

Oral Health Coalition of Alabama (OHCA)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2017

Members Present:

Dr. Richard Simpson, OHCA chair – Private Pediatric Dentist
Jeff Blancett (substitute for Lynn Beshear) – Envision 2020
Sherry Goode – ADPH Oral Health
Summer Gagnon - ADPH Oral Health
Kaye Melnick – ADPH ALL Kids
Dr. Conan Davis – UAB School of Dentistry (on phone)

Minutes/Approvals:

Dr. Simpson welcomed everyone and asked for previous meeting minute's approval as presented. The minutes were accepted and approved.

Old Business:

Dr. Simpson reminded members of the State of Decay Report, which ranked Alabama 50/50, the lowest in the nation. There are things that OHCA could have an impact on include; the survey conducted by CDC on edentulism in the state; and Medicaid adult dental coverage/ access to care. The factors OHCA could affect include supporting a BSS survey for seniors and developing a State Oral Health Plan. Dr. Simpson commented that we received a great report on the basic screening survey for elderly care, which was conducted through UAB and funded by the Association of Retired Citizens. He also stated UAB has incorporated guidelines for the BSS survey, which obtain screening information on a repeated basis, and for the data to qualify as a statewide survey with represented samples.

Dr. Simpson reported that Alabama's fluoridation status continues to be highly ranked nationally based on percentage of population receiving fluoridated water. He reported that OHCA will continue to work hard to keep community water fluoridation levels high.

Dr. Conan Davis reported information regarding the Basic Screening Survey. His comments were:

- Data is still being gathered in Birmingham and a few surrounding counties; however, the data has not been analyzed yet.
- Dr. Mitchell scheduled a meeting the Commissioner of the Association of Retired Citizens regarding continuation of their grant.
- The UAB Seniors BSS should coordinate with statewide screening activity through the Alabama Department of Public Health's statewide BSS for third graders.
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Dr. Simpson asked Sherry Goode if a joint BSS project was possible with ADPH. Sherry commented that screenings for third graders will be included in the upcoming budget, but she could not state that the statewide survey would definitely take place due to the Dental Director position still being vacant. She also commented that all current activity provided, in conjunction with the pediatric dental residents, is through a grant that her office has with UAB. She advised that ADPH continues to be committed to collaborating with UAB to provide the BSS screenings for Alabama seniors as soon as possible.

Dr. Simpson asked Sherry to comment on the fluoridation bill. Sherry stated the ADPH legislative team finalized a format for the bill making all requested changes. One group opposed a section of the bill by

requesting removal of the section that stipulated fluoridating systems would be required to give public notice of a discontinuation, or removal of fluoride. The groups' main opposition was that this would be an unfunded mandate for the systems. The bill was changed and the oral health staff has reached out to them numerous times for their final approval, but has been unsuccessful in contacting their attorney. Regardless, the ADPH legislative team will move forward to introduce the bill during the next legislative session.

Dr. Davis questioned Sherry on the procedure in place when a community is no longer fluoridating. Sherry commented, when the ADPH oral health staff is notified, the staff follows up with the water system to schedule a visit to meet with their water board or city council. If a reply, a meeting is scheduled. There have been instances when the water system does not reply and does not allow a meeting to discuss the benefits of fluoridation. Dr. Davis questioned if notification of discontinuation is given to customers and local dentists. Sherry replied, in the past, ADPH has notified local dentist and community leaders, and most responses are based on interest from the community and resources available through the state office.

Dr. Simpson asked Dr. Davis to give an update on the Dentistry Cares Day scheduled for November 15, 2017 at the Dental School. Dr. Davis stated, they are working with the Cahaba Valley Healthcare Clinic on scheduling patients who have low income and are seeking dental care. They are also working with the backlog of patients from Cahaba Valley Healthcare. He also reported that the Alabama Dental Association passed a resolution in favor of allowing local dentists, who want to participate, but cannot come to the school on that day, to participate by seeing patients at their offices. Dr. Simpson stated there would be a reporting system in place indicating a final summary of patients seen.

Dr. Simpson also mentioned Edwina Taylor's idea in reference to the 15 free clinics throughout the state that have a health clinic but do not provide dental services. He stated there was a strong need for access for underserved adults needing oral health care. Edwina's idea was to identify the clinics (among the 15 free clinics) that did not have a dental clinic on site and try to establish dental clinics at the needed sites. She felt through community outreach and local volunteer dentists these free clinics could add dental services to increase access and develop relationships with patients for follow up care. Per Dr. Simpson we could have this idea as part of the State Oral Health plan and have the free health clinics work with the state and Federally Qualified Health Care Centers to increase adult access to care.

Dr. Simpson informed the committee Lynn Beshear has been appointed by Governor Kay Ivey to become the new State Mental Health Commissioner. He congratulated Lynn on this accomplishment.

Dr. Simpson asked Zack Studstill to give an update regarding the River Region ER referral program. Zach reported the program has been ongoing for a year and has seen some success. He reported that some hospitals have experienced a decrease in cost for patients in the ER requesting dental care due to the referral program. He also reported the joint medical/dental charity clinic is willing to sponsor \$30,000.00 to sponsor the program another year; however, the hospitals would need to match that amount, and so far they have not agreed to do so. They would need additional patient data to support funding the program on an ongoing basis.

Zach also reported on another program that was parallel to the River Region Program called Pay It Forward, led by Dr. Art Steinaker. It was created by dentists in Montgomery to provide free basic dental

care to patients in exchange for community service. The program is a win-win all around program for the patients needing care and for the community served.

New Business:

Dr. Simpson reported that Summer Gagnon would provide an update and presentation at the OHCA meeting about progress with our webpage and Face book. She will review and seek suggestions from members. Dr. Simpson suggested for the next meeting he would like to see a list of active members and links to their logos on the website. He also stated he would like to see links to the American Dental Association, the American Academy Pediatric Dentistry and other organizations that promote good oral health as well as provide resources for those seeking dental services. Dr. Simpson asked if a member could upload information on the Face book page. Summer responded that changes to the web sites are only be made by an administrator with authority to make changes.

Dr. Simpson asked Zach to give a Medicaid dental update. He reported the following:

- Alabama Medicaid has remained a fee-for-service program even though the legislature has considered moving it under a managed care system for several years. The Medicaid dental program has successfully operated on a minimum budget during the past few years, while still being highly recognized nationally.
- During 2017, plans made the state put out an RFP for managed care organizations to compete in providing administration of the Medicaid dental program. An ALDA advisory committee was able to meet with the governor and share concerns about the impact that managed care would have on the state dental program. .
- The governor decided to take a dual track in determining the future of the dental program. She agreed to allow the RFP to manage care organizations. She also agreed to meet with the ALDA advisory committee to consider the potential cost savings to the dental program and future recommendations.

Dr. Simpson informed the committee of the Brush, Book & Bed program that developed collaboratively by the American Academy Pediatrics and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Grant Allen of Florence participated in the program for Alabama. The focus of the program is tri-fold: to establish a family routine of reading nightly to children, to incorporate brushing nightly, and to get young children referred into Dental Homes through pediatric offices. Dr. Simpson has spoken with DentaQuest, in hopes a grant will provided multiple pediatric offices the opportunity to participate in the program during the next year. Dr. Simpson would like for OHCA and ADPH/Oral Health Office to provide some financial support or material support, to indicate collaboration. He stated he would contact OHCA Executive Committee members via email for votes or information regarding this request.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Dr. Richard Simpson, Chair

Linda Haigler, Recorder