

Oral Health Program Communiqué

Compiled by the Oral Health Program in the Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services

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Mission Statement

The Oral Health Program promotes and seeks to improve oral health for all citizens in Wisconsin through policy development, technical assistance, needs assessment, training, and education. In addition, the Oral Health Program plans, implements, and evaluates the effectiveness of preventive oral health programs in Wisconsin.

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Contact Us

Wisconsin Oral Health Program
Division of Public Health
P.O. Box 2659
1 W. Wilson St.
Madison, WI 53701

Chief Dental Officer

Warren LeMay

608 266-5152

lemaywr@dhfs.state.wi.us

State Public Health Dental Hygienist

Lisa Bell

608 266-3201

bellla@dhfs.state.wi.us

Visit our website at:

http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/health/oral_health/

Message from the Chief Dental Officer

Welcome to the first issue of the Oral Health Program Communiqué!

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a communications tool from the Oral Health Program in the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. The Oral Health Program Communiqué is a document that will be distributed on a regular basis to inform, announce, remind, advise, instruct and communicate. Our primary target audience is personnel in local public health departments. We hope that you find our articles informative with the links to further information useful. We welcome your suggestions for articles and topics for future issues of the newsletter. Thank you.

A Word from the State PH Dental Hygienist

It has been a whirlwind first nine months for me as the Wisconsin State Public Health Dental Hygienist. My work in Illinois prior to coming to Wisconsin focused predominantly on developing and sustaining community programs focused on providing full range dental care to the un/underinsured families in a tri-county rural area of east central Illinois. I came to Wisconsin to continue to pursue my passion of providing access to quality oral health care for all who need it. Clearly the access to care dilemma is one of the greatest problems we face across the nation. Wisconsin is not immune to this problem; however, I do believe that Wisconsin is well on its way to creating and sustaining programs that can effectively address the disparities in oral health care across the state. Acknowledging the important role and the vital resource that registered Dental Hygienists present and utilizing that resource to meet the needs of the underserved is just one example. Obviously it's an evolutionary process, a continual work in progress. I think it is imperative that we as health care providers find ways to build workable, productive and collaborative relationships amongst ourselves and within our communities across the state. Being able to work in unison, put aside differences and truly focus on the issues at hand will only enhance our capacity to affect real change. I anticipate continuing to be an aggressive advocate for the underserved and see my role as the State Public Health Dental Hygienist as an effective avenue to continue to drive the message of the importance of access to quality, affordable oral health care for all Wisconsin residents.

Articles

Making the Case Through Data Collection

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Oral Health Program has been preparing for a second statewide “Make Your Smile Count” oral health survey. We will soon be conducting a screening of a randomized sample of third grade children from across the state. This assessment will provide us with a wealth of valuable information that ultimately will be used for program and policy development. The data will also assist in raising awareness of the dilemma of unmet oral health needs among many of our state’s children. This new assessment will help determine trends in oral health status and identify groups that bear the greatest burden of oral diseases. In addition to the oral health screening this year’s assessment will also include an evaluation of each student’s growth and development by weighing and measuring participants. Although at this point in time there have been no proven definitive links between poor oral health and children being either overweight/obese or at risk for being overweight/obese this data will provide a first ever glimpse into any potential correlation that might exist in Wisconsin. We

are very pleased to be partnering with the Department’s Physical Activity and Nutrition Section, and feel this is a perfect fit for everyone involved.

The sample for the survey has been drawn by an epidemiologist from California, Dr. Kathy Phipps. She was contracted to assist with this project by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD). The representative sample for the survey consists of 114 schools with a total of about 6,000 third grade students. We will be utilizing the ASTDD Basic Screening Survey tool as our standardized protocol. Trained and calibrated dentists and dental hygienists will conduct the screenings. It is our intention to be completed with the data collection component of the survey by early May and have the data analyzed by Dr. Phipps and disseminated to all of you as quickly as possible.

If you have questions or concerns about the survey please do not hesitate to contact either Dr. LeMay or Lisa Bell, we need wide range support for this project and will depend on each of you to help us along the way.

New HRSA Grant Project Targeting CYSHCN

Last summer a new grant opportunity became available through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA.) As many of you know, often the turn around time on these grants is very short in comparison to the amount of work that needs to be completed to submit a competitive, well written grant proposal. This grant proposal was no different. The turnaround time required within the Department made it virtually impossible for us to get it submitted on time. Karen Ordians and Matt Crespino of The Children’s Health Alliance of Wisconsin (CHAW) agreed to help us create the proposal and submit it through CHAW.

There were three focus areas for this grant opportunity and collectively we chose to

submit a proposal focusing on providing education, information and training targeting children and youth with special health care needs. The grant “The Wisconsin Community-based System of Oral Health for Children with Special Health Care Needs” was one of only twenty grantees nationwide to receive funding (\$160,000/yr over 4/yr).

Diane Flanagan was recently hired by CHAW to serve as grant manager for this project. Diane brings with her extensive experience treating and advocating for children with special needs and their families. She is in the beginning stages of placing Regional Oral Health Coordinators (ROHCs) across the state who will work with the Regional Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

(CYSHCN) Centers to develop plans and implement programs to meet the four objectives of the grant. These objectives are:

1. Improve the oral self-care skills of CYSHCN and improve the oral health knowledge and skills of parents and caregivers in the family home, group homes and institutional settings.
2. Establish a dental case management program to assist CYSHCN and their families and inform CYSHCN, parents and caregivers about dental care resources.

3. Offer preventive oral health services to CYSHCN through regionally based public health dental hygienists ROHCs.
4. Offer didactic and clinical training in the care of CYSHCN for oral health professionals including dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants.

Dr. Robert Dwyer and Dr. Brian Hodgson, dentists with extensive clinical experience in treating CYSHCN will also be involved with the grant by providing continuing education and training to oral health professionals throughout the state.

Resources

Oral Health & Nutrition CD-ROMs

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded Oral Health & Nutrition CD-ROMs are ready for distribution in hard copy or Web format. There are 5 different CD-ROMs available in the format of short vignettes teaching on various topics related to each target population. Each of the programs except the Dental Professionals program are in English and Spanish. These FREE CD-ROMs were created from a series of focus groups with the target populations. The program can be downloaded from the web at <http://depts.washington.edu/geron/> go to Oral Health CDs, fill out the brief survey and then follow the directions to freely download your CD-ROM(s) of choice. The CD-ROMs available are: "Pregnant Women", "Parents of Toddlers (ages 2-4)," "Elementary School Children (age 6-12)," "Older Adults (Independent adults, not specific to caregivers)," and "Cultural Competence for the Dental Professional."

How to Rescue Your Kid's Tooth After a Whack to the Mouth

(Flint Journal—Dec 16)

According to the Michigan Association for Endodontists, sports injuries are among the leading causes of the approximately 5 million teeth that are knocked out each year. The figure was even higher in the days before mandatory hockey masks and mouth guards, said Doug Towler, a high-school hockey coach who has seen his share of missing teeth in the past 28 years. "Back in my day, you'd see guys lose four or six teeth at once," Towler said. "When a puck is going 90 miles an hour and gets deflected, there's no time to react. I lost a front tooth myself once when I was blocking a shot." Masks and mouth guards now are mandatory equipment for hockey players, as is protective gear in other organized sports. Access article online at: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/health/2004067974_savethetooth16.html.

Parents Magazine Covers Baby Teeth Basics

(AAPD News-Dec 15)

Many parents and caregivers wonder when they should take their child to see a dentist for the first time. In the January 2008 issue of *Parents* magazine, a spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) explained the importance of baby teeth, flossing and proper sippy cup usage adults should know when it comes to children's oral health care. AAPD Immediate Past-President Dr. Philip Hunke described how creativity helps children learn the

important steps in building a healthy smile and body: "Letting your child play with the brush for a while makes it seem like a game to her, so she's more willing to let you take over," says Philip Hunke, DDS, president of the AAPD. Aim to spend a full minute cleaning the inside and outside surfaces of her teeth and gums." The article will hit the newsstands in January 2008. Information available online at: http://www.aapd.org/hottopics/news.asp?NEWS_ID=742.

It's Not Just a Kid Thing: Fluoridated Tap Water Benefits Older Adults Even More

(Eureka Alert—Dec 4)

The benefits of fluoridation in preventing tooth decay have been known for over half a century and today approximately two-thirds of Americans have access to fluoridated public water. Gerardo Maupomé, BDS, MSc, PhD, of the Indiana University School of Dentistry, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and colleagues report in a study published in the fall issue of the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry* that older adults benefit even more significantly from fluoridation than children. Dr. Maupomé and his colleagues investigated whether access to fluoridated community water reduced the amounts of dental fillings and associated costs needed by children, adults, and older adults. "Our finding that fluoridated water lowered the number of dental fillings confirms studies on younger people but breaks new ground on older individuals. While those we studied had dental insurance, many older adults, who are often retired, don't have dental insurance and so prevention of decay is very important. Community water fluoridation is a sound public health investment for people of all ages," said Dr. Maupomé, who is also a Regenstrief Institute, Inc affiliated scientist. Access article online at: http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2007-12/iu-inj120407.php.

Report on Emerging Allied Dental Workforce Models Released

(RDH News—Nov 20)

The American Dental Education Association released the report "Emerging Allied Dental Workforce Models: Considerations for Academic Dental Institutions" in the November issue of the *Journal of Dental Education*.

The report describes several emerging workforce models that address strengthening the US oral health care workforce. The models provide examples of how communities can expand allied dental professionals' responsibilities and provide improved access to oral health care in underserved communities. Access to dental care is disproportionately distributed in this country, depending upon racial, ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic factors. Extended employment of allied dental professionals is one way to increase access to oral health care. The models currently under consideration are in various stages of development. They include the "Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner," the "Community Dental Health Coordinator," the "Oral Preventive Assistant," and the "Dental Health Aide Therapist." All the models under discussion would allow for individuals within their scope of practice to work in settings that treat underserved and unserved populations, while making referrals for patients who require more comprehensive oral health care. Access article online at: http://www.rdhmag.com/display_article/312642/54/none/none/IndNw/Report-on-emerging-allied-dental-workforce-models-released.

National Oral Health Conference (April 28-30, 2008)

The annual National Oral Health Conference will take place at the Radisson Hotel in Miami, Florida.

Information is available online at: <http://www.nationaloralhealthconference.com/>

Oral Health During Pregnancy and Early Childhood

The program "Oral Health During Pregnancy and Early Childhood" is now available online at: http://media.albany.edu:8080/ramgen/cellar/sph/oral_health_during_pregnancy.rm. Continuing

Education credits are available by filling out the evaluation and post-test on the University at Albany School of Public Health Web site. www.albany.edu/sph/coned/oralhealth.htm For questions, call Sue Brooks at 518/486-6453 or e-mail coned@albany.edu.

Now Available from National Head Start Oral Health Resource Center

The following new releases are now available from National Head Start Oral Health Resource Center:

- *Head Start Oral Health Resource Guide*
- *Oral Health Resource Bulletin, Volume XVIII*
- *A Conceptual Model of Parental Behavior Change Following a Child's Dental General Anesthesia Procedure*
- *The Effectiveness of a Novel Infant Tooth Wipe in High Caries-risk Babies*
- *Influences on Children's Oral Health: A Conceptual Model*
- *Pediatric Oral Health Knowledge of African American and Hispanic of Mexican Origin Expectant Mothers*

All materials are available online at <http://www.mchoralhealth.org/alert/archives.html>.

Fluoride Now Being Added to Drinking Water

(10 News-San Diego—Oct 29)

The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California will begin adding the cavity-fighting agent fluoride to the drinking water for 18 million Southern Californians. The MWD said it will supplement the trace amounts of naturally occurring fluoride in the water it imports from the Colorado River and Northern California to levels promoted by the American Dental Association and national public health groups. According to the MWD, a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 18 million people in six counties, 43 of the largest 50 cities in the United States fluoridate drinking waters. The level of fluoride will rise from the current range of 0.1 to 0.4 parts per million to the recommended range of 0.7 to 0.8 parts per million, according to Metropolitan. Some of the cities and water agencies may blend Metropolitan water with their own supply, so the level of fluoride may differ from area to area, according to MWD officials. They noted that fluoride levels in drinking water are limited under California state regulations at a maximum level of 2 parts per million. Access article online at:

<http://www.10news.com/news/14446203/detail.html>.

Efforts to Ensure that Children Receive Mandated Oral Health Services

“Assuring Comprehensive Dental Services in Medicaid and Head Start Programs: Planning and Implementation Considerations” addresses efforts to improve access to required oral health services for children enrolled in Medicaid and Head Start. The issue brief, published by the National Oral Health Policy Center, focuses on models or arrangements that include a limited set of services – usually oral health screening and/or prevention services – often provided by non-dentists outside of traditional oral health care delivery settings. The authors present and discuss (1) the relationships between the models and federal regulations and policies requiring comprehensive oral health services, (2) the potential for unintentional or undesirable consequences, and (3) approaches for ameliorating adverse consequences and securing access for children to a full range of oral health services. Topics include dental caries prevalence, distribution, and consequences in preschool children; access to oral health services; Medicaid program purpose, scope of services, Early and Periodic Screening, and Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) requirements for oral health services; strategies for improving referrals and access to comprehensive EPSDT oral health services; unintended and undesirable consequences of alternative models; and the dental home. A summary of federal regulations and policies affecting alternative dental practice models and conclusions are provided. The brief is available at:

http://www.healthychild.ucla.edu/nohpc/National%20Oral%20Health%20Policy%20Center/OralCenterPubs/Dental_Services_in_Medicaid_&_Head_Start.pdf.

Information provided by MCH Alert.

Tip Sheet Offers Ideas for Creating Clear, Easy-to-Understand Oral Health Materials

“A Way With Words: Guidelines for Writing Oral Health Materials for Audiences with Limited Literacy” provides ideas to help those who produce oral health educational materials make the materials easy for everyone to understand. The tip sheet, produced by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, offers suggestions for how to choose words; set an appropriate tone; and craft sentences, paragraphs, lists, and headings that communicate most effectively with people with limited literacy. Suggestions for how to design documents and how to present unfamiliar terminology are also presented. A list of resources for more information is included. The tip sheet is available at

<http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/AWaywithWords.pdf>.

White Paper Discusses Oral Health Care Policy Options for Children from Families with Low Incomes

“Pediatric Dentistry: How Can Dental Care for Low-Income Children Be Improved?” describes the causes and consequences of oral diseases that disproportionately affect the nation's most vulnerable children. The white paper also discusses the many strategies available to address this problem. The white paper was published by the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services' Rapid Public Health Policy Response Project, with support from the Public Health and Policy Group of Pfizer, Inc. Topics include disparities in oral disease, unmet need for pediatric dentistry, and strategies to increase access to appropriate oral health services for children. The paper is available at

http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/about/rapidresponse/download/Rapid6_Dental_D2.pdf

Brochure Available: “Protect Your Baby's Teeth From Early Childhood Tooth Decay”

This brochure for new parents describes ways to keep infants' gums and teeth healthy during the first year. It discusses early signs and causes of tooth decay, appropriate use of bottles and sippy cups, and proper care of infants' teeth. The brochure is available in English and Spanish and is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Contact: National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Georgetown University, Box 571272, Washington, DC 20057-1272. Telephone: 202/784-9771; fax: 202/784-9777; e-mail: info@mchoralhealth.org; Web site:

<http://www.mchoralhealth.org>.

Available at no charge from the Web site.

http://www.mchoralhealth.org/pdfs/protectyourbabysteeth_english.pdf (English) and

http://www.mchoralhealth.org/pdfs/protectyourbabysteeth_spanish.pdf (Spanish).

A related brochure titled “Protect Your Child's Teeth from Early Childhood Tooth Decay” is also available at

http://www.mchoralhealth.org/pdfs/protectyourchildsteeth_english.pdf (English) and

http://www.mchoralhealth.org/pdfs/protectyourchildsteeth_spanish.pdf (Spanish).

(Information from *Oral Health Alert*: “Focus on Head Start”-Dec 2007.)

2008 National Children's Dental Health Month Kit Available

February is the time dentists spread the importance of good oral health to children by celebrating National Children's Dental Health Month and reaching out to the community using the American Dental Association's (ADA) NCDHM kits.

This year, the kits feature the Tough Tooth Team and Dudley the Dinosaur to help educate while entertaining your young audience. The 2008 NCDHM Kit includes the super trio, Brushetta, The Flossinator and Nutri-Boy in a new poster, 50 pre-k through 2nd grade activity

books and 50 goody bags that can be personalized. It also includes 50 "Happiness is a Healthy Smile" brochures and a "Your Child's Smile" flip guide.

There is also the 2008 NCDHM DVD kit with the "Dudley Visits the Dentist" DVD and a teaching guide as well as the materials mentioned above. The kits are available through the ADA's catalog at www.adacatalog.org or by calling 800/947-4746.

Oral Health Program Staff

Warren LeMay – Chief Dental Officer

Warren LeMay has been the Chief Dental Officer with the Division of Public Health since 1991. Prior to assuming this position he was Director of Patient Care and Assistant Professor of Community Dentistry at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. He held a similar position from 1984 to 1987 at Dalhousie University School of Dentistry in Halifax, Nova Scotia. From 1980 to 1984, Dr. LeMay was a supervising dentist with the Saskatchewan Health Dental Plan and from 1978 to 1980 he was Chief of Public Health Dentistry for the LBJ Tropical Medical Center in American Samoa.

Dr. LeMay received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Marquette University in 1972 and a Masters of Public Health degree from the University of Minnesota in 1980. He was awarded a World Health Organization fellowship to Singapore and Malaysia in 1980 and completed the Public Health Leadership Institute Scholars Program in 1996.

Dr. LeMay has held numerous leadership positions with the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors and is a member of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry.

His professional volunteer activities include technical assistance through the American International Health Alliance to the Republic of Georgia in the former Soviet Union and he has conducted dental sealant clinics in Honduras through Dental Volunteers for Honduras. He has received three Performance Recognition Awards from the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. Dr. LeMay was a recipient of the 2003 Service Award for Dentistry from Marquette University's School of Dentistry. This award is given to an alumnus for outstanding service to the dental community beyond Marquette University. In 2007, Dr. LeMay was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD.) This award is presented annually to a past or present member for significant contributions to ASTDD and to dental public health. Also in 2007, Dr. LeMay received a U.S. Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

Lisa Bell – State Public Health Dental Hygienist

Lisa Bell has been the State Public Health Dental Hygienist since March 2007. Prior to assuming this position she was the founder and Executive Director of the Champaign County Child Dental Access Program, a not-for-profit organization that provides free dental care to low income children in a tri-county area of east central Illinois. Working within that capacity she spearheaded grassroots efforts that brought attention to the access to oral health care issue. Lisa fostered a community collaborative approach to addressing this issue that ultimately brought oral healthcare services to thousands of area children. During her tenure she received numerous awards including the Illinois Rural Health Association's Project of the Year (2004), Illinois Oral Healthcare Leadership Award (2004/05), American Dental Association Community

Preventive Dentistry Leadership Award (2005) and the American Dental Hygienists Clinical Hygienist of the Year (2005).

Lisa has volunteered extensively in her community and held a variety of leadership roles within community based organizations. These organizations include the March of Dimes, Habitat for Humanity, the United Way and One on One Mentoring. She has traveled to Haiti on a dental mission, worked at Ground Zero following the 9/11 tragedy and spent several weeks in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

Lisa received her Associate in Applied Science in Dental Hygiene from Parkland College, IL in 1995, where she finished at the top of her class with a 4.0 GPA. She was awarded Parkland College's Student Leadership and Academics Award as a second year student. She is currently completing her Baccalaureate degree in Dental Hygiene from St. Petersburg University, St. Petersburg, Florida. In September Lisa will be starting the online Masters of Public Health program with an emphasis in oral health through A.T. Still University in Mesa, AZ.