North Dakota Oral Health Coalition

Key Accomplishments

2010

- Worked to implement the change of laws that occurred during the 2009 legislative session, including:
  - Dental hygiene supervision law
  - Dental loan repayment program for safety-net dental clinics and rural dental practices
- Worked in conjunction with the North Dakota Department of Health's Oral Health Program, Bridging the Dental Gap and the Ronald McDonald House Charities Care Mobile project to submit a grant to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). A three-year grant was awarded for approximately $750,000. Grant monies will be split between the three programs, two of which will focus on children's dental services and one of which will focus on helping the elderly with their oral health.
- Conducted two *Seal!North Dakota* events (denatl sealants for children) at the Bridging the Dental Gap safety-net dental clinic in Bismarck.
- Held a priority policy meeting, which included members members of the Oral Health Coalition, along with many other oral health advocates – including representatives from public health, community health centers, dental hygienists, advocacy groups, the state dental and dental hygiene associations and others. Attendees helped to determine the top five priority policies for oral health in North Dakota.
- Provided dental loan repayments for three safety-net dental clinic dentists and three dentists serving in rural areas.
- Conducted a pilot training for the Healthy Smiles Fluoride Varnish program.
- Provided input into the updated five-year burden document and state plan.

2009

- Evaluated Oral Health Coalition structure and function and reorganized into four committee focus areas: access, prevention, policy, and data and evaluation.
- Drafted legislation and advocated for successful passage of five oral health bills. House Bill 1012 increased reimbursement levels for dental providers, House Bill 1231 provided start-up funding for a dental care mobile, House Bill 1176 changed supervision of dental hygienists to allow greater access to oral health screening and preventive services, Senate Bill 2004 increased the appropriation for the Donated Dental Services Program, and Senate Bill 2358 created a dental loan repayment program for dentists serving in public health and nonprofit dental clinics.
- Partnered with Ronald McDonald House Charities to form an advisory committee for the Ronald McDonald Dental Care Mobile Project.

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 nonprofit 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 policymakers 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 House Bill 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.