



January 2016

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

VOHC News & Updates

VOHC Mid-Year Meeting -- 2.19.16

Save the date! The VOHC's mid-year meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2016. This meeting is an opportunity for VOHC members to come together to share updates on committee work; discuss challenges in facilitating committee work; and identify strategies, partners, and next steps to support efforts to achieve the VOHC objectives.

The Mid-Year Meeting agenda includes discussion time for each committee, with guest speakers Dr. Chuck Seleen and Kathy DeLucco (EFDA committee) and Sherry Thornburg (Medical/Dental Integration committee). VOHC members

will also share updates on their programs' work to promote oral health or other oral health related issues or happenings in Vermont.

Please come prepared to share. We look forward to a lively and informative discussion. The meeting will be held at the Vermont Department of Health in Burlington from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Participation by WebEx will be offered.

VOHC Website

With funding support from the Vermont Department of Health, Office of Oral Health, the VOHC has launched a new website. Providing a basic online presence, the website includes a brief overview of the VOHC mission, committee structure, annual objectives, and member listing. You will also find a listing of upcoming VOHC meetings, archived meeting minutes, and newsletters on the website.

You can access the website at www.vtoralhealthcoalition.com. To have additional information, upcoming meetings, or resources included on the website please contact Fonda Ripley at fripley@jsi.com

VOHC ~ Improving & Promoting Optimal Oral Health for All Vermonters

To learn more about VOHC initiatives contact the chairperson of the committee of interest:

- **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

MCH Oral Health

The MCH Oral Health committee is: [1] supporting “age one” training for dental teams in all 12 of the Vermont Department of Health district offices; [2] updating a consensus statement 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.

Over the past several months the committee has:

- Supported an “age one” training in one district office with more scheduled for the spring,
- Worked with HMC Advertising to develop an oral health care during pregnancy consensus statement, and
- Developed and are administering a survey to dental practices within the 12 district office areas.

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:

- Worked with the UVM Office of Primary Care to coordinate and host *Bridging the Divide: Medical and Dental Conference*. This conference was held in November 2015 in Essex, Vermont, and was well attended by medical, dental, and public health professionals from across the state.

- Worked with the UVM Office of Primary Care to coordinate trainings to primary care providers throughout the state. Currently, *From the First Tooth* trainings are underway. The training consists of one-hour, interactive visits between a practice’s clinical and administrative staff and a physician or dental hygienist trainer.
- Worked with the UVM College of Medicine and the Vermont Department of Health to coordinate the upcoming education session *Why Oral Health Matters in Overall Health* for medical students. The education session will be held on February 10, 2016.

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:

- Developed surveys to query dentists and dental practices on their interest in utilizing EFDAs, and EFDAs on their experiences working in Vermont.
- Reviewed EFDA workforce data, including the total number of qualified EFDAs in the state and where they are working.
- Promoted enrollment in the June 2016 EFDA professional development class held at the Center for Technology in Essex, Vermont. Scholarship and financial support opportunities are available.

Oral Health Around the State

Bennington Oral Health Coalition

The Bennington Oral Health Coalition (BOHC) works to improve oral health in their region by promoting access to dental care and community water fluoridation.

The BOHC recently celebrated the re-installation of dental services at Mt. Anthony Union Middle School (MAUMS) as of January 12, 2016. Dental hygiene services will be provided to students by a registered dental hygienist under the supervision of Dr. Tyler Carmack. Students without a dentist in need of additional dental services will be eligible to receive them from Dr. Carmack.



From Left to Right: Select Board Chair Thomas Jacobs, Dr. Elizabeth Carmack, Dr. Tyler Carmack and Principal Tim Payne at the ribbon cutting event to celebrate dental hygiene services at MAUMS. Photo courtesy of the BOHC.

Oral Health Around the Nation

The Oral Health Care System: A State-by-State Analysis

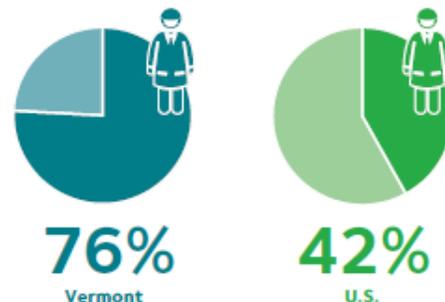
The American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute has released [at-a-glance reports](#) on an array of oral health indicators for each state. Topics include dental care utilization, oral health status, fluoridation rates, reimbursement rates, and percentage of dentists who participate in Medicaid.

Highlights for Vermont include:

- 66% of adults had a dental visit in the past 12 months vs. 59% nationally.
- 56% of Vermont's population is on community water systems that receive fluoridated water.
- 76% of Vermont's dentists participate in Medicaid for child dental services vs. 42% nationally.

For more information click [here](#).

Percentage of Dentists Participating in Medicaid for Child Dental Services in 2014



Upcoming Webinar Oral Health — An Essential Component of Primary Care

The American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Oral Health is hosting a webinar to review the framework outlined in the Qualis Health White Paper, [Oral Health – An Essential Component of Primary Care](#). The webinar will describe the framework and share early learnings from work field-testing this concept. The Webinar will take place on **Thursday, February 25, 2015** at 3:00. [Register now!](#)

February is National Children's Dental Health Month

For tips and resources on how to help students brush up on good oral health habits, check out the [National Education Association's listing](#) of dental health and literacy resources.