



Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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Montana Dental Summit I

The Montana Dental Summit I was held on 11/18/99 with the purpose of engaging the state in the National Oral Health Initiative. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) in coordination with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), the Montana Primary Care Association, the Montana Dental Association, and other partners hosted the event. A state and federal planning team directed by the Montana State Oral Health Program Director, with representatives from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), the Montana Dental Association, the Montana Primary Care Association, HRSA and HCFA, organized the Montana Dental Summit. Professional meeting facilitators were contracted for the Summit. To prepare for the Summit, invitees (including individuals able and unable to attend the Summit) were asked by the meeting facilitators to share their perspectives on access to dental services either by phone or a written questionnaire. Summit invitees were able to teleconference from remote sites via satellite linkage. A HRSA grant provided \$5,000 to support the Summit and the Montana Primary Care Association covered the satellite costs. The professional facilitators were contracted for ~\$3,000, their travel expenses were ~\$2,000, and six satellite linkages totaled ~\$1,500. During the one-day event, the Summit drew 114 participants hosting a broad array of health professionals, program administrators and policy makers. The key outcome of the Summit was the establishment of the Montana Dental Access Coalition for improving oral health and access to dental care in the state, particularly for the underserved. The Coalition's accomplishments during the first year included: (1) developing an action plan and presenting the proposed strategies to the Legislative Interim Committee on Children, Families, Health, and Human Services for endorsement, (2) removing pre-authorization requirements for Medicaid dental services, (3) increasing the dental benefit for CHIP, (4) securing the support of the Board of Regents for expanding state-supported dental student education through the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), and (5) developing the Montana Dental Summit/Dental Access Coalition website.

Contact Person(s) for Inquiries:

Cheri Seed, RDH, BA (former Montana state dental director), Tobacco Education Specialist, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501, Phone: 406-444-0785, Email: cseed@mt.gov