

Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

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Nevada's Oral Health Coalitions

The 2008 Nevada State Oral Health Plan was developed to provide a set of goals and objectives to guide oral health promotion activities throughout the state. Due to geographic challenges and the diversity of the communities within Nevada, implementation of the plan by one statewide oral health coalition was perceived by stakeholders as an ineffective and undesirable approach to address the oral health needs of local communities. In response, the State has partnered with stakeholders to develop an overarching Advisory Committee for Oral Health (AC4OH) and local oral health coalitions that address the needs of the State and local communities. The Advisory Committee for Oral Health (AC4OH) is a 13 member committee charged with advising and making recommendations to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to support the Division in their duties to promote the health and well-being of Nevadans through the delivery or facilitation of essential services to ensure families are strengthened, public health is protected and individuals achieve their highest level of self-sufficiency as it relates to oral health. The AC4OH meets quarterly to monitor, identify, and support the State Oral Health Plan while local oral health coalitions meet monthly or quarterly depending on the needs of the community. Members of AC4OH bring state level information and direction to their communities, and in a similar fashion, information and recommendations from the local level are communicated back to the state. This strong relationship of communication enables stakeholders to support activities that fulfill the ideals of the State Oral Health Plan.

Lessons Learned:

The state acts as a catalyst and the glue, but interventions are implemented on a community basis. It is essential that both the State and communities recognize this, plan accordingly, and then implement the identified strategies on a state or community level as appropriate.

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