

Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

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Oregon Head Start Action Plan for Oral Health

In April 2003, Oregon Head Start Action Plan for Oral Health was developed at the Director's and Specialists Meeting in Eagle Crest. The action plan established four priority areas:

- I. **ACCESS TO PREVENTION** - Oregon Head Start Programs will increase the use of Registered Dental Hygienist Practitioners with the Expanded Practice Permit (EPP) formerly known as Limited Access Permit Dental Hygienists (LAP) to bring innovative prevention interventions to Early Head Start/ Head Start (HS/EHS) children and families.
- II. **PREVENTION STRATEGIES** – Head Start programs will have access to cutting edge prevention research and techniques.
- III. **ACCESS TO TREATMENT** – Head Start programs in Oregon will work in partnership with dentists and Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO) who provide services to Head Start Children so that Head Start's administrative requirements do not over burden these dental providers.
- IV. **EDUCATION STRATEGIES** – Head Start Programs will work to assure that families, children, staff and medical/dental communities receive appropriate and up-to-date education in Oral Health.

The plan has established action steps, timeline and resources/responsible parties for each of the four priority areas. Stakeholders who have accepted responsibilities for implementing action steps include: State DHS Oral Health Program, Oregon Department Medical Assistance Program (DMAP), Oregon Head Start Oral Health Coalition, Board of Dentistry, Region X representatives, Head Start Bureau, Oregon Head Start Association, Individual Head Start Programs, Dental Care Organizations, Oregon Dental Association, Oregon Dental Hygiene Association, Oregon Oral Health Coalition, Early Childhood Cavity Prevention (ECCP) Coalition, and Oregon Health Sciences University. The Action Plan is being revised as needed at each quarterly meeting of the **Oregon Head Start Association Oral Health Coalition (OHSAOHC)**, which is woven together with other Oral Health Coalitions that exist at local and State levels. Key accomplishments of the OHSAOHC as a result of ASTDD funded activities included:

- Cavity Free Kids training materials, dental training resources, and forms for fluoride varnish and sealant programs are available to all Coalition members on a compact disk.
- OHSAOHC is represented in key state oral health groups and has increased its visibility at the State level.
- Cavity Free Kids Training binders have been duplicated for use by OHSAOHC members providing training to their local/regional dental coalitions (primarily for local WIC programs).
- OHSAOHC presence on ECCP planning groups and influence with State Medicaid systems maintained a focus on early childhood caries (ECC). Fluoride varnish and other ECC interventions are now observed in many Oregon Head Start programs and the number of programs continues to grow.

The following activities of the Oregon Head Start Action Plan for Oral Health will continue in 2013:

- OHSA representatives will continue to participate on the Oregon Oral Health Coalition and assure geographic representation for OHSA grantees for any projects that affect the Head Start population.

- OHSA website and email lists will be used to distribute information from the Oregon Oral Health Coalition.
- Quarterly meetings of the Oregon Head Start Pediatric Dental Home initiative with Head Start representatives from 6 geographic regions.

Contact Person(s) for Inquiries:

Valerie Haynes, Head Start of Lane County, 221 B. Street, #1238, Springfield, OR 97477, Phone: 541-747-2425, Fax: 541-747-6648, Email: vhaynes@hsolc.org