, healthcare providers, Judy Centers, and child care providers.
 - Develop a consistent and culturally relevant oral health message that can be used broadly across the state for Head Start, WIC, local health departments, and community clinics.
- 4) Utilize best practices that already exist for Head Start oral health education. *** ✓ ✓ \$
Action Steps:
- Create a Head Start oral health email distribution list.
- 5) Create a program to apply fluoride varnish to Early Head Start and Head Start children in centers. *** ✓ ✓ ✓ \$\$\$
- 6) Partner with businesses such as Colgate, Crest, insurance companies, etc. to garner funding and support. ** ✓ ✓ ✓ \$