

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT

Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum
Janet Coscarelli, Director
Tennessee Head Start State Collaboration Office
Andrew Johnson Tower, 9th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

615-741-4849

615-532-4989 FAX

janet.coscarelli@state.tn.us

HISTORY	2
PLANNING COMMITTEE with FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES	2
SURVEY DEVELOPMENT	5
FORUM AGENDA	5
FORUM REGISTRATION and ATTENDANCE	5
FORUM SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION	5
BUDGET	5
POSITIVES about FORUM	6
NEGATIVES about FORUM	6
NEXT STEPS	7
ATTACHMENTS	
• Attachment A – Informational flyer and Registration Form	
• Attachment B – Oral Health Survey	
• Attachment C – Minutes to Planning Committee Meeting	
• Attachment D – Agenda and Speakers bio sketches for TN Head Start Oral Health Forum	
• Attachment E – State Plan	

HISTORY

Tennessee was awarded a grant from the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) with six major objectives.

- to hold a statewide Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum
- to develop a reasonable State Plan of Action to eliminate or lessen the oral health problems facing young children
- to recruit more dental professionals into the state TennCare health dental arena
- to learn more about the available oral health options available for screening, diagnosis and treatment of young children
- to increase networking between service providers and recipients
- to become aware of state legislation that could impact oral health issues

The amount awarded to Tennessee from ASTDD was \$5,000; the Tennessee Head Start State Collaboration allocated up to \$5,000 additional dollars to fund the activities of the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum, thus total grant funding was at \$10,000. The activities specified in the grant application were a joint effort between the staffs of the Tennessee Head Start State Collaboration Office and the Tennessee Head Start Association. It also included input from staffs from the Tennessee Department of Health and the State's health care system (TennCare). Janet Coscarelli, the director of the Tennessee Head Start State Collaboration Office was the lead person in implementing the grant responsibilities while the Tennessee Head Start Association served as the fiscal agent for the grant.

PLANNING COMMITTEE with FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Coscarelli consulted with Judy Graham, President of the Tennessee Head Start Association and Suzanne Hayes, DDS, dental director of Oral Health Services, Tennessee Department of Health and generated a list of professionals interested in being on the Planning Committee for the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum. A Planning Committee was selected and a full-day meeting was scheduled on December 4, 2006 at the Marriot Airport Hotel in Nashville. The following decisions were made at the Planning Committee:

1. The Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum would dovetail with the Tennessee Dental Association (TDA) annual conference held in Nashville, May 17-20.

FOLLOW-UP to (1): After the December 4th meeting Coscarelli meet with the Tennessee Dental Association Executive Director and Association President, David Horvat and Tom Underwood, respectively. TDA officials were very cooperative and believed in the concept of the Tennessee Head Start Oral Forum. After discussion the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum was scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 8:00am - 3:30 pm in conjunction with the annual professional conference of the Tennessee Dental Association. TDA also gave the Tennessee Head Start State Collaboration Office and Tennessee Head Start Association a complimentary exhibit in the conference convention hall and allowed 7.0 hours of credit for dentists who attended the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum. A copy of the

Tennessee Head Start Oral Health informational flyer and registration form is attached. (Attachment A).

2. A survey will be sent to all Tennessee Head Start programs addressing some of the issues facing Head Start and Early Head Start programs in securing oral health care services. Survey questions will include but not limited to:

- accessibility of dental screening services for Head Start children
- accessibility of referral dental services for Head Start children
- number of providers in geographic area of respective Head Start programs
- transportation distance for services
- dental compliance issues in Program Review Instrument for Systems Monitoring (PRISM) review
- dental compliance issues in Program Information Report (PIR) reporting
- antidotal comments about community and family needs about oral health status will be gathered

FOLLOW –UP to (2): After the meeting on December 4th Coscarelli developed a survey that addressed the items that Planning Committee members expressed in the December Planning Committee meeting and mailed the survey to all Tennessee Head Start grantees and delegate agencies. A copy of the survey is attached. (Attachment B). Coscarelli received a 100% response to the survey from Tennessee’s Head Start programs and tabulated the results. Topics that were pertinent will lead the small discussion groups for the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum.

3. Planning committee members reviewed the proposed target audience for the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum and added and deleted names of professionals, agencies and associations as needed. Planning committee members indicated they would personally assist in targeting various groups for participation and help in advertising the Forum through dissemination of the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum announcement and registration form and would encourage participants to participate in the Forum.

FOLLOW-UP to (3): At the December 4th meeting, Planning Committee members made commitments to assist the Tennessee Head Start State Collaboration Office in advertising and creating public awareness activities about the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum. Each member identified target groups that they would personally contact to encourage registration in the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum and to participate in achieving projected outcomes. A copy of the MINUTES to the Planning Committee is attached. (Attachment C). A list of Planning Committee members’ commitments for assistance in registration and participation with outcomes is below.

- Directors of Head Start and Migrant Head Start programs – **Janet Coscarelli**
- Local Head Start programs Health coordinators – **Janet Coscarelli**
- Head Start Parents – **Janet Coscarelli and Head Start directors**

- Local providers – **Local Head Start programs**
- ACF/Head Start Region IV consultants – **Janet Coscarelli**
- Region IV T/TA staff – **Janet Coscarelli**
- Tennessee Department of Health, Oral Health Services – **Suzanne Hayes, DDS**
- TN Department of Health Regional Oral Health Office – **Suzanne Hayes, DDS**
- Tennessee Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health – **Lesa Byrum, Theodora Pinnock, MD**
- Tennessee Department of Health, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) – **Lesa Byrum**
- Tennessee Department of Health, EPSDT – **Vicki Peterson, Annette Goodrum**
- Tennessee Department of Health, WIC – (Melissa Blair) – **Suzanne Hayes, DDS**
- TennCare Dental Health Advisory Board – **Suzanne Hayes, DDS**
- TennCare Enrollee Committee (TenderCare) – **Vicki Peterson**
- University of TN-Memphis, College of Dentistry – **Suzanne Hayes, DDS**
- Meharry Medical College, College of Dentistry (all three schools) **Suzanne Hayes, DDS and Marion Libby**
- East Tennessee State University Medical School – **Suzanne Hayes, DDS**
- Tennessee Dental Association – (David Horvat) **Suzanne Hayes, DDS**
- National Dental Association – **PanTenn Dental**
- Tennessee Dental Hygienists Association – **Beth Casey**
- Tennessee Rural Health Association – **Lesa Byrum**
- Tennessee Department of Education, School Health Program – **Janet Coscarelli**
- Tennessee Department of Education, Office of Early Learning - **Janet Coscarelli**
- Tennessee Department of Education, TN Early Intervention Services (TEIS) – **Janet Coscarelli**
- Governor’s Office of Care Coordination – **Dusti Williams**
- Tennessee Department of Human Services, Infant/Toddler Child Care Initiative – **Gail Crawford, Deb Neil, CCRR staff**
- Doral Dental of Tennessee, LLC – **Jackie Clouse**
- Office of Migrant Health – **Janet Coscarelli**
- Remote Area Medical – **Nancy Thomas**
- Interfaith (RAM) – **Nancy Thomas**
- TN Pediatric Association (Joe Bradley, MD) **Jerry Narramore, Dusti Williams**
- TN Family Practice Assoc. – **Jerry Narramore, Dusti Williams**
- TN Association of School Nurses – **Suzanne Hayes, DDS**
- OB/GYN contact – **Lindsay Jubelt**
- Smith Wilson Dental – **Bonnie Hayes, Mid-Cumberland Head Start**
- TN Department of Mental health – **Janet Coscarelli**
- TN Department of Health – **Lesa Byrum**
- TN Department of Children’s Services – **Dusti Williams**

SURVEY DEVELOPMENT and RESULTS

Coscarelli developed a survey that captured the necessary information expressed by the Planning Committee. **A copy of the survey is attached. (Attachment B).** The survey was sent to all Tennessee Head Start programs with 100% response. Review of the survey results revealed three major areas of concern including ***family and parent involvement in oral dental care***, ***accessibility of oral health services*** and ***prevention of oral health problems in young children***. These three areas of concern (***family and parent involvement, accessibility and prevention***) and their individual priorities will be discussed in small groups at the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum and will be integral in the development of the Tennessee Oral Health State Plan of Action.

FORUM AGENDA

The agenda was developed with reports and presentations in the morning from the Tennessee Head Start State Collaboration Office, Region IV ACF/Head Start Office, Head Start T/TA Network, Tennessee TennCare Health program, Tennessee Department of Health - Oral Health program, Tennessee Dental Association and the Tennessee Head Start Association. The afternoon was delegated to small group discussions with development of a Tennessee State Plan of Action incorporating the information heard in the morning presentations, along with the information reamed from the Head Start surveys. **The agenda for the TN Head Start Oral Health Forum is attached with speakers bio sketches. (Attachment D)**

FORUM REGISTRATION and ATTENDANCE

Participants who attended the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum had to register for the event but there was no registration fee. Seventy-six (76) professionals attended the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum including 23 dentists, 30 Head Start staff, 21 federal and state agency professionals and two dental hygienists. **See Attachment A**

FORUM SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

After the morning presentations and lunch, the participants broke into small groups to discuss the survey results, digest the information presented by the experts in the morning session and assist in developing a reasonable Tennessee State Plan of Action that could lessen or eliminate the issues expressed in the survey and in the presentations. A Tennessee State Plan of Action was developed. **The Tennessee State Plan of Action is attached. (Attachment E).**

BUDGET

All payments of expenses for the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum have been paid including travel reimbursements, supplies, hotel room rental, technology rentals, copying and exhibit expenses. The grant funds from ASTDD of \$5000 have been totally

expended along with approximately \$5000 from the Tennessee Head Start State Collaboration Office.

POSITIVES ABOUT THE FORUM

- The Forum provided inter and intra agency networking and collaborating through a casual, yet professional Forum. The small group discussions allowed for personal dialogue between service providers and service recipients.
- A cross section of Forum participants resulted in a good mix of service providers (dentists), Head Start staff and state agency officials.
- As a result of the Forum, four participating dentists will become TennCare dental providers and secured necessary enrollment forms from Doral Dental, the State's administrative agency for oral health services.
- The Forum allowed participating providers to have a thorough understanding of the administrative policies from Doral Dental.
- The Forum allowed participating providers to have a thorough review of TennCare oral health policies including provider enrollment, requirements, payment schedule and referral process.
- The Forum allowed participating recipient agencies, like Head Start to have a thorough review of TennCare oral health policies including reimbursable services, referral process, and dispute process.
- The Forum allowed participants to have a thorough understanding of the federal Head Start Performance Standards and its requirements for Head Start staff.
- The Forum allowed participants to share public awareness activities and events for participation and endorsement.
- The Forum allowed state officials to discuss current state legislation that would have an influence in oral health services including supporting oral health services as part of the CoverKids health insurance plan and defeating exclusion of fluoride from water sources.
- The Forum included input from parents of children attending Head Start programs and were receiving oral health services. The input was limited but necessary.

NEGATIVES ABOUT THE FORUM

- A cross section of the job categories of the Forum participants was services providers (dentists), Head Start staff and state agency officials. Unfortunately, representatives from several groups were not present including medical and dental schools, medical and nurse associations and TN Department of Health regional dental/oral health offices.
- Parents with children in Head Start programs were invited to the Forum but could not attend due to a family crisis and a family death respectively. Several parents did give information to the respective Head Start staff for inclusion on the survey and in the Forum small group discussion.
- Collaboration and mutual cooperation between members of the Planning Committee could have been more solid. Communication between Head Start staff and Department of Health (DOH) regional dental directors needs to be firmly

established and maintained realizing DOH regional dental offices provide much of the oral health services for Head Start children.

NEXT STEPS

Forum participants will proceed with activities that were discussed and assigned at the Forum.

PRESENTERS

(In order of appearance)

Janet E. Coscarelli

Ms. Coscarelli is the director of the TN Head Start State Collaboration Office, Office of Early Learning, TN Department of Education. She is a certified speech-language pathologist and audiologist and has worked in the early childhood arena for the past 30 years. Coscarelli is a recognized speaker and trainer and has presented at international, national and state conferences and meetings. She is a published author and has developed appropriate materials for teachers' use in early childhood classrooms that focus on speech-language enrichment and reading readiness.

Beverly A. Taylor

Ms. Taylor is a Head Start Program Specialist from the Atlanta Region IV Office, Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children and Families, Office of Head Start. As program specialist she manages health and disabilities services for some Head Start and Early Head Start programs within Region IV.

Harry W. Bickel, Jr. DMD, MPH

Dr. Bickel, Jr. has been a Health Specialist for Training & Technical Assistance Services of Western Kentucky University since the early 1990s. He has a Doctorate in Dental Medicine from the University of Louisville and a Post-Doctoral Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina. He was a Professor at the University of Louisville's School of Dentistry, the Director of a four-county District Health Department, a part-time dental practitioner in both Louisville and Eastern Kentucky and, for 20 years, a Head Start Dental Consultant to the U.S. Public Health Service. He has authored several publications for the U.S. Public Health Service and published numerous articles in the National Head Start Bulletin. He has helped to develop other statewide and regional Oral Health Forums and is currently providing training and technical assistance to Head Start and Early Head Start programs throughout the United States.

Dr. Bickel is an accomplished musician and has recorded a number of albums, one of which was nominated for a Grammy in 1988. His latest CD ("Wake Up, Darlin' Corey") was nominated for "Instrumental Album of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association in 2005.

James A. Gillcrist, DDS, MPH

Dr. Gillcrist received his dental degree from the University of Tennessee's College of Dentistry in 1981 and a master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1986. He became a diplomat of the American Board of Dental Public Health in 1990. In October of 2000, he was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Dentists. He served as Director of Dental Services for the Metropolitan / Davidson County Health Department from 1989 to 1995. Subsequently, he served as director of oral health services for the Tennessee Department of Health from 1995 to 2002. He became the first TennCare dental director in September of 2002. He has been a member and officer of several professional organizations and boards, including the Nashville Dental Society and the Tennessee Dental Association.

Suzanne Hayes, DDS

Dr. Hayes currently serves as the Director of Oral Health Services for the Tennessee Dept of Health. She is a registered nurse as well as a dentist and has worked in the public health dental field for about 20 years. Having completed her education at the Medical College of Virginia, she completed a General Practice Residency in Boston, Massachusetts prior to returning to Virginia to work in dental public health. Dr. Hayes began working in the Tennessee Department of Health more than ten years ago, first as a regional dental director and now as the dental director for the Tennessee Department of Health. She has an appointment as member of the adjunct faculty at the University of Tennessee Dental School in the Department of Community Dentistry.

Tom Underwood, DDS

Dr. Underwood graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry in 1970. He has been in a general private practice since that time. He has served the Tennessee Dental Association as its president as well as alternate delegate, delegate, chairman and member of the Peer Review Committee, chairman and member of the Council on Dental Benefits, member of the Council on International Relations, trustee, chairman of the Building Committee, chairman of the TennCare Committee, and President-elect.

He is a member of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, Xi Psi Phi Dental Fraternity and a Fellow in the International College of Dentists and the American College of Dentists. Dr. Underwood has been an integral force behind the development of the Interfaith Dental Clinic in Nashville, a dental clinic with a sliding payment schedule for the working poor.

Judy Graham

Mrs. Graham has been involved in Head Start for more than 22 years. She is currently Director of Sequatchie Valley Head Start, and Chief Operating Officer of the Sequatchie Valley Planning and Development Agency. She serves as President of the TN Head Start Association and provides leadership for the 29 Tennessee Head Start programs. She also is the Vice-President of the Region IV Head Start Association that serves states within the southeastern area including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

TENNESSEE HEAD START ORAL HEALTH STATE PLAN OF ACTION

A survey was sent to all Tennessee Head Start programs requesting information about the oral health program in their Head Start program. All Tennessee Head Start programs returned the surveys revealing a 100% response rate. Review of the survey results revealed three major areas of concern including family and parent involvement in oral dental care, accessibility of oral health services and prevention of oral health problems in young children. These three areas of concern (family and parent involvement, accessibility and prevention) were discussed in small groups at the Tennessee Head Start Oral Health Forum. The discussions coupled with the information provided by the Forum speakers assisted participants in developing the Tennessee Oral Health State Plan of Action.

Family and parent involvement

Family and parent involvement in oral dental care for their children is a challenge for Head Start programs. The survey and small group discussion revealed several issues that were grouped into four priorities. Priorities were discussed with possible ways to eliminate or lessen the problem. Participants suggested responsible parties, when available, to complete the action. Agency(s) responsible for action and current level of completion is printed in **red bold**.

Priority 1 - Transportation problems

- TennCare provides transportation for recipients; Head Start staff or family should call for transportation when needed. **Ongoing, Head Start staff**
- TennCare's local transportation phone numbers was given to all Head Start Health Coordinators by the Collaboration Office. **COMPLETED, Collaboration Office**
- Head Start programs will assist with transportation when notified by family. **Ongoing, Head Start staff**

Priority II - Parents keeping dental appointments for children

- Head Start staff, dental staff and parents will have better communication with each other about appointments. **Ongoing, staff (Head Start and dental office) and parents**
- Families will be called via phone for reminders about dental appointments. **Ongoing, Head Start staff and dental staff**
- Written reminders about appointments will be given to Head Start children to give to parents prior to appointment day. **Ongoing, Head Start staff**

Priority III - Instilling the need for oral health practices on all children including infants and toddlers

- Whenever possible, oral health topics will be discussed at parent involvement meetings through cooperative agreements with staff from TN Department of Health Dental Office and Doral Dental. **Ongoing, Head Start staff and regional dental health staff and Doral Dental staff**
- Whenever possible, Head Start programs will participate in Doral Dental local activities through dual communication between Doral staff and Head Start staff. **Ongoing, Head Start staff and Doral Dental staff**

- Head Start families will be incorporated into the home based TN Department of Health HELP US GROW STRONG (HUGS) program. **Ongoing, Head Start staff, TN Department of Health HUGS staff**

Priority IV - Appropriate adult oral health dental care in the home for children to model

- Whenever possible, oral health topics will be discussed at parent involvement meetings through cooperative agreements with staff from TN Department of Health Dental Office and Doral Dental. **Ongoing, Head Start staff and regional dental health staff and Doral Dental staff.**
- Whenever possible, Head Start programs will participate in Doral Dental local activities through dual communication between Doral staff and Head Start staff. **COMPLETED and ongoing, Head Start staff and Doral Dental staff; Doral Dental has had one statewide and several local oral dental fairs. Respective Head Start programs were active participants and included Head Start children and parents in these events.**
- Head Start families will be incorporated into the home-based TN Department of Health HELP US GROW STRONG (HUGS) program. This program gives timely information to families on child health, including dental and focuses on prevention. Prevention activities can be upgraded for adults. **Ongoing, Head Start staff, TN Department of Health HUGS staff**

Access to dental care

Access to dental care is a major challenge throughout the state but has improved significantly in the last five years due to the impact of TennCare. The survey and small group discussion revealed several issues that were grouped into four priorities. Priorities were discussed with possible ways to eliminate or lessen the problem and participants assigned responsible parties, when possible to complete the action. Agency(s) responsible for action and current level of completion is printed in **red bold**.

Priority I - Inadequate number of dental practitioners in general

Priority II - Inadequate numbers of practitioners able to provide dental care to the 0-5 year population

- **Shortage of dental practitioners, especially those working with young children is paramount in Tennessee but TennCare, has raised payments rates for dental services markedly in the past five years. Many dentists are starting to join the TennCare system. Four dentists attending the Forum indicated they were interested and will complete necessary applications to join the TennCare system. Two of the four dentists indicating interest were in rural areas of Tennessee. ALMOST COMPLETED (3 of the 4 have made application) and ongoing, TennCare officials, Doral Dental and Collaboration Office (Forum)**

Priority III - Limited financial resources for those children not on TennCare or other insurance

Priority IV – Reimbursement

- **In April 2007, Tennessee embarked on a new state insurance health plan for Tennesseans called CoverTennessee. The children’s portion is called**

CoverKids; funding for this project is through SCHIPs and State match. Families and children are eligible for these two health programs if they are not-eligible for TennCare and are willing to pay a minimal premium. Initially, the CoverKids program did not include dental services but through active advocacy and intense legislative hearings, dental services were added to the “list of available services” and will become active in October 2007.

COMPLETED, TennCare officials, TN Department of Health, TN Dental Association and outside medical advocates. Head Start programs participated in appropriate letter writing campaigns coordinated through the Collaboration Office.

- Any TennCare reimbursement changes to medical and medical physician fees will also apply to dental providers as well; medical and dental percentage of reimbursement will remain equal. COMPLETED, TennCare officials

Prevention of oral health problems

Prevention of oral health problems is a major challenge throughout the state. The survey and small group discussion revealed several issues that were grouped into five priorities. Priorities were discussed with possible ways to eliminate or lessen the problem and participants assigned responsible parties, when possible to complete the action.

Agency(s) responsible for action and current level of completion is printed in **red bold**.

Priority I - Lack of trained providers of oral health education

- **Schools for dental hygiene makes concerted efforts in recruitment. COMPLETED and ongoing, TN Dental Hygienists Association**

Priority II - Inadequate funding for prevention services

- **School health programs, where available and Doral Dental provide in-service training for children and families on preventive services. Ongoing, Doral Dental and school health programs**

Priority III - Limited availability of timely interventions and materials

- **Several websites have been established that have very timely information; some of which is available free of charge. A list of pertinent websites will be developed and sent to participants. NEARLY COMPLETED, Collaboration Office, Doral Dental, Region IV T/TA staff**

Priority IV - Limited public awareness about oral health problems

- **Head Start will continue to make public awareness appearances detailing the oral health component of the Head Start medical/oral health component. Head Start had an exciting exhibit at the TN Dental Association annual conference held in Nashville, May 17-20 and will exhibit again at the 2008 annual TDA conference to be held in Memphis. Both exhibits are complementary from the TDA. COMPLETED and ongoing, Collaboration Office and the TN Head Start Association**

Priority V - Pending state legislation that could impact oral health

- **A bill was introduced in the 2007 Tennessee legislature that would eliminate fluoridation of Tennessee’s drinking water. The bill was defeated through active advocacy efforts. COMPLETED, TN Dental Association, TN Department of Health, health advocates**