



August 2017

Welcome to the ninth 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

VOHC Annual Meeting

The VOHC's 2017 Annual Meeting was a success! More than 25 individuals convened on August 3rd at the Vermont Department of Health to share information on oral health-related initiatives across the state, review new oral health surveillance data, and provide updates on VOHC subcommittee annual objectives and activities. The meeting culminated in a strategic planning session to set the Coalition's agenda for the coming project year (September 2017 – August 2018).

2017 – 2018 VOHC Subcommittees

Considering past VOHC achievements, outstanding oral health need and burden throughout the state, opportunity for subcommittee work, and capacity of the coalition, Annual Meeting participants agreed to focus on three subcommittee areas plus one ad hoc subcommittee to be activated as needed.

Going forward in 2017/2018:

- 1) the **Dental Workforce subcommittee** will continue with four subgroups: Recruitment, Promoting EFDA's, Dental Therapists, and Dental Hygienist Recruitment, which replaces Promoting Dental Hygienists as Medicaid Providers.
- 2) the **MCH Oral Health subcommittee** will continue with a focus on promoting implementation and use of the healthy food and beverages toolkit, promoting inter-professional collaboration, promoting silver diamine and fluoride varnish application, and promoting the updated dental periodicity schedules.
- 3) the **Alternative Practice Setting subcommittee** will be established with a focus on improving access through place-based care. Work will include promoting alternative settings serving to link patients to dental care and dental homes, developing an inventory of available dental care services, and focusing on dental care for people with disabilities, the elderly, and those dependent on opioids.
- 4) The **ad hoc Fluoride subcommittee**, expanded in scope from the Community Water Fluoridation subcommittee, will convene as needed.

VOHC—Improving & Promoting Optimal Oral Health for All Vermonters

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

- Dental Workforce - Chairperson: Debora Teixeira, Debora.teixeira@vermont.gov
- Maternal and Child Oral Health—Chairperson: Robin Miller, robin.n.miller@vermont.gov
- Alternative Practice Setting—Chairpersons: Heather Blair, hblairvdha@gmail.com; and Adrienne Sass, adrienne.sass@ohfvt.org
- Ad Hoc Fluoridation—Chairpersons: Marty Hammond, mhammond@svahec.org; and David Neumeister,

The VOHC subcommittees for the 2017/2018 year and their respective chairs and goals are as follows:

Dental Workforce Subcommittee

- **Goal:** Promote and expand a trained and geographically distributed dental workforce in Vermont to increase access and utilization of care.
- **Chair:** Debora Teixeira
- **Subgroups:**
 - **Recruitment:** Led by Jenny Pitz & Chuck Seleen
 - **Promoting EFDAs:** Led by Kathy DeLuco & Chuck Seleen
 - **Dental Therapists:** Led by Michelle Fay & Ellen Grimes
 - **Dental Hygienists Recruitment:** Led by Heather Blair & Ellen Grimes

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Oral Health Subcommittee

- **Goal:** Promote oral health and reduce oral disease for women and children in Vermont.
- **Chair:** Robin Miller

Alternative Practice Settings Subcommittee

- **Goal:** Improve access to dental care through place-based care (to be refined by subcommittee).
- **Chair:** Heather Blair and Adrienne Sass

Ad Hoc Fluoridation Subcommittee

- **Goal:** Maintain and expand community water fluoridation in Vermont.
- **Chair:** Marty Hammond and David Neumeister

Oral Health Resources — Annual Meeting

Below is a selection of resources provided at the VOHC annual meeting. These resources along with others are available on the [VOHC website](#).

- [Applying Fluoride Varnish in a Pediatric Practice Setting](#)
- [2018 EFDA Training Opportunities](#)

Annual objectives for each subcommittee will be defined in upcoming subcommittee meetings. As the VOHC embarks on the 2017/2018 project year, be sure to participate in the subcommittee work. You can reach out directly to subcommittee chairs to express interest in being involved or reach out to the VOHC coordinators, Fonda Ripley (fripley@jsi.com) and Anna Ghosh (aghosh@jsi.com).

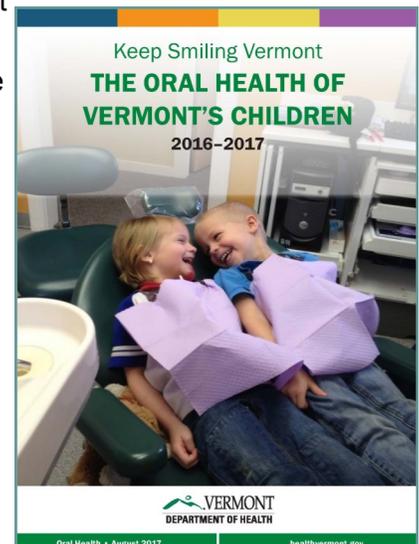
Oral Health Around the State

Keep Smiling Vermont, 2016-2017

Hot off the press! [The 2016-2017 oral health survey of Vermont children report](#) is now available on the

Vermont Department of Health's website.

For the first time, the survey captured information about sugar sweetened beverage consumption. It contains key findings and strategies pertaining to children's oral health. Refer to the report for the latest information on the oral health status of children in Vermont.



Infection Control Workgroup Formed

Representatives from several agencies and organizations have come together to promote infection control in dental practice settings in Vermont. This workgroup includes the Health Department's Office of Oral Health, Vermont State Dental Society, Vermont Dental Assistants' Association, and Vermont Dental Hygienists' Association, and is supported by the Health Department's Infectious Diseases program and the [Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention](#).

Continued on page 3

Goals include promoting the CDC's [Infection Prevention and Control in Dental Settings](#) guidelines and increasing dental practice participation in the [Health Alert Network \(HAN\)](#).

The HAN is coordinated by the Vermont Department of Health; the Health Department sends health alerts to community members, visitors and health care providers so they can stay up to date on health concerns in our area. Alerts can include information about an infectious disease outbreak, a natural disaster, an environmental contamination or other situation which threatens public health.

Dental Workforce Subcommittee Accomplishes Goal!



Dental assisting students with two representatives from Northeast Delta Dental.

The Dental Workforce Subcommittee working to promote EFDA's in Vermont has been successful in increasing the number of certified dental assistants in Vermont, a prerequisite for enrolling in the EFDA course.

The subcommittee wrote a grant asking Northeast Delta Dental for \$5,000 to help offset the cost of the Dental Assisting National Board exam for student graduates of the CTE Dental Assisting Program. While many of the graduates from the program are qualified to take the exam, they do not pursue certification due to the cost.

Two dental assisting students will be recipients of the grant money this year. They have expressed that if they did not receive this opportunity, they would probably delay taking the exam right after graduation and wait until they had the funds. We find that if the graduates wait, they tend to not take the exam at all. Life gets in the way!

New Initiative: 3-4-50

[3-4-50](#) is the Health Department's new initiative to promote the importance of chronic disease. **Three** behaviors (lack of physical activity, poor diet, and tobacco use) lead to **four** chronic diseases (cancer, heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes, and lung disease) that are the cause over **50%** of deaths in Vermont.

Although not directly mentioned in this campaign, oral health has obvious connections:

- good oral health is needed to be able to eat nutritious food,
- oral health care providers refer patients who use tobacco to [802Quits](#) and do oral cancer screenings,
- oral health relates to the ability to manage diabetes, and may affect a person's risk for heart disease or stroke.

The Health Department has developed 3-4-50/Oral Health information sheets to help connect oral health to this campaign. They show that Vermonters who use tobacco, are obese or have a chronic disease are more likely to have [tooth loss](#) and are also less likely to [visit the dentist](#). Please feel free to disseminate this information to anyone who may be interested; if you are interested in including this information in other newsletters, please reach out to Robin Miller at robin.n.miller@vermont.gov.



Connection with Dental Care included in Morrisville ER Project

The Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley (CHSLV) Community Health Team in collaboration with Copley Hospital has hired Dominique Couture to work at Copley Hospital's emergency department. Dominique meets with individuals who have been admitted to the emergency department to address concerns, such as insurance coverage, medical care, **dental care**, lack of transportation, and help with prescriptions. The objective is to work with people who use the emergency department for primary care to address barriers patients may be experiencing in the health care system. If some of these barriers can be eliminated, it may reduce unnecessary emergency department use, ultimately lowering health care costs and improving quality of life.

Dominique will not be seeing everyone admitted to the emergency department; instead, the intake process will trigger a referral. Dominique's background in social work, her previous experience is with Department for Children and Families in Morrisville, and her familiarity with the community make her a perfect fit for this role. The Office of Local Health, Public Health Dental Hygienist in Morrisville (Linda Greaves) has teamed up with Dominique to help individuals obtain dental care.

SDF/SMART Workshop

Save the date! The Vermont Office of Oral Health is coordinating a learning opportunity on Silver Diamine Fluoride ([SDF](#)) and the Silver-Modified Atraumatic Restorative Technique ([SMART](#)).

- [SDF](#) is a colorless liquid containing silver particles and fluoride ions that has been used extensively outside the United States for many years for caries control. SDF arrests active carious lesions painlessly and without local anesthetic, avoiding or delaying traditional surgical removal of caries. It is the first dental product ever granted "Breakthrough Therapy" status by the FDA for use in arresting cavities in children and adults.
- [SMART](#) is a technique to halt decay and seal

teeth in a single appointment, using two products: SDF and glass ionomer cement as a sealant or protective filling. The glass ionomer cuts off the "food supply" to any surviving bacteria and protects the tooth. This technique is useful particularly when dealing with a patient population that may have trouble managing multiple appointments and lacks regular access to care.

This event is not limited to dental health providers; medical practitioners, public health professionals, and policy makers are also invited to attend.

The event will take place on **Friday, October 27th from 8:30AM-3:30PM** at the North End Studio A, 294 North Winooski Avenue, Burlington. The morning session will include a general overview of SDF/SMART and Medical Management of Caries. The afternoon session will consist of clinical approaches. Attendees are welcome to stay for the morning session only, but those seeking dental continuing education must stay for the whole day.

If you would like to attend, please fill out this [online registration form](#). For questions, please reach out to Kristina Kiarsis at kristina.kiarsis@vermont.gov or 802-865-7747.

Oral Health in the News

The Nation's Oral Health Inequities: Who Cares...

The American Journal of Public Health provided a supplemental issue to remind community members, multidisciplinary practitioners, and policymakers of the oral health inequities extant in our population.

This special issue, through scholarly articles addressing oral health inequities, vulnerable populations (e.g., the incarcerated and elderly), provider diversity, policy development, public health practice, and research—embraces a belief that protection of the public's health must include access to affordable and preventive oral health care services for everyone.

[The supplemental issue is available online.](#)