

North Dakota Oral Health Coalition

Formed in 2005, the North Dakota Oral Health Coalition is a chartered, collaborative, statewide coalition comprised of a variety of public and private agencies, organizations and individuals focused on improving the oral health of North Dakotans.

Our Vision

Oral health is an integral part of overall health.

Our Mission

Develop and promote innovative strategies to achieve optimal oral health for all North Dakotans.

Our mission is achieved by:

- Building partnerships.
- Educating the public about the value of good oral health and its impact on overall health.
- Building community capacity to address oral health needs.
- Communicating oral health needs to policy makers and the public.
- Establishing and advocating for public and private policies to improve access to or the delivery of oral health services.
- Implementing prevention interventions.

Guiding Principles for the Coalition

Accountability

Respect

Honesty

Trust

Meetings

Coalition members participate in regular meetings. The full coalition meets every other month and committees meet on the alternate months, with additional meetings scheduled as needed. Coalition members are encouraged to join a committee to be involved in the hands-on work of carrying out the state plan, *Oral Health in North Dakota: Plan for the Future*. If you are interested in joining the coalition or would like additional information, please call 701.328.2356 or 800.472.2286 – press 1 (toll-free in North Dakota).

North Dakota Oral Health Coalition

Key Accomplishments

2008

- ◆ Formed a Policy Committee and developed a policy plan for the 2009 North Dakota Legislative Session.
- ◆ Provided letters of support for the Oral Health Program Infrastructure and Capacity Building Cooperative Agreement application and the Bismarck Ronald McDonald House Charities Healthy Tomorrows Grant Application.
- ◆ Collaborated with the Oral Health Program on the development of a fluoride varnish training manual.
- ◆ Developed work plans for the Prevention, Access, Integration and Policy Committees.
- ◆ Assessed progress on the state oral health plan.
- ◆ Filed Articles of Incorporation for the North Dakota Oral Health Coalition making the coalition a non-profit in North Dakota.
- ◆ Adopted formal bylaws for the North Dakota Oral Health Coalition.

2007

- ◆ Obtained financial support from the Ronald McDonald House Charities to support dental loan repayment for the dentist at Bridging the Dental Gap Clinic in Bismarck. The grant of \$20,000/year is renewable for four years and is dedicated to the support of the pediatric practice of the clinic.
- ◆ Conducted fluoride varnish training in Minot for 45 medical providers.
- ◆ Formed a subcommittee to initiate the process to obtain 501(c)(3) status to support coalition sustainability.
- ◆ Convened a Children's Oral Health Conference with advocates and policy makers to determine policy priorities.
- ◆ Developed a coalition web page.
- ◆ Drafted legislation and advocated for successful passage of House Bill 1293 to expand the application of fluoride varnish for children by medical professionals.
- ◆ Shared the state plan with state policymakers, dentists and stakeholders.
- ◆ Convened strategic planning sessions to prioritize coalition activities and continue implementation of the state plan.
- ◆ Conducted evaluation of coalition membership and efforts.

2006

- ◆ Published the state plan, *Oral Health in North Dakota: Plan for the Future*.
- ◆ Convened an oral health conference to release the state plan and educate key stakeholders and the public about the plan to improve oral health.

2005

- ◆ Developed the coalition charter and bylaws.
- ◆ Hosted multiple planning meetings to gather input for development of the state oral health plan.
- ◆ Advocated for successful passage of HB 1200 to amend the Dental Practice Act to allow dental services to be offered through a board-approved nonprofit organization serving the dental needs of an underserved population.

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The North Dakota Oral Health Coalition Membership

- ◆ Allied Dental Education, North Dakota State College of Science
- ◆ Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health
- ◆ Bismarck Early Childhood Education Program
- ◆ Bridging the Dental Gap, Inc.
- ◆ Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota, School of Medicine and Health Sciences
- ◆ Child and Adolescent Health Services, North Dakota Department of Health
- ◆ Community Action Region VI Head Start
- ◆ Community Health Care Association of the Dakotas
- ◆ Comprehensive Cancer Program, North Dakota Department of Health
- ◆ Custer District Health Unit
- ◆ Dakota Medical Foundation
- ◆ Dacotah Foundation
- ◆ Diabetes Program, North Dakota Department of Health
- ◆ Division of Children's Special Health Services, North Dakota Department of Health
- ◆ Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control, North Dakota Department of Health
- ◆ Early Explorers Early Head Start
- ◆ Fraser Ltd.
- ◆ Grand Forks County Social Services
- ◆ Grand Forks Public Health Department
- ◆ Head Start State Collaboration Office, North Dakota Department of Human Services
- ◆ Health Tracks Program, North Dakota Department of Human Services
- ◆ Healthy North Dakota
- ◆ KAT Productions
- ◆ Medcenter One
- ◆ Medicaid Program, North Dakota Department of Human Services
- ◆ North Dakota Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
- ◆ North Dakota Community Action Association
- ◆ North Dakota Dental Assistants' Association
- ◆ North Dakota Dental Association
- ◆ North Dakota Dental Hygienists' Association
- ◆ North Dakota Long Term Care Association
- ◆ Northern Valley Dental Health Coalition
- ◆ Oral Health Program, North Dakota Department of Health
- ◆ Office of Community Assistance, North Dakota Department of Health
- ◆ Office of Senator Kent Conrad
- ◆ Ransom County Public Health
- ◆ Red River Valley Dental Access Program
- ◆ Ronald McDonald House
- ◆ Southwestern District Health Unit
- ◆ Upper Missouri District Health Unit
- ◆ Valley Community Health Center
- ◆ West River Head Start

The coalition also has many individual members dedicated to improving oral health in North Dakota.