

## The Vermont Early Head Start/Head Start Oral Health Forum and Action Plan

### Background

The Vermont Department of Health welcomed the opportunity presented by ASTDD to address oral health issues for the Head Start and Early Head Start population in Vermont. An Oral Health Forum has been beneficial to jump start a statewide focus on oral health for the 0-5 age group. Some activities were in progress prior to the forum and some are now starting as a result of the forum. The forum has allowed us the opportunity to come together as a state, discuss issues, barriers and plans to address the needs of our 0-5 age population. Currently, Vermont administers many successful programs addressing the oral health needs of our young children. There is a HRSA grant to conduct a Tooth Tutor Dental Access Program in the 3 Early Head Starts in the state. We already have this in 1 Head Start program with multiple sites throughout 3 counties. Starting in September 2005, the other 2 Early Head Starts will each have a Tooth Tutor Dental Hygienist. The intent of the Tooth Tutor Dental Access Program is to link every child with a dental home for preventive, comprehensive and continuous care.

WIC and MCH are anxious to address the oral health needs of the 0-3 and pregnant mom population. The new guidelines on oral health care from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the findings of research linking periodontal disease and low birth weight babies make this age group a key area of interest. Vermont has developed a Statewide Oral Health Plan and Head Start was an invited participant. In addition, Vermont has had a Baby Bottle Tooth Decay Initiative for many years, which is in the process of being revamped. The component providing free water tests for fluoride for families with children under age 4 has worked well, but referrals by pediatricians of high risk children to dental offices has not.

The barriers to preventing and reducing dental disease in this population have been documented in several ways. It is interesting to note that unlike many other states, the major barrier in Vermont is not that dentists are unwilling to see young children using Medicaid as their method of payment, although this situation may start occurring as Vermont's dentists retire and are not replaced. A 2002 finding addressing dental care and access by the Vermont Head Start State Collaboration Office, listed additional issues such as the need for referrals from pediatricians and parent education. Another survey of Early Head Start staff identified the issue of maternity care providers not counseling pregnant women about oral health and the need for care. Focus groups held recently (2004) with the parents/guardians of Medicaid eligible children reported that transportation and not knowing the appropriate timetables for care were the primary barriers. In addition, previous poor interactions with front office staff were reported as a barrier to appointment making and keeping. Dentists identify low reimbursement and failed appointments as a barrier to seeing the Medicaid population although Vermont does very well as compared with other states.

Current partners in providing oral health services to EHS/HS children are local dental offices and dental clinic providers. The gaps in oral health care delivery are pediatricians and other primary medical care providers, including maternity care providers.

Participants in the core planning group for this forum are: the Vermont Head Start Association, the State Head Start Collaboration Office including parents and staff, Vermont Department of Health, WIC, Office of Oral Health staff, the Vermont State Dental Society, the Vermont Dental Hygienists' Association and the Regional Office. The group assembled one time, in an all day meeting to discuss issues, barriers, forum strategies, participant list and next steps to develop a state-wide forum to address the needs of Head Start and Early Head Start families throughout the state.

## The Forum Planning Process

An initial planning process meeting was held at the beginning of the year, to determine the state's needs, identification of current programs and initiatives and next steps in the development of a State-wide forum. We discussed barriers, problems, and identified a procedure for the Oral Health Forum event. The agenda for the meeting, the minutes and the planning members are listed below. The planning group consisted of people representing the Vermont Department of Health, Head Start State Collaboration Office, Head Start Health Managers and Directors, parents, ACF, public school nurses, Tooth Tutor Program, and TA specialists. In addition, we were in constant contact with dentists from around the region during the planning stage. From that meeting, a smaller, sub-group met to determine strategies and procedures for the Forum. Planning began in January 2005 and the forum was held in May 2005. It was decided that in our State, one, centrally located forum would best serve our needs. This format would allow all of us to participate in a dialogue and have a diverse attendance. The sub group organized the presenters, the format for event and the PowerPoint presentation, all of which are included in this report. An agenda was developed around the three areas that were identified by the larger planning group: Prevention, Education and Access. We also organized the forum around Federal, Regional and State perspectives and were able to provide a panel presentation and discussion around these areas. People facilitated and recorded the events of the day and an action plan was then developed and distributed among the participants and other interested parties. There was time allotted for feedback and comments which were then included and a final action plan was drafted and released in July. Evaluations were also sent out to participants over the summer and that data is now available.

Oral Health Forum Planning Meeting  
January 18, 2005  
Participant List

Rebecca MacDonald, Vermont Department of Health, Dental Health Ed.Coordinator  
KC Whiteley, Vermont Head Start State Collaboration Office  
Jill Spiro, Vermont Head Start State Collaboration Office  
Diane Starr, Health Manager, Northeast Kingdom  
Debra Gass, Head Start Director, Windham County  
Sandy Beynnon, RDH Tooth Tutor, CVHS  
Linda Greaves, RDH, Dept of Health, Dental Health Educator  
Mary Foley, Region 1 Oral Health Consultant  
Steve Shuman, Health Content Specialist, ACF HSQI  
Steve Russell, Region 1 TA specialist  
Karen Flynn, Vermont Department of Health  
Wendy Thomas, Public Health Nurse, School Nurse Liaison

Those unable to attend planning meeting

Dr. Murray Diner, Dentist  
Peter Taylor, Executive Director, VT State Dental Society  
Dr. David Neumeister, Dentist  
Chuck Seleen, DDS Director, VT Dental Care  
Robin Perez, RDH, Dept of Health  
Donna Bister, Vermont Department of Health  
Dr. Kathy Silloway, Dentist  
Denise Van Gorden, Policy Council Chair, parent, Northeast Kingdom  
Donald Swartz, MD Acting Dental Director  
Karen Welford, TA Specialist, Head Start Quality Initiative

Planning Meeting Agenda  
HEAD START ORAL HEALTH FORUMS  
PLANNING MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2005  
10:00am-2:00pm  
Casey Family Services

- Introductions- Jill Spiro, VHSSCO
- Background information
  - Review of grant application-Rebecca MacDonald, Vermont Dept of Health
  - VT Tooth Tutor data-Rebecca
  - PIR data- Steve Shuman and Mary Foley, Oral Health Consultants, Region 1
  - Other States - Mary
  - VHSSCO 2002 report-Jill
  - Review of Current Efforts Around the State
- Development and Discussion of Forum Goals
  - What would be most helpful to the State
  - Identification of major issues
  - Identification of Services
  - Identification of Barriers
  - Areas to address: communication, public engagement, technical assistance, resource sharing
- Forums
  - Locations and Dates
  - Sub-group for planning in each location
  - Agenda
  - Participant List
- Next Steps

Minutes of Planning Meeting  
January 18, 2005  
Oral Health Forum Planning Meeting

The group began by looking at current initiatives and programs happening around the state.

- Discussion of the Head Start video
- Chittenden County's model for oral health: a dental hygienist for both Chittenden and Franklin Counties
- Early Head Start (EHS) Central Vermont model- 2 dental hygienists job sharing
- Addison County-1 dental hygienist assigned to Head Start

Review of Information and Grant Application

- We need to develop and implement an Action Plan for EHS/HS Oral Health issues
- We need to develop goals for the forums
- The forums will be held in late spring
- We need to have as many parents as we can in attendance
- We need to make sure the group represents a diverse population (migrant families and refugee populations)
- Issues we need to address: Early Head Start, prevention, maternity care

Requirements of the Grant and populations represented at the forums:

1. Goal/Action plan
2. Office of Oral Health
3. Parent Population
4. Diversity
5. Maternity Care Providers
6. Someone from Medicaid/Dr Dynasaur
7. WIC representation
8. Private dentists
9. Pediatric providers
10. American Academy of Pediatrics/Physicians/Nurse practitioners
11. Vermont State Dental Society
12. Family Care Providers
13. VNA
14. Vermont dental hygienists' Association
15. Home visitors
16. BC/BS-Healthy Beginnings
17. School Health-Tooth Tutor Program
18. Department of Education

Issues/Barriers identified

1. Access does not seem to be a major problem. Except in the White River Junction area and unsure of services in the Rutland Area.
2. Tooth Tutor Program-not accessible to everyone and not able to coordinate with families
3. Rate of Early Childhood Caries in Vermont- Rebecca will send out this information, where do these cases exist?
4. The goals of the forum should be Prevention and Education
5. Out of State providers, are we losing some of them? Is there a difference in the reimbursement for these providers?
6. Oral Surgery-is there adequate coverage for the State?
7. 56% of the state has fluoridation
8. Are we targeting everyone? Are we missing children?
9. Prenatal coverage is good, what happens to the mothers after delivery?
10. Levels of poverty are an issue

11. Are we losing certain age groups that drop their dental care? Groups that go back and forth in to the system? Adults, high school students?
12. Is fear an issue?
13. Is there money to do restorative work?
14. What are the trends in dental care services?
15. What is the utilization of dental care services by high school students? What are the draws? Free whitening.
16. How can we link this group with others i.e. thru Planned Parenthood?
17. How can we link Oral Health Care with the Pediatric group, so that there are oral health services during pediatric visits?
18. There are currently 9000 (12-60 month) WIC enrollees and the majority are on Medicaid.
19. There is currently 1789 Head Start and Early Head Start Children enrolled in the State.
20. There is no dental school in our state.
21. We do have recruitment and retention grants for dentists and hygienists and we do have a residency program in a Burlington Hospital.
22. We need ACCESS TO CARE FOR 1 YEAR OLDS
23. Establish a firm collaboration between the Pediatricians and the Dental Community.
24. Change the dental approach to cover 1 year olds
25. Continuing education for the dental community
26. Assessments can be done during the well-baby exam-there could be an oral component during these exams and Head Start could be the catalyst here.
27. Community partnership-dental health person in pediatric office
28. Aggressive education around these issues.
29. Enhanced practice for hygienists; expanded function for dental assistants
30. Training non- dental people to screen for oral health issues

#### Logistics for the forum

1. One forum, central location-White River Junction area-to get the best possible response. May 13, 2005 was the date selected. It will be an all day meeting and that is a day that dentists indicated that they could attend, with plenty of advance notice.
2. We will provide a stipend and child care costs for head start parents who attend the conference.
3. Participants at the conference will be expected to work on the development of an action plan  
Every person invited to the forum represents a piece of the action plan.

The people who need to be invited to the conference (at a minimum) are:

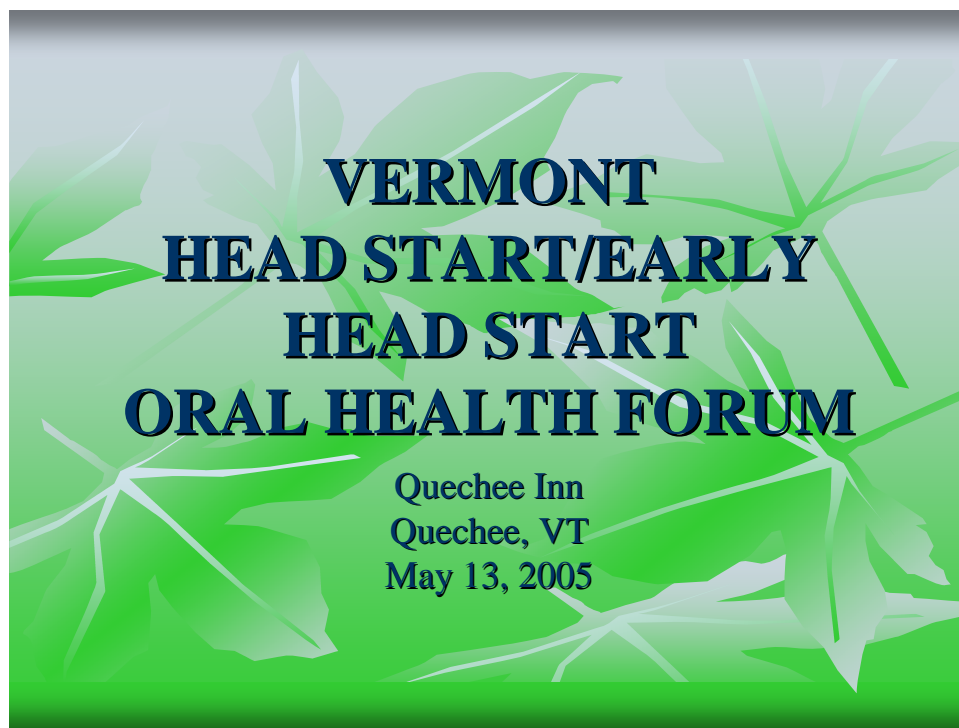
- The 12 planning members
- 6 Head Start Health Managers
- 2 Head Start Directors
- 4 dentists
- 4 parents
- 3 people from the Department of Health
- 4 Dental Hygienists employed by Head Start
- pediatricians
- midwife
- someone from the State Dental Association
- someone from the Dental Hygienists Association
- VNA
- School Nurse
- Coordinator of School Health Programs

- Field Services Directors
4. Some of the goals of the forum are to help families achieve oral health, to integrate oral health into all systems and to look at community responsibilities.
  5. There are currently several plans and several health committees in place
    - State Health Plan
    - State Oral Health Plan
    - Head Start Oral Health Forums
    - Health sub committee of Building Bright Futures: Vermont's Alliance for Children
  6. Concrete Activities
    - Addressing the issues of the pre-school population
      - Head Start perspective...look at this plan as a pilot plan
      - Put all the resources on the table and share the wealth
      - Have Head Start at the table and not isolated
      - Keep it small
      - Bridge the gap between Department of Health and Building Bright Futures
  
    - Have Head Start be a convening force for this initiative through this forum. Have it carry a legend, branching out to other state-wide plans. This forum can bring people together and other items will roll out from this connecting people with each other.
  7. Conference call for further planning has been set for Friday, February 4 from 11am -1pm

## Methods to Develop an Action Plan

Discussion among a small planning group occurred for the next few months to determine the agenda, the outcomes, a format, strategies, and a list of participants to include diverse state-wide participation. Templates for discussion were developed, speakers were selected for the day, a PowerPoint presentation was designed, resources for the group were made available, a location was selected and staffing for the event was organized. Based on the information gathered at the planning session, and subsequent meetings, the planning group was able to present to the Forum a list of issues and barriers to address and add to, programs that are working around the state, and a diverse group of stakeholders to participate in the forum. Due to a conflicting meeting, we were unable to have pediatricians represented at the forum; a group that forum members felt strongly should be part of any efforts that address oral health needs of the prenatal-5 year old population.

Below is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation used at the forum, a list of those people invited to the forum, and a list of those who attended the forum. In the appendix, you will find the invitation, the agenda, and a copy of the evaluation form.



## Invitees and Participants

### Head Start/Early Head Start Oral Health Forum Invitation List

The list below represents a state-wide group from the following areas:

- Head Start Directors,
- Parents
- Head Start Health Managers
- Dentists
- Department of Health
- Agency of Human Services
- Oral Health Professionals – Tooth Tutors
- Local Dental Hygiene Program
- Vermont State Dental Society
- Public School Personnel
- Parent-Child Centers
- AHS Field Service Supervisors
- Pediatricians
- Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Region 1 Office

Over 100 invitations were mailed.

Head Start Oral Health Forum  
 Friday, May 13, 2005  
 Participant List

Steven	Bachner	Dentist	Norwich	VT
Sandy	Beynnon	Tooth Tutor	So. Burlington	VT
Donna	Bister	VT Dept. of Health	Burlington	VT
Jeffrey	Blasius	VSDS	So. Burlington	VT
Bob	Constantino	DCF Child Development	Montpelier	VT
Fran	DeFlorio	VT Dept. of Health	Brattleboro	VT
Murray	Diner	Dentist	Jay	VT
Sherry	Farr	Rutland County Head Start	Rutland	VT
Mary	Foley	Office of Oral Health	Boston	MA
Debra	Gass	Early Education Services	Brattleboro	VT
Linda	Greaves	VT Dept. of Health	Burlington	VT
Sue	Hommel	Vermont Department of Health	Rutland	VT
Leslie	Kelly	Early Education Services	Brattleboro	VT
Tom	Killmurray	ACF Program Specialist	Boston	MA
Rebecca	MacDonald	VT Dept. of Health	Burlington	VT
Patty	Moore	Rutland County Head Start	Rutland	VT
David	Neumeister	Dentist	Brattleboro	VT
Linda	North	VT Dept. of Health	Morrisville	VT
Robin	Perez	Department of Health, VDHA	Burlington	VT
Lynn	Raymond-Epey	The River Connection	Springfield	VT
Allison	Reagan	Champ Valley Head Start	Burlington	VT
John	Rossetti	MCH/HRSA/DHHS	Rockville	MD
Steve	Russell	TA Specialist	Farmington	ME
Marcia	Russo	VT Dept. of Health	Bennington	VT
Chuck	Seleen	VT Dental Care	Winooski	VT
Steve	Shuman	Head Start Quality Initiative	Boston	MA
Robin	Smith	CVCAC Head Start	Orange	VT
Jill	Spiro	VHSSCO	Brattleboro	VT
Diane	Starr	NEKCA	Barton	VT
Janice	Stockman	VHSSCO	Brattleboro	VT
			White River	
Wendy	Thomas	VT Dept. of Health	Jct	VT
Jen	Troiano	CVCAC Head Start	Barre	VT
Barbara	Vandenburg	SEVCA/Windsor Co. Head Start	Springfield	VT
Roy	Walker	ACF/DHHS Room 2000	Boston	MA
K.C.	Whiteley	VHSSCO	Waterbury	VT

**Agenda**  
**Head Start Oral Health Forum**  
**May 13, 2005**  
**The Quechee Inn**

- 8:30-9:00                    **Registration and Breakfast**
- 9:00  
*Promptly*                    **Welcome-** KC Whiteley, VHSSCO
- Background, Grant Information, Introduction of Panelists-**  
                                 Rebecca MacDonald, VDH
- 9:15-10:45                    **Statement of the Problem: Panel Presentations**
- National Perspective:*
- John Rossetti, DDS, MPH  
                                 Head Start Oral Health Project Director
- Regional Perspective:*
- Region I, US Department of Health and Human Services
- Tom Kilmurray,  
                                 Family Program Specialist
  - Mary Foley, RDH, MPH  
                                 Head Start Oral Health Consultant
- State Perspective:*
- Chuck Seleen, DMD Director Vermont Dental Care  
                                 Programs
  - Diane Starr, RN Health Manager NEKCA
- 10:45-11:00                    **Questions and Answers**
- 11:00-11:15                    **Developing the Strategic Plan-Mary Foley**  
**Stretch Break**
- 11:15-12:30                    **Discussion Topics**
- Prevention
  - Education
  - Access to Oral Health Care
- 12:30-1:30                    **Lunch and Videos**  
1:30 -2:30                    **Finalize discussion topics**  
**Action steps, Collaborators, Resources-Mary Foley**
- 2:30-3:00                    **Next Steps**

## Action Plan

### Vermont Head Start/Early Head Start Oral Health Action Plan *OPTIMAL ORAL HEALTH FOR ALL HEAD START CHILDREN AND EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN AND PRENATAL MOMS*

#### PREVENTION

Increase the number of HS/EHS children who are decay free

OBJECTIVE 1	ACTIVITIES	LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Increase the number of dental offices seeing HS/EHS children to provide exams and preventive services in areas where needed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet personally with local dental offices to show them how many children might be expected in their offices and to make a “connection”.</li> <li>2. Update the list annually</li> <li>3. Make sure front office staff knows that the dentist has agreed to schedule these children and ask how the families could identify themselves</li> <li>4. Provide dental offices with the Medicaid fee schedule and emphasize the preventive services</li> </ol>	<p>HS (health manager or Tooth Tutor)</p> <p>HS Participating dentists</p> <p>HS Health manager/Tooth Tutor VDH</p>	2005/2006
OBJECTIVE 2	ACTIVITIES	LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Increase the number of pediatricians/family practice physicians who perform an oral health risk assessment and refer to dental offices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide training to MD’s and support staff such as RN’s for oral health risk assessment</li> <li>2. Provide information on fluoride supplementation and fluoride varnish to MD’s</li> <li>3. Explore reimbursement for MDs to provide oral health prevention activities</li> <li>4. Continue the ECC Program</li> </ol>	<p>VSDS AAP VDH</p> <p>VDH</p> <p>OVHA VDH</p> <p>VDH</p>	
OBJECTIVE 3	ACTIVITIES	LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Increase use of fluorides in areas without community water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote use of free water test for fluoride for families with children under age 4</li> <li>2. Explore the need for MD’s to</li> </ol>	VDH	



## EDUCATION

Increase the knowledge base of children, parents, Head Start staff, medical and dental community to provide optimal oral health for the prenatal to five year old population.

OBJECTIVE 1	ACTIVITIES	LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Increase the number of dental personnel providing education and treatment of the 0-3 population			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify a list of all dentists, by region who currently treat the 0-3 population</li> <li>2. Work within each community to identify dental personnel who are currently not seeing this population and set up an overall approach to work with and provide education to this group.</li> <li>3. Work to establish trainings for the dental community in early childhood behaviors as they might relate to the treatment of oral health.</li> <li>4. Identify people in the community who can establish the connection with dental personnel and the 0-3 population.</li> <li>5. Engage Early Head Start families in all activities.</li> <li>6. Engage Head Start Health Managers/Tooth Tutors to speak at dental office staff meetings.</li> <li>7. Utilize the oral health videos at these meetings</li> <li>8. Offer training for dentists at an annual meeting or conference.</li> <li>9. Provide information to all partners regarding Medicaid coverage.</li> <li>10. Provide training in assessing and/or treating the 0-3 population to dental hygienists in the Dental Hygiene Program and in continuing education courses</li> <li>11. Have dentists provide peer education</li> <li>12. Provide education around the</li> </ol>	<p>Head Start Health Managers/Tooth Tutors</p> <p>Head Start Health Managers/Tooth Tutors, VDH, VSIDS</p> <p>VSIDS Pediatric dentist group</p> <p>HS</p> <p>HS</p> <p>HS</p> <p>HS VSIDS Pediatric dentists</p> <p>OVHA VDH Office of Oral Health</p> <p>VDHA VTC Dental Hygiene Prog.</p> <p>Local dentists</p> <p>HS home visitors, Health Managers Tooth Tutors</p>	

	<p>benefits of early intervention to providers, parents and Head Start staff</p> <p>13. Look for ways to obtain funding to establish a mechanism in which this education will happen.</p> <p>14. Provide education to pregnant moms and their care providers to link them with a dental home.</p> <p>15. Strengthen Vermont's Early Childhood caries program</p> <p>16. Work with a variety of groups around this objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dentists</li> <li>• Dental hygienists</li> <li>• Residency programs</li> <li>• Head Start Personnel</li> <li>• Pediatricians</li> <li>• VTC Dental Hygiene Program</li> <li>• OBGYN's</li> </ul>	<p>HS Policy Council, local medical and dental comm..</p> <p>HS VDH VSDS</p> <p>VDH Office of Oral Health</p> <p>VDH Office of Oral Health VSDS VDHA</p>	
<b>OBJECTIVE 2</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>LEAD ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Increase the number of Head Start families who have a dental home and a home oral health plan	<p>1. Provide parental awareness on dental issues: Dental health care at home needs to be done with parents and children. Children cannot do this alone. Parents need to understand that if baby teeth are affected then permanent teeth will also be affected. Parents need to be part of the process every step of the way: Feeding practices, fear, oral hygiene instruction, fluoride treatments, early childhood caries</p> <p>2. Establish a dental provider and first visit with every enrolled EHS/HS family</p>	<p>HS Health manager/Tooth Tutor</p> <p>HS Health manager/Tooth Tutor</p>	
<b>OBJECTIVE 3</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>LEAD ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Train a variety of people in oral health risk assessment	<p>1. Identify people from various groups who could provide an oral risk assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WIC program</li> <li>• Head Start program</li> <li>• Pediatric offices</li> </ul>	<p>VDH Office of Oral Health VDH District offices</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Start home visitors</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Educate about risk factors like bottle usage, sippy cups and what's in them.</li> <li>3. Ensure that every HS has a tooth tutor</li> <li>4. Identify good educational modules and resources on oral health risks.</li> </ol> <p>Educate the dental community on the importance of F varnish</p>	<p>HS home visitors Tooth Tutors</p> <p>HS Health manager/Tooth Tutor</p> <p>VDH Office of Oral Health VSDS pediatric dentists</p>	
OBJECTIVE 4	ACTIVITIES	LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Establish an ongoing relation between the medical community and the dental community. Determine how Head Start can play a role in this linkage.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Head Start Health advisory committees actively recruit a dentist and a physician to serve on the committee.</li> <li>2. The local dental and medical community could discuss risk assessment, and pediatric referrals. A Head Start representative could attend local meetings.</li> <li>3. Dentists can provide education to their front office staff on how to receive referrals from pediatricians.</li> <li>4. All groups should have current knowledge of resources and risk assessment protocol</li> </ol>	<p>HS VSDS/local dentists AAP/local MD's</p> <p>VSDS/local dentists AAP/local MD's</p> <p>Local dentists</p> <p>VDH VSDS AAP</p>	

ACCESS

Increase access to care for HS/EHS children and Pre-natal Moms

OBJECTIVE 1	ACTIVITIES	LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Establish a link between local dentists and the local Head Start program	1. Head Start staff visit each local dental office at least once a year	Head Start	Annually until established
	2. Identify local dental offices who have received a State loan forgiveness or access grant	Head Start VDH	Annually
	3. Participating dentists meet with Head Start staff to make a plan for making and keeping appointments once a year.	HS Local dentists	Annually
	4. Dentist/staff attend parent nights to provide education	HS Local dentists	Annually
	5. VSIDS partner with Head Start to provide meaningful activities for "Give Kids a Smile Day" (Dental Health Month).	VSIDS HS	Every February
OBJECTIVE 2	ACTIVITIES	LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Assist parents in making and keeping dental appointments	1. Help parents understand patients' rights and responsibilities	HS	
	2. Implement a process to ensure parents schedule and keep dental appointments	HS VDH District Office	
	3. Address barriers to care such as transportation, fear, poor previous interactions with dental staff, avoidance, literacy (see Objective 3)	HS/Tooth Tutor	
	4. Hire a Tooth Tutor for each Head Start and early Head Start program	HS	
OBJECTIVE 3	5. Work to strengthen the Medicaid transport system in each area	HS OVHA VDH	
Address barriers to care for families	2. Use the Tooth Tutor video with parents who haven't made an appointment	Head Start	
	3. Assign a staff person to act as case manager to families who may need this extra assistance	HS Health Manager/Tooth Tutor	
OBJECTIVE 4	ACTIVITIES	LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Have local dentists/staff	1. Assist in training opportunities for treating young children for dentists/staff	VSIDS pediatric group VDH	

trained and comfortable treating the Head Start/ Early Head Start population			
	2. Provide an on-line course to teach care of 0-3 year olds for dentists/staff, several are available.	VSDS VSDS Pediatric group VDH	ASAP
	3. Provide training in providing services to pregnant women	VSDS VDH	2005/2006
	ACTIVITIES		
OBJECTIVE 5		LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Improve collaboration of Head Start with VDH Office of Oral Health and District office staff, VSDS, VDHA	1. Develop a work group/coalition with the participants of HS/EHS Oral Health Forum	VHSSCO VDH Office of Oral Health	
	2. Share successful models and information	VDH VHSSCO VHSA VSDS	
	3. Apply for further oral health grants	VDH HS	
	ACTIVITIES		
OBJECTIVE 6		LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Develop trainings for practice extenders of all types	Pursue expanded functions/Public Health Supervision for Dental Hygienists	VDH VDHA VSDS	
	Provide training for physicians/staff in oral health assessment and anticipatory guidance	VDHA VSDS VDH	

## Next steps, resources needed and potential challenges to implementing the Action Plan

Planning for the implementation of the action plan and a list of people and activities to carry out this plan still needs to be established. Continued work needs to be done to actively engage people from all areas around the State. Areas that are currently underserved as well as those rich in services need to engage in the implementation of the plan. A major challenge will be to keep these lead organizations (Vermont Dental Society, Department of Health, Head Start and WIC) active at the local level.

The Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont HSSCO will continue its efforts to organize and coordinate the implementation of the action plan. The remainder of the grant money will be used to develop “next steps” with the forum participants and with Mary Foley, Project Director, Improving Perinatal- Oral Health. Our evaluation survey indicated interest from the participants to be involved with next step planning and statewide efforts.

Lead organizations have begun addressing some of the objectives within the action plan. Some activities are underway. For example, the Vermont Dental Hygienists Association and the Vermont Department of Health have been gathering information about public health supervision for dental hygienists. All seven Head Start Sites have worked together to submit a comprehensive tooth tutor grant for the state. Additional time and resources are needed to actively engage this action plan around the state

Other challenges:

- Work force issues. Finding the personnel to fill these job slots.
- The lack of pediatric dentists,
- The lack of dental hygienists
- Locating dental practices that can accept additional numbers of children with Medicaid and Dr Dynasaur
- Not all geographical areas have a “local champion” for these issues and that needs to be addressed within each region; the building of the teams throughout the state to further the action plan.

## Evaluation

A group of 15 participants indicated that they would like to continue group meetings to help advance the Action Plan. This includes the State Dental Director, Dr. Steve Arthur, who was hired shortly after the forum was held.

This work could not have been completed without the help of HRSA, MCHB, ASTDD, VDH, VHSSCO and the HS Regional Office.

Thank you.

## Appendix

### 1. Invitation to Forum

Department of Health  
Dental Health Services  
108 Cherry Street – PO Box 70  
Burlington, VT 05402-0070  
[www.HealthyVermonters.info](http://www.HealthyVermonters.info)

Head Start State Collaboration Office  
Agency of Human Services  
103 South Main Street  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0204  
[www.ahs.state.vt.us/earlychildhood](http://www.ahs.state.vt.us/earlychildhood)

### Head Start/Early Head Start Oral Health Forum

The Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont Head Start State Collaboration Office invite you to participate in the Head Start/Early Head Start Oral Health Forum.

This forum will serve as a catalyst in convening parents, community agencies, state agencies, public and private leaders in oral health, and collaborative partners. The focus of the forum will be the identification of issues, barriers and solutions to establish an action plan in oral health for the pre-natal to 5 year old (Head Start) population in Vermont. The action plan can be a springboard for all prenatal-5 year olds in Vermont.

The forum will provide an opportunity to discuss current issues, challenges and promising practices related to improving the oral health of children. National, regional, state, and local perspectives will be presented.

The forum is scheduled for Friday, May 13, 2005 from 9am to 3:30pm at the Quechee Inn at Marshland Farm in Quechee, Vermont. Registration starts at 8:30. There is not a charge for the forum and lunch will be provided. Stipends for child care and transportation are available to support Head Start/Early Head Start parents who wish to attend the forum.

We welcome your input. To attend this forum, please complete the information below and return this form by mail or FAX to:

Rebecca J. MacDonald  
Vermont Department of Health  
FAX: 802-651-1634

Space is limited. The deadline for registration is April 13, 2005. We hope you or a representative from your organization can attend! Directions are on the back.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency/Organization/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (work/home) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Breakout Group Topic (check one):  Prevention  Education  Access

## 2. Oral Health Forum Evaluation Letter and Form:

August 12, 2005

Dear Oral Health Forum Participants and interested people,

Attached you will find the final version of the Head Start Oral Health Forum Action Plan that was developed by many of us on May 13, 2005. This plan provides an opportunity for regions to actively engage around oral health issues for the prenatal- 5 year old population. We hope that you will find this plan useful and informative and that you will use it as your regions address oral health issues. This is a good opportunity for those of you at the forum to take a "community lead" around these issues.

If you wish to be included in additional state-wide meetings around these topics, please let us know.

In addition, there is an evaluation attachment which we would like you to complete and return to us via email. The information on this evaluation is important for additional planning purposes, funding opportunities and for reporting to federal agencies.

Thanks very much for all your input and work on this Action Plan.  
Please email us with any additional comments.

Jill Spiro  
[spimo@sover.net](mailto:spimo@sover.net)  
(802) 257-8015

Rebecca MacDonald  
[RMacdon@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:RMacdon@vdh.state.vt.us)  
(802) 863-7498

Head Start/Early Head Start Oral Health Forum  
Evaluation Form  
May 13, 2005

Please highlight/color the appropriate number, add any additional comments and return this form via email to Jill Spiro at [spimo@sover.net](mailto:spimo@sover.net). Thanks again for your participation!  
Regarding the Panel Presentations: Poor \_\_\_\_\_ Excellent

*National Perspective*

The format was useful	1	2	3	4	5
The information was new and helpful	1	2	3	4	5
I could incorporate this information into my work	1	2	3	4	5
There was enough time for the presentation	1	2	3	4	5
There was enough time for questions and answers	1	2	3	4	5

Additional Comments:

*Regional Perspective*

The format was useful	1	2	3	4	5
The information was new and helpful	1	2	3	4	5
I could incorporate this information into my work	1	2	3	4	5
There was enough time for the presentation	1	2	3	4	5
There was enough time for questions and answers	1	2	3	4	5

Additional Comments:

*State Perspective*

The format was useful	1	2	3	4	5
The information was new and helpful	1	2	3	4	5
I could incorporate this information into my work	1	2	3	4	5
There was enough time for the presentation	1	2	3	4	5
There was enough time for questions and answers	1	2	3	4	5

Additional Comments:

*Topic area discussions (prevention, education, access)*

The format was useful	1	2	3	4	5
The facilitators directed discussions appropriately	1	2	3	4	5
The ideas were incorporated into the Action Plan	1	2	3	4	5
There was enough time for the discussions	1	2	3	4	5
The day long session allowed sufficient time	1	2	3	4	5
The facilities were adequate	1	2	3	4	5
The forum was worth my time	1	2	3	4	5
This action report reflects the group consensus	1	2	3	4	5

Any Additional Comments:

I would be interested in additional group meetings yes no

Name: