

PUERTO RICO'S ORAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN

On May 20th, 2005 the Puerto Rico Head Start State Collaboration Office, the Head Start Directors' Association and the Booz Allen Hamilton Technical Assistance Team, along with a Steering Committee composed of representatives from different government agencies and the University of PR Medical Sciences Campus, held the Puerto Rico Oral Health Forum. The following information is the result of what was discussed during the event. The information is divided into three categories: education, prevention and access.

Prevention

Action Steps/What?	Implementation/Who? How?	Check-In Date	Evaluation-Indications of Success
Identify medical and dental home providers for participants	Department of Health, Primary Physicians (Pediatricians), HS/EHS Programs	Sept-05	100% HS/EHS children with an identified medical home
Require first dental visit during the first trimester of pregnancy or when she accesses prenatal care (which ever happens first)	Department of Health's Mother and Child Division (Dr. Varela Flores), primary care physicians, WIC Program. It can be achieved by making it part of the Department's public policy or through an Executive Order making it mandatory.	Sept -05	100% of women received services
Application of fluoride in the amount required	Department of Health through its public policy	Yearly	100% of children have received treatment
Revise or reevaluate the EPSDT	Publicity campaign that targets primary physicians and parents. Example: "first tooth-	Oct-05	100% of children with first visit by one year of age.

	first visit". On February 2006, ACUDEN is hosting the Health Institute that will focus on oral health. That can be an excellent opportunity to promote this campaign.		
The inclusion of the use of betadine as part of standard oral health care	Department of Health, UPR's Medical Sciences Campus-Research Division. Once its effectiveness is proven, it can be adapted to dental homes and to HS Programs	Dic-05	100% of children with betadine treatment
Implementation of the betadine treatment	ECCS, ASES (Commonwealth's Health Insurance System) and private insurance companies	Aug 06-07	100% of children with betadine treatment
Educate providers about the use of betadine	Department of Health through ECCS and ASES	Jan-July 06	100% of primary providers educated
Enforce the application of dental sealing by the eruption of the first molar	ASES, private insurance companies and the Department of Health's Oral Health Division	Sept-05	100% of children with dental sealing by the eruption of their first molar

Education:

Action Steps/What?	Implementation/Who? How?	Check-In Date	Evaluation-Indications of Success
Oral Health	Coalition of grantees,	July 05	The approval

<p>Initiative proposal: educational purposes, to empower parents through knowledge</p>	<p>PRHS-SCO, ASES</p>		<p>of the proposal and later on the creation of a cluster that includes insurance companies (who are required a certain amount of educational hours for the community)</p>
<p>Promote a uniform standard for oral health</p>	<p>Professional associations, oral health providers and government agencies</p>	<p>Jan 06</p>	<p>The creation of a coalition that includes the professional associations, ASES, the Department of Health, UPR, OPP (Patient's Advocate Office)</p>
<p>Review the government's oral health's public policy</p>	<p>DH's Oral Health Division</p>	<p>Sept-05</p>	<p>Public policy is indeed revised and updated</p>
<p>Empower families to adopt positive oral health practices and educate them on the</p>	<p>WIC, Nutritionist's Association, DH's Mother and Child Division, ECCS, DH's Oral Health Division</p>	<p>Dic-05</p>	<p>The creation of a coalition between these entities</p>

process required to access the services			
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Access:

Action Steps/What?	Implementation/Who? How?	Check-In Date	Evaluation-Indications of Success
Educate Head Start staff, health providers and beneficiaries about the Health Insurance Plan: services available, responsibilities and procedures for complaints	ASES, private insurance companies, DH and the Patient's Advocate Office (OPP is designing a brochure for this purposes)	Oct-05	Total activities planned and % of people who participate of them
Empower the beneficiary	Head Start, DH and Patient's Advocate Office	Oct-05	% of people reached by the campaign
Create a committee to discuss the Commonwealth's Health Insurance Plan's medical coverage, remuneration and compliance with HS	Insurance companies' Dental Consultants, ASES, Dentists and HS	Oct-05	Work plan, notes from the meetings of the committee
Train dentists about treating children with special needs through continuous education	Dentists' Association, DH and private insurance companies	Aug-06	% dentist who have attended continuous education training related to children with special needs

Evaluate the implementation of oral health incentives for physicians (if they comply with a certain % they will get a bonus)	ASES and private insurance companies (negotiations)	Dic-05	The actual implementation of these incentives
Create a billing and rates code for children with special needs (CSN) with the purpose of stimulating physicians to accept the CSN population as their patients	ASES, private insurance companies, dentists' associations or colleges, DH's Oral Health Division	After the creation of the coalition	% of children with special needs' that received services and % of new providers accepting children with special needs as their patients

The members of the Oral Health Forum Steering Committee met on several occasions to design this Action Plan. It will continue meeting during the month of July to develop the Oral Health Initiative Proposal and to follow up on the Plan. We hope that this Action Plan will be the first step towards reaching better oral health services for our children.