

**Early Head Start/Head  
Start/Territorial Oral Health  
Forums**

**Michigan Final Report**

**June 2007**

## Table of Contents

<b>Final Report.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Breakout Session Outcomes and Recommendations.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Planning Committee.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Planning Meeting Agenda.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Flyer Announcing Forum.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Registration Form for Forum.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Forum Agenda.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Michigan Oral Health State Plan.....</b>	<b>25</b>

## **Early Head Start/Head Start/Territorial Oral Health Forums**

### **Michigan Final Report**

**June 2007**

The Head Start – State Collaboration Program (HSSCP), the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), and the Michigan Head Start Association (MHSA) applied for and received a grant from the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) to fund an oral health initiative in Michigan. On May 14, 2004, an Oral Health Forum was held at Soaring Eagle Casino, Mount Pleasant, Michigan with over sixty attendees from Head Start programs, dental programs (public and private), parent advocates and medical representatives.

The Forum consisted of plenary sessions in the morning and breakout sessions in the afternoon. The attendees were instructed to comment and recommend strategies in four areas—prevention, behavior and education, access and the medical-dental connection. Participants were informed that these areas would be included in a Head Start Oral Health Plan and recommendations forwarded to the Dept of Community Health and the Oral Health Coalition to be included in the development of the State Oral Health Plan. Attendees were made aware of the development of the State Oral Health Plan and were encouraged to consider activities and recommendations that would fit in both a Head Start Oral Health and the overall State Oral Health Plan.

At the current time, many of the recommendations and ideas have been incorporated into the State Oral Health Plan. It was deemed a more collaborative approach to integrate the recommendations into the current State Oral Health Plan rather than have a separate Head Start Oral Health Plan. The prevention recommendations on fluoride activities that include community water fluoridation and fluoride varnishes are included in the plan. The medical-dental connection relates to educating non-dental providers on the importance of oral health for pregnant women, infants, and young children.

Of course access was an issue and alternatives were recommended. Some had to do with changing the health care workforce and recruitment and others had to do with funding alternatives. Strategies to include students and other allied health providers were also recommended.

As the State Oral Health Coalition continues to develop and more of the State Oral Health Plan objectives are being implemented, the recommendations from the forum will be realized. For example, the Varnish! Michigan for Early Head Start was piloted in 2006-2007 with a state-wide implementation of the program for Early Head Start and Head Start children in October 2007.

## BREAK-OUT SESSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The attendees were instructed to comment and recommend strategies in four areas—prevention, behavior and education, access and the medical-dental connection.

### Prevention

#### Central Question

- How can we assure Head Start kids get the dental care they need?

Facilitator: Dave LaCharite & Theresa Spitzer

Recorder: TBD

#### Part I. Work Group Questions:

1. What are the barriers?
  - Transportation
  - Knowledge
  - Non-fluoridated water
  - Lack of Education Materials
  - Delay in referrals
  - Fear/Phobias
  - Funding
2. What can Head Start programs do to better document and track dental treatment follow-up?
  - Develop comprehensive tracking system for all Head Start children
  - Better marketing to parents for clinic days
  - Dental Clinic at Head Start recruitment events
  - Get parents releases/consent forms at family events
  - Family Advocates to provide transportation
3. Do you know any Head Start programs that are successful at working on documentation and tracking dental treatment follow-up?
4. What are they doing that is making them so successful?

**Part II. Using the information brainstormed in Part I. questions, have the work group develop three specific recommendations on how we can assure Head Start kids get the dental care they need?**

Recommendations:

1. Educate parents, children, physicians, dental professionals, teachers and Head Start staff – Help with expectations
2. Model hygiene and nutrition habits
3. Teaches model brushing teeth-nutritional habits
4. Encourage parents to seek/have dental care

**Action Steps:**

1. Tour Dental offices
2. Prevention services at all Head Start locations
3. In-service for staff on prevention/oral health
4. Good nutrition/ brush teeth in classrooms
5. Promote Healthy Kids Dental program through Delta Dental (Medicaid)
6. Education programs for pregnant (expectant) families
7. Pamphlet/Videos on prevention in dental offices

## **Behavior-Education Workgroup**

### **Central Questions**

- How can Head Start better prevent cavities and motivate parents, staff and children to take positive action for oral health?
- What a systems change is necessary to impact the attitudes and behavior of parents?

Facilitator: Dr. Doris Allen & Measie James

#### Part I. Work Group Questions:

1. What is currently being done to educate HS staff, parents and children on oral health and disease?

#### Forum Attendee Responses:

Classroom brushing  
Field trips to dental offices  
Colgate curriculum  
Wiping infant mouths w/ gauze  
Nutritional education  
Hands on teaching in classroom  
Dental Hygiene students doing dental screenings

2. What are the key challenges to be addressed?

#### Forum Attendee Responses:

No where to go for additional referrals  
Disconnect between Head Starts knowledge base (and family) and what is available for families for dental treatment  
Fear  
Head Start getting forms returned  
Parents follow through w/ referrals  
Low Pediatrician support and encouragement of dental care

3. Is anyone currently working on this issue successfully and what are they doing? (currently being tried at some local agencies)

#### Forum Attendee Responses:

Gift bag w/ promotional education materials for good dental health  
Primary care practitioner video oral health education  
Distribution of printed oral health marketing material

4. Do you have ideas/suggestions for ways to educate and change HS staff, parents, and children?

Forum Attendee Responses:

Peer training  
Peer/Mentoring program  
PCP oral health information at first well baby check  
Educational materials to mothers of newborns prior to leaving hospital  
Use allied health students (any health curriculum student)

**Part II. Using the information brainstormed in Part I. questions, have the work group develop three specific recommendations on how Head Start can better prevent cavities and motivate parents, staff and children to take positive action for oral health.**

Recommendations:

1. Public service announce on the importance of good oral health
2. Dental Professionals need sensitivity training and positive attitudes toward Head Start families
3. Integrate health education beginning with newborns.

**Action Steps:**

1. Fund more parent advocates (family service workers)
2. Include dental professional on Health Advisory Committees
3. Train parents to ask the right questions from their dental providers
4. Provide a tool-kit on good oral to medical/dental professionals
5. Speak out!

## **Pediatric Care and the Medical/Dental Connection**

### **Central Question:**

1. Where is the disconnect in understanding the Medical/Dental connection?
  - The need for partnerships between Medical and Dental providers to promote good/positive oral health practices
  - Head Start Health Staff experience the disconnect between themselves and the medical professional in understanding the connection (ie education)
  - Lack of referrals from physicians to dentists
  - Communities without fluoride supplements

Facilitator: Dr. Sonja Norris & Dr. George Baker

### **Part I. Work Group Questions:**

What is currently being done to educate HS staff, parents, and children on the Medical/Dental connection? What are the key challenges to be addressed?

### **Forum Attendee Responses:**

Physicians and other providers to look in the mouth  
Dental Access  
HS Staff to educate the importance of M/D connection to parents  
DDSs, are not keen on accepting pediatric referrals (age issues)

Is anyone currently working on this issue successfully and what are they doing?  
Do you have ideas/suggestions for ways to educate and change HS staff, parents, and children?

**Part II. Using the information brainstormed in Part I. questions, have the workgroup develop three specific recommendations that focus on decision makers and what they can do to recognize the importance of oral health and provide support.**

### **Recommendations:**

Develop a link to best practices on the NHSA/MHSA websites

Kid friendly dental website, listing providers

More medical/dental providers on advisory boards

Educate parents on the importance of disclosing complete medical history to dental/health providers

More/increased marketing of educational videos/materials (create a lending library)

**Action Steps:**

1. Oral health section be developed for the MHSA website by Oral Health Professionals – to include:
  - a. Oral Health Forum PPTs
  - b. Dental Clinic North’s video
  - c. Parent Educational materials
  - d. Head Start – Staff dental professional information

**Prevention**

**Central Question**

- How can we assure Head Start kids get the dental care they need?

Facilitator: Dave LaCharite & Theresa Spitzer

Part I. Work Group Questions:

1. What are the barriers?

Forum Attendee Responses:

- Transportation
- Knowledge
- Non-fluoridated water
- Lack of Education Materials
- Delay in referrals
- Fear/Phobias
- Funding

2. What can Head Start programs do to better document and track dental treatment follow-up?

Forum Attendee Responses:

- Develop comprehensive tracking system for all Head Start children
- Better marketing to parents for clinic days
- Dental Clinic at Head Start recruitment events
- Get parents releases/consent forms at family events
- Family Advocates to provide transportation

3. Do you know any Head Start programs that are successful at working on documentation and tracking dental treatment follow-up?

4. What are they doing that is making them so successful?

**Part II. Using the information brainstormed in Part I. questions, have the work group develop three specific recommendations on how we can assure Head Start kids get the dental care they need?**

Recommendations:

Forum Attendee Responses:

- Educate parents, children, physicians, dental professionals, teachers and Head Start staff  
– Help with expectations
- Model hygiene and nutrition habits
- Teaches model brushing teeth-nutritional habits
- Encourage parents to seek/have dental care

**Action Steps:**

1. Tour Dental offices
2. Prevention services at all Head Start locations
3. In-service for staff on prevention/oral health
4. Good nutrition/ brush teeth in classrooms
5. Promote Healthy Kids Dental program through Delta Dental (Medicaid)
6. Education programs for pregnant (expectant) families
7. Pamphlet/Videos on prevention in dental offices

## Access

### Central Questions:

- How can we assure Head Start kids get the dental care they need?
- How can we get decision-makers to recognize the importance of oral health and provide support?

Facilitator: Cori Anderson & Chris Farrell, Jackie Tallman

### Part I. Work Group Questions:

1. What are the barriers?

#### Forum Attendee Responses:

##### Transportation

- Lack of dentist or public dental clinics available
- Travel distance
- Lack of qualified providers (dds & hyg) for age group
  - For age group
  - Children with disabilities
- Lack of hospital privileges
- Cultural and Language barriers
- Lack parent/guardian access to providers
- Lack of reinforcement by the medical community

2. What can be done to improve Access to Oral Health?

#### Forum Attendee Responses:

- Hygienists, should get direct reimbursement from Medicaid
- Change scope of practice for Hygienists – more public health settings
- Community service in return for financial aid
- Increase pediatric training for dental students
- Create dental clinics in hospitals
- Work medical community to develop fluorides varnish programs so that it is part of a well child exam
- More student involvement from the dental hygiene programs

3. What types of decision makers are we talking about?

4. What do we want each of them to do?

5. What are some successes that have focused on oral health? Who was involved?

Who is currently focusing on oral health as a priority and is successful at what they are they doing?

**Part II. Using the information brainstormed in Part I. questions, have the workgroup develop three specific recommendations that focus on decision makers and what they can do to recognize the importance of oral health and provide support.**

Recommendations:

1. Assign a Dentist to each Head Start Agency
2. Require Fluoride varnishes w/ the EPSDT Program
3. Work with FIA to consolidate a list of available dental programs available to Head Start and their families
4. Reinstate Adult Dental to coincide with the child's dental program with equitable reimbursement for all.
5. Utilize more mobile dental units with a referral process

## **SECTION II—combined recommendations and action steps**

**Part II. Using the information brainstormed in Part I. questions, have the work group develop three specific recommendations on how Head Start can better prevent cavities and motivate parents, staff and children to take positive action for oral health.**

Recommendations:

Public service announce on the importance of good oral health

Dental Professionals need sensitivity training and positive attitudes toward Head Start families

Integrate health education beginning with newborns.

Develop a link to best practices on the NHSA/MHSA websites

Kid friendly dental website, listing providers

More medical/dental providers on advisory boards

Educate parents on the importance of disclosing complete medical history to dental/health providers

More/increased marketing of educational videos/materials (create a lending library)

Educate parents, children, physicians, dental professionals, teachers and Head Start staff – Help with expectations

Model hygiene and nutrition habits

Teaches model brushing teeth-nutritional habits

Encourage parents to seek/have dental care

Assign a Dentist to each Head Start Agency

Require Fluoride varnishes w/ the EPSDT Program

Work with FIA to consolidate a list of available dental programs available to Head Start and their families

Reinstate Adult Dental to coincide with the child's dental program with equitable reimbursement for all.

Utilize more mobile dental units with a referral process

**Action Steps:**

Fund more parent advocates (family service workers)

Include dental professional on Health Advisory Committees

Train parents to ask the right questions from their dental providers

Provide a tool-kit on good oral to medical/dental professionals

Speak out

Oral health section be developed for the MHSA website by Oral Health Professionals – to include:

- a. Oral Health Forum PPTs
- b. Dental Clinic North's video
- c. Parent Educational materials
- d. Head Start – Staff dental professional information

Tour Dental offices

Prevention services at all Head Start locations

In-service for staff on prevention/oral health

Good nutrition/ brush teeth in classrooms

Promote Healthy Kids Dental program through Delta Dental (Medicaid)

Education programs for pregnant (expectant) families

Pamphlet/Videos on prevention in dental offices

### FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

1.	Cori Anderson	EightCAP, Inc., Head Start	coria@8cap.org
2.	Conni Artin	Telamon Corp. Michigan Migrant Head Start	cartin@telamon.org
3.	George Baker	MDCH, Children's Special Health Care Services	bakergeo@michigan.gov
4.	Jackie Balcom	Muskegon Co. Health Department	balcomja@co.muskegon.mi.us
5.	Joan Carpenter-Mohler		
6.	Catherine Carter	Muskegon ISD, Head Start	
7.	Barbara Cornwell	Vistas Nuevas Head Start	cornwell6girl.yahoo.com
8.	James Delaney	NW Michigan Community Health Agency	
9.	Joan Ecclesine	MDS-CAA Early Childhood Program	jecclesine@mdsecp.com
10.	Christine Farrell	Michigan Department of Community Health	farrellc@michigan.gov
11.	Laura Fitzpatrick	Muskegon Community Health Project	lfitzpatrick@mchp.org
12.	Linda George	Branch ISD Head Start	georgel@branch-isd.org
13.	Lois Havermans	Ottawa County Health Department	lhaverm@co.ottawa.mi.us
14.	Measie James	Washtenaw Co. Head Start	jamesme@ewashtenaw.org
15.	Deanne Kelleher	MDCH - WIC	kelleherd@michigan.gov
16.	Pam Land	Muskegon ISD	pland@remc4.k12.mi.us

17.	Bobbi Leanord	Hackley Community Care Center	bleonard@hackley-health.org
18.	Gina Lufkins	Bay Mills Wellness Center	glufkins@bmic.net
19.	Pamela Manning	Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association	Pj_manning@comcast.net
20.	Melanie McCarthy	University of Detroit Mercy, Dept. of Pediatric De	mccartm@udmercy.edu
21.	Kristen McDonald-Stone	Michigan Head Start Association	kristen@mhsa.ws
22.	Joan McGowan	Dept. of Dental Hygiene, UofM School of Dentistry	mcgowan@umich.edu
23.	Sonja Norris	Ingham Co. Health Dept, Children's Dental Clinic	snorris@ingham.org
24.	Adefummilola Tinuade Oriola	Motts Children Health Center	oriola@mottchc.org
25.	Shannon Pavwoski	Michigan Head Start - State Collaboration Program	pavwoskis@michigan.gov
26.	Debra Pittman	LESA, Head Start	pittmad@gwise.lesa.k12.mi.us
27.	Karen Roth	Oral Health Consultant	kenkarenroth@toast.net
28.	Bobby Russell	Hackley Community Health Center - Dental	brussell@hackley-health.org
29.	Mary Scoblic	Michigan Department of Community Health	scoblicm@michigan.gov
30.	Sheila Semiar	Lansing Community College	semliers@lcc.edu
31.	Teresa Spitzer	Capitol Area Community Services, Head Start	teresa.spitzer@chcsheadstart.org

32.	Jackie Tallman	Michigan Primary Care Association	Jtallman@mpca.net
33.	Gary Tegge	EightCAP, Head Start	
34.	Patti Ulrich	NW Michigan Community Health Agency	pattiulrich@hotmail.com
35.	Louanne Utzinger	Muskegon ISD	
36.	Mike Vought	NEMCSA	voughtm@nemcsa.org
37.	Nancy Willyard	Michigan Head Start Association	willyardn@michigan.gov



# Head Start Oral Health Forum

Planning Committee Agenda  
September 12, 2003  
Kellogg Center, MSU

- |      |                       |                                 |
|------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| I.   | Welcome               | Chris Farrell, Shannon Pavwoski |
| II.  | Introductions         | Attendees                       |
| III. | Purpose of Meeting    | Chris Farrell                   |
| IV.  | Discussion & Planning | Attendees                       |
| V.   | Wrap-Up               | Chris Farrell                   |

---

Michigan's  
Head Start  
Oral Health Forum



# Join Us!

In making a difference!

## *Who should attend?*

Public and Private Dental Professionals,  
Head Start Administration & Health Staff,  
Parents, Advocates, Medicaid Policy Writers,  
Anyone interested in Oral Health!

## *What is it all about?*

To formulate a comprehensive document outlining a statewide plan of action on  
Michigan's Oral Health

## *Why should you attend?*

To have your voice heard, to be a part of the solution, to better understand the Oral  
Health issues specific to Michigan.

**Soaring Eagle Conference Center  
Mount Pleasant, MI  
May 14, 2004  
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

## *Registration is only \$15.00 per person*

To promote Head Start parent participation, a limited amount of funding is available for childcare reimbursement and participation scholarships. Contact: Shannon Pavvoski at 517-373-2492 or [pavvoskis@michigan.gov](mailto:pavvoskis@michigan.gov) for further information.

A limited number of overnight rooms have been blocked at the Soaring Eagle Conference Center. The cost is \$129.00, please see the accompanying fax form to reserve your overnight accommodations.

Michigan's  
Head Start  
Oral Health Forum



June 11, 2004

Michigan's Head Start Oral Health Forum  
Soaring Eagle Convention Center  
Mt. Pleasant, MI  
May 14, 2004

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please duplicate as necessary for additional registrants.  
Registrations considered confirmed upon receipt of P.O., check, or money order.

**Registration Deadline: May 4, 2004**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$15.00 Per Person**

Clinic/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Persons Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee: (Type as it will appear on your badge)	Title	Vegetarian Meal

Number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee includes**

Continental breakfast, lunch & refreshments and materials

**Make checks payable to MHSa and mail with registration form to:**

**Oral Health Forum  
C/O MHSa  
115 W. Allegan St. Suite 520  
Lansing MI 48933  
or fax with P.O. # to:  
517-374-6478**



**Michigan's  
Head Start  
Oral Health Forum**



This is to extend an invitation to be part of Michigan's Head Start Oral Health Forum, initiated to develop a statewide oral health action plan for the Head Start community scheduled for May 14, 2004 in Mt. Pleasant, MI. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Funded through a grant from the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), this forum will solicit input from a multidisciplinary, multi-organizational group of stakeholders to develop an action plan to improve Head Start oral health components.

This action plan will include enhancing prevention and oral health education as well as increasing access to oral health services. The Head Start Bureau (HSB) and Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) are particularly interested in the roles state oral health programs can play in improving oral health for Early Head Start and Head Start program participants.

Several associations and governmental agencies are partnering to host this one day forum, with the objective of publishing recommendations for a statewide action plan.

It is our goal to have in attendance at the forum dental professionals, Head Start health staff, state agencies related to funding/regulating dental plans and advocates from the dental community.

The morning of the forum will consist of three sections, with presentations, panels, and discussions to educate attendees on the following three topics identified as key components of a successful oral health action plan:

- 1) Best Practices - How are the different regions within Michigan addressing the needs (screening and treatment) of Head Start and Early Head Start children.
- 2) Prevention practices and strategies to assist Head Start parents and caregivers
- 3) Access and advocacy for the Head Start Community

In the afternoon, attendees will select two separate work groups to participate in. These workgroups will identify, prioritize, and plan to address oral health needs, issues, and problems and make recommendations for Michigan's Head Start Oral Health Action Plan.

We sincerely hope that you will join us in participating at the forum. If you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact either Shannon Pavwoski at [pavwoskis@michigan.gov](mailto:pavwoskis@michigan.gov) / 517-373-2492 or Christine Farrell at [farrellc@michigan.gov](mailto:farrellc@michigan.gov) / 517-335-5129.

Michigan's  
Head Start  
Oral Health Forum



**Writing an Oral Health Action Plan  
For Michigan's Head Start Families**

**May 14, 2004  
Mt. Pleasant, MI**

**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

<b>Continental Breakfast</b> .....	8:00 a.m.
<b>Welcome</b> .....	8:30 a.m.
<b>Plenary of Best Practices</b> .....	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Dr. Delaney & Patti Ulirch	
Dr. Robert Russell	
Dr. Sonja Norris	
<b>Break</b> .....	10:00 – 10:15 a.m.
<b>Prevention &amp; Education Panel</b> .....	10:15 – 11:00 a.m.
Dr. A. Oriola	
Melanie McCarthy RDH	
<b>Access to Oral Health</b> .....	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Laura Fitzpatrick	
Karen Roth, RDH	
<b>Assignments</b> .....	12:00 – 12:15 p.m.
<b>Lunch</b> .....	12:15 – 1:30 p.m.
<b>Workgroup Breakout 1</b> .....	1:30 – 2:15 p.m.
> Access	
> Behavior & Education	
> Prevention	
> Prenatal Care and the medical/dental connection	
<b>Break</b> .....	2:15 – 2:30 p.m.
<b>Workgroup Breakout 2</b> .....	2:30 – 3:15 p.m.
> Access	
> Behavior & Education	
> Prevention	
> Prenatal Care and the medical/dental connection	
<b>Wrap Up &amp; Next Steps</b> .....	3:15 – 4:00 p.m.

The Michigan's State Oral Health Plan can be found at the following link:

<http://www.michigan.gov/oralhealth>