

VOHC

VERMONT ORAL HEALTH COALITION

May 2016

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Vermont Oral Health Coalition (VOHC) quarterly newsletter. VOHC newsletters provide updates on Coalition activities, and information on oral health issues, news and initiatives in Vermont and across the nation.

VOHC News & Updates

From Your VOHC Steering Committee

VOHC Members,

During the past year we made the decision to focus our collective efforts on strategies where there is common agreement. By rolling up our sleeves and working together we have made great strides towards the achievement of committee objectives. The Community Water Fluoridation Committee was successful in their effort to maintain water fluoridation in Rutland, the MCH Oral Health Committee is well into the process of developing a campaign to promote the National Consensus Statement regarding the safety and importance of oral health during pregnancy, the Medical-Dental Integration Committee successfully launched the From the First Tooth pilot project in Vermont and supported the Bridging the Divide: Medical/Dental Integration conference in November 2015, and the EFDA Committee developed a survey to get a better understanding of the EFDA landscape.

*This month Governor Peter Shumlin is expected to sign the **dental therapist bill (S.20)** into law. I know that we will continue to work together productively as the subject of dental therapists enters into the conversation*

about how to realize our vision of an oral health system that allows all Vermonters to achieve and sustain optimal oral health, contributing to their ability to lead healthy lives, and our mission to improve and promote optimal oral health for all Vermonters. We agree on where to go- let's continue to work together to reach our goals.

We look forward to seeing you all at our annual summit on August 9th from 12-4 where we will learn about the progress of the four committees and make decisions about our work for the upcoming program year (starting September 1 2016). We hope that you enjoy this edition of the VOHC newsletter.

*The VOHC Steering Committee
(Robin Miller, Debora Teixeira, Chuck Bookwalter, Liz Cote, and Clark Eaton)*

VOHC Annual Meeting

Save the date! The VOHC's annual meeting is scheduled for **August 9, 2016**. We'll start by providing lunch, followed by VOHC member and committee updates, and strategic planning to identify VOHC priorities and objectives for 2016/2017. Guest speaker Dr. Robin Jenkins will facilitate discussion and setting strategic direction for the VOHC.

This **in-person** meeting will be held at the Vermont Department of Health in Burlington from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. There will be no WebEx or call-in option. We hope you can join us for this important networking and planning opportunity.

VOHC ~ Improving & Promoting Optimal Oral Health for All Vermonters

To learn more visit the VOHC website, www.vtoralhealthcoalition.com, or contact a committee chair:

- **Maternal and Child Oral Health** – Chairperson: Robin Miller, robin.n.miller@vermont.gov
- **Expanded Functions Dental Auxiliary (EFDA)** – Chairpersons: Clark Eaton, clark.eaton@vermont.gov; Debora Teixeira, debora.teixeira@vermont.gov
- **Medical / Dental Integration** – Chairperson: Liz Cote, elizabeth.cote@uvm.edu
- **Community Water Fluoridation** – Chairperson: Chuck Bookwalter, book@timberlanedental.com

Committee Updates

Community Water Fluoridation (CWF)

The CWF Committee's objective for the 2015/2016 work plan year is to maintain CWF in Rutland. The Committee is thrilled to report a successful outcome from the Rutland city vote in March 2016 to continue adding fluoride to municipal water. Maintaining community water fluoridation in Rutland is a cornerstone to oral health in that area. The CWF Committee thanks all of the community members for their commitment to speaking out for fluoridation, and extends a special thanks to the Vermont State Dental Society and American Dental Association for the community support and financial backing to make for a successful campaign.

Moving forward, the CWF Committee will work to maintain a positive reminder of the benefits of CWF via legislation, dental offices, letters, and district health offices. The Committee will also investigate the potential for expanding CWF throughout the state.

Expanded Functions Dental Auxiliary

The EFDA Committee works to promote increased utilization of EFDAs by: [1] gathering data to better understand the EFDA landscape in Vermont, [2] disseminating an informational video on EFDAs, and [3] promoting enrollment into a pre-requisite class for the EFDA program.

Over the past several months the Committee has: further developed and refined a survey to be administered through the Vermont Dental Assistants Association to EFDAs to assess their experiences working in Vermont; disseminated the EFDA video, now available on several websites including the VOHC, Vermont State Dental Society, and the Vermont Dental Assistants Association; and continued to promote enrollment in the Center for Technology's tooth morphology class.

The Committee continues to strategize opportunities and activities for promoting the role and use of EFDAs within Vermont's dental landscape. The Committee's efforts will be guided by a recently developed action plan defining specific activities for disseminating information and messaging on EFDAs to cultivate interest within dental practices throughout the state.

MCH Oral Health

The MCH Oral Health Committee is: [1] supporting "age one" training for dental teams hosted by 11 of the Vermont Department of Health district offices; [2] updating and disseminating an endorsement letter on the importance and safety of oral health care during pregnancy; and [3] working with dental practices in areas of the state with high need to facilitate access to dental care for children insured by Medicaid, starting at age one.

The Committee has a strong group of committed members. Over the past several months the Committee has:

- Supported an "age one" training in four regions with three scheduled for the spring and summer (see more on these trainings on page 3);
- Worked with HMC Advertising to obtain Committee member input to the endorsement letter that supports the national consensus statement and are now developing a draft; and
- Completed the provider survey, compiled and presented the results, and are now in the process of defining high need target areas based on the survey findings.

Medical/Dental Integration

The Medical/Dental Integration Committee is working to foster better communication, coordination, and collaboration across medical and dental health care providers in an effort to enhance care and improve health.

Over the past several months the Committee has continued their work on this front, including development of a workshop brief on the 2015 *Bridging the Divide: Medical and Dental Conference*. This conference was attended by 89 medical, dental, and public health professionals who participated in an interactive workshop to identify leverage points for collaboration to enhance patient care and improve health. The brief, available on the [VOHC website](#), defines priority opportunities for medical/dental collaboration in Vermont.

For more information on VOHC committee work and activities, visit the VOHC website to access previous meeting minutes.

Oral Health Around the State

Manor Nursing Home

The Manor receives ADA Foundation Semi-annual Grant Fund! The Manor, a nursing home in Morrisville, Vermont, was awarded a \$5000 educational grant from the ADA Foundation Semi-Annual Grant Fund Program to expand their oral health educational training program for their staff. Through this training program The Manor works closely with staff and families to promote the need, value and acceptance of proper mouth care along with professional dental care services to improve overall health. Trainings will be evaluated according to health improvements among the residents such as: increase in appetite, reduction of respiratory and dental infections, health improvements with diabetics, proper mouth care, and increase family participation in awareness of the value of good oral health related to systemic health outcomes.

In 2015, The Manor began delivering onsite dental preventive care services for their residents through a community partnership with their local Federally Qualified Health Center dental clinic. This has been very successful and widely accepted by families, the residents and staff.

Training to Promote Preventive Dental Care Services for Children Age 1

The American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends children begin seeing the dentist when the first tooth appears, or no later than their first birthday.

Vermont's Public Health Dental Hygienists (PHDH) from the Local District Health Department offices are offering a training for dental offices to see children beginning at age one to help reduce early childhood caries. It is always a good idea to meet the dentist before a problem occurs!

This training provides dental hygienists and dentists the necessary tools to be comfortable and successful in delivering preventive care services for children at one year of age. The training is designed to help dentists and hygienists:

- Understand why the age one dental visit is important,
- Understand their role in providing preventive services for the one year old,
- Identify key high caries risk behaviors for this population,
- Identify and address dental office barriers to increase access for this population, and
- Implement the training, education and dental services coding within their offices in an effort to promote age one dental visits.

This training is offering 3 CEUs for completion of the course. Trainings have been offered in Middlebury, Morrisville, Newport and St. Albans, to date, and are scheduled in Bennington and Brattleboro. For more information on future trainings, contact Linda Greaves at the Vermont Department of Health at Linda.Greaves@vermont.gov.

2016 Adult Dental Care Day

Adult Dental Care Day for Windham County residents was held on May 7th. This was the 6th year the local oral surgery practice and area dental professionals have made their services available for free. Dental procedures provided included x-rays, cleanings, fillings, and extractions. A Community Health Team nurse was available to educate on related health issues - diet and nutrition, diabetes and smoking cessation.

Adult Dental Care Day is made possible by contributions from partners, including the United Way of Windham County, and collaboration of the local dental community.

Vermont MCH Oral Health Data Brief

The Vermont Department of Health's Division of Maternal and Child Health recently collaborated with the Office of Oral Health to develop a data brief on access to preventive oral health care among pregnant women and children in Vermont. The data brief, available on the [VOHC website](#), indicates that:

- 55% of Vermont women had a preventive dental care visit during pregnancy in 2012. Vermont women who received WIC, were insured by Medicaid, were 30 years of age or older, or had lower levels of education were less likely to have had a preventive dental care visit during pregnancy.
- 88% of Vermont children age 1 – 17 have had a preventive dental visit in the past year, per 2011/2012 data, exceeding the national rate of 77%.

Oral Health Resources of Interest

Listed below is a selection of resources identified by VOHC members for VOHC members. Take a look. These resources along with several others are available on the VOHC website at www.vtoralhealthcoalition.com

- **End Cavities**, developed by the Children's Dental Health Project and available at www.endcavities.org, provides resources for policymakers, health professionals and advocates to help create a new coordinated system of care to prevent early childhood caries among those at highest risk for tooth decay.
- **Integration Toolkit: Integrating Oral and Overall Health**, provided by the Virginia Oral Health Coalition and available [here](#), offers information on the core components of integration, and resources and examples on integrating oral health with medical, behavioral health, pharmacy, and social support services.
- **Integrating Oral Health and Primary Care Training** webinar conducted by HRSA in April 2016 and available [here](#), provides information on clinical tools to aid oral health and primary care integration.
- **Cultural Competency Program for Oral Health Professionals** is an e-learning program available [here](#) that provides oral health professionals (e.g., dental assistants, dental hygienists, dentists) with basic knowledge and skills related to cultural and linguistic competency, based on the HHS Office of Minority Health's *National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care*.
- **Public Health 101**, provided by the CDC and available at <http://www.cdc.gov/publichealth101>, is a set of courses that provide an introduction to public health and cover the sciences essential to public health practice. This includes epidemiology, public health informatics and surveillance, health economics, and public health laboratory science. The series is designed for public health professionals who have not had formal training in a particular core area or who would like a refresher, persons new to public health, public health educators and instructors, persons interested in pursuing public health careers.