

**ASTDD Final Report
State/Territorial Oral Health Forums
for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)
Leading to an Action Plan**

Overview of Forum Planning:

The ASTDD grant officially began April 1, 2006 with Walter Waddell retained as project coordinator through a contract with the South Carolina Dental Association (fiscal agent for the project). Walter is a retired state employee and formerly served with the Division of Oral Health (DOH) in the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) (Appendix 1: Contract, Invoices and Financial Statement).

As one of his first duties, Walter presented an overview of the grant planning process to the South Carolina Oral Health Coalition (SCOHC) on April 21, 2006 (Appendix 2: SCOHC Agenda 4/21/2006).

Each year a statewide oral health forum is planned, implemented and evaluated by a small multidisciplinary planning group facilitated by DOH staff. Since the South Carolina Sixth Annual Oral Health Forum was already scheduled for June, the existing planning group began focusing their attention on CSHCN as a major theme of the upcoming Forum. This planning group included DOH staff as well as representatives from DHEC's BabyNet and Children's Rehabilitative Services (CRS); Family Connections of South Carolina Inc.; College of Dental Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina; South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start Collaboration; South Carolina Dental Association, South Carolina Dental Hygiene Association; South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; and the South Carolina Rural Health Research Center at the University of South Carolina.

To present a better understanding of the critical issues related to CSHCN, the planning group and the project coordinator reviewed and selected information to be sent to registered participants prior to the Forum, to be contained in Forum packets or to be presented as handouts. More in-depth information was selected for those invitees to be included in the Forum's breakout sessions titled *Oral Health for Children and Adolescents with Special Health Care Needs – South Carolina Taking Action* (Appendix 3). Invitees to the breakout sessions included individuals with diverse experiences and perspectives who are considered major stakeholders in promoting oral health for children and adolescents with special health care needs in South Carolina. The session participants would also be asked to continue their involvement after the Forum as an ad hoc CSHCN workgroup of the SC Oral Health Coalition to help finalize a CSHCN Action Plan.

Pre-forum Surveys

No pre-forum surveys were conducted; however, South Carolina data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau *National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs Chartbook 2001* was compiled.

SC Sixth Annual Oral Health Forum:

The "Building Bridges for Better Oral Health" Forum was held in Columbia on June 1-2, 2006 (Appendix 4: Forum Agenda, Speaker/presenter Biographical Information, List of Attendees and Evaluation Summaries). The Forum attracted participants from across the state that represented a diverse audience of oral health stakeholders. Dr. Paul Glassman presented the keynote address on improving oral health for people with special needs. This presentation was

followed by a panel discussion that focused on working with people with special health care needs in South Carolina. The panel included Dr. Carlos Salinas and Sharon Crossley both of MUSC's School of Dental Medicine and Laura Morgan, RDH, a parent of a child with special needs and a dental hygienist with a statewide school dental program. The keynote address and panel discussion set the stage for the breakout sessions to initiate action planning for children and adolescents with special health care needs in South Carolina.

The breakout sessions included twenty-two invited participants with diverse experiences and perspectives in promoting oral health for CSHCN as well as the knowledge and skills to create a statewide plan for action. The project coordinator and Sue Dodd with *Oral Health America* led the breakout sessions. After a general discussion of the needs and issues concerning oral health for CSHCN, the group analyzed the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities to plan for needed changes. The final opportunities identified by the group provided the building blocks to develop future planned actions. Seventeen of the breakout session participants committed to continue planning as the CSHCN Workgroup (Appendix 5: CSHCN Workgroup Agenda, Session Sign-up Sheet, Workgroup Sign-up Sheet and Final Workgroup Membership List).

CSHCN Action Planning:

The Forum breakout sessions were conducted to initiate statewide action planning and to establish a workgroup. The first workgroup meeting was held on July 28, 2006 (Appendix 6: CSHCN Workgroup Agenda) to discuss and finalize a proposed goal, priority areas, strategic objectives, and action steps that the project coordinator had developed in a first draft Plan for Action. The project coordinator used member input from this meeting to develop a second draft Plan for Action that included a revised goal, priority areas, strategic objectives, and action steps as well as an overview, person/organization responsible, timelines, outcomes, plan for evaluation, and plan for needed resources for each action step. Further input was received from the members and the project coordinator developed a third draft Plan for Action

The project coordinator presented a report on action planning to the South Carolina Oral Health Advisory Council and Coalition (SCOHACC) at their retreat entitled "Becoming an Advocate for Oral Health" held on September 8, 2006. Dr. Burton Edelstein of the *Children's Dental Health Project* led the workgroups that included CSHCN through an exercise where the members identified one priority and one actionable, doable step for their selected priority (Appendix 7: SCOHACC Retreat Agenda and Report). This was an excellent hands on training opportunity for the development of group consensus on priority identification of activities that have potential for accomplishment in a short-term time frame.

For the next meeting of the workgroup held on October 27, 2006 (Appendix 8: CSHCN Workgroup Meeting Agenda), the project coordinator presented a first draft of the complete CSHCN Action Plan that included all previous input. Dr. Jay Balzer also attended this meeting and provided valuable insight for future planning. The project coordinator used input from this meeting to develop a Final Draft Action Plan and distributed it for final review by the workgroup members. After months of thoughtful deliberation, a final CSHCN Action Plan (Appendix 9: CSHCN Action Plan) was presented to the SC Oral Health Coalition and approved on December 8, 2006 (Appendix 10: SCOHACC Agenda). This document now becomes an official workplan of the Coalition and its contents will be integrated into the State Oral Health Plan. This will help to ensure quality monitoring and evaluation of the planned actions during the implementation period of January 1, 2007 through December 2009.

CSHCN Action Plan Implementation:

Major barriers to implementation of the CSHCN Action Plan is a lack of staffing and funding resources to further plan and implement the planned actions. Since the DOH is presently understaffed, a project coordinator will be needed to work directly with the CSHCN Workgroup, Coalition and Advisory Council on implementation of the Action Plan. The DOH can provide some limited financial assistance for implementation but the Coalition and Advisory will need additional funding resources to properly implement and evaluate each action step.

The DOH, Coalition and Advisory Council will make every effort to secure needed staffing and funding resources to ensure South Carolina children and adolescents with special health care needs have optimal oral health. Thank you for your support in this most important planning process.

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South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

cc: Phil Latham, South Carolina Dental Association
Walter Waddell, Consulting in Health & Human Services

Attachments