

Oral Health Coalition of Alabama (OHCA)
Meeting Minutes
Alabama Department of Rehabilitative Services
560 South Lawrence Street
Montgomery, Alabama
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
Robert Meador, Retired Dentist
Sonia Cleckler, Children Rehabilitation Services
Linda Lee, Academy of Pediatrics
Kaye Melnick, All Kids
Rob Boyles, ADPH Primary Care and Rural Health
Zach Studstill, Alabama Dental Association
Christine King, Sarrell Dental/DentaQuest
Jessica Hardy, ADPH Women's Health
Dasel Marshall, East Coast Migrant Head Start
Marva Guerrero, East Coast Migrant Head Start
Lillian Mitchell, UAB School of Dentistry
Beth Huckabee, Alabama Medicaid (phone)
Stuart Lockwood, Retired Dentist (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 started with reviewing the initial goals of the coalition and stating goals for next summer.

- The coalition has adopted a mission statement, vision statement and guiding principles.
- A new membership application created for individuals interested in joining the coalition. An updated application for current members was also completed.
- Thanks to Dr. Simpson's predecessor, DentaQuest received a \$10,000 grant.
- OHCA is now collaborating with the Campaign for Dental Health and Oral Health America.
- A plan initiated to move Alabama from the bottom of the State of Decay report.
- Progress on a Basic Screen Survey for seniors will expand from the Birmingham area to other geographic areas of the state.
- OHCA is moving forward to develop a State Oral Health Plan, beginning with setting priorities and achieving goals.

- There are steps being implemented toward the completion of an OHCA website and updating its Face Book Page to make it more captivating.
- OHCA will support the continuation of the River Region ER Referral Program for another 6-12 months and promote implementing it statewide for improved dental access.
- OHCA will continue to support the Pay It Forward project for underserved citizens.
- The coalition will seek to utilize the 15 Free Health Clinics by collaborating with ALDA's Dental Districts, to add dental clinics to the free clinics and improve dental access for uninsured adults statewide.
- Through a grant opportunity, work to expand programs like the Brush, Book, Bed program link pediatricians with dentists in promoting dental homes for young children.
- OHCA will strive to increase active participation of membership and build on the small successes.

Dr. Simpson summarized discussions from the Executive Committee, which included:

- Alabama ranked 50th of all states in the State of Decay Report.
- Of the 5 focus areas, there are 3 areas where OHCA can help provide an impact and 2 areas where we cannot. These areas include a change to Medicaid's lack of adult dental benefits and CDC's BRFSS (survey for edentulism). OHCA can have an impact on improving the percentage of population on fluoridated water by developing a State Oral Health Plan and implementing a statewide BSS for seniors.
- Dr. Lillian Mitchell provided a report on the BSS for seniors, and provided an update to OHCA members. Dr. Simpson reminded everyone the BSS was conducted through UAB, and funded by the Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS)

Dr. Mitchell reported the following:

- UAB is using a national BSS tool developed by ASTDD to collect data based on state-specific needed information.
- Currently, the UAB students are surveying seniors in the Birmingham and surrounding areas, and plan to expand the BSS in other geographic areas.
- Dr. Mitchell's biggest concern is continuation of funding from the ADSS for next year. She will meet with the Commissioner to determine funding status. She feels, based on their surveys, access for seniors is not the issue but the cost of dental care.

Dr. Simpson asked if information collected would count as a statewide survey. Dr. Mitchell advised that currently ADSS is determining what area they can survey seniors, and data will be collected from all of the metro areas as well as rural communities. The recommendation was for the UABSOD to collaborate with ADPH to expand the senior survey into additional areas of the state. The ADPH plans to implement a statewide survey on third graders during the next year, and collect senior oral health data as well. The UAB BSS will not qualify as a statewide survey until it has expanded into more communities statewide.

Dr. Simpson reported on OHCA's plan to partner with ADPH and others to develop a new State Oral Health Plan (SOHP). He stated that Dr. Conan Davis, UAB School of Dentistry, sent him a survey that was completed by the Michigan Oral Health Coalition where they survey their membership to prioritize what they would like included in SOHP and rank these items by their

ability to accomplish the goals. Dr. Simpson plans to correspond with the Executive Committee to develop a survey more pertinent for our state and seek input from ALDA and other organizations. The survey given to coalition members and ADPH, with results, will be used to draft a SOHP.

Dr. Simpson asked Sherry Goode to give an update on the fluoridation bill. Sherry stated the Alabama Department of Public Health legislative team developed a final draft of the fluoridation bill by making all requested changes. The Alabama Association of County Commissions (AACC) asked that a section be removed that would require public notice of a discontinuation or removal of fluoride. AACC felt this would be an unfunded mandate and a burden for small, rural water systems. Sherry stated that once ADPH introduces the bill, advocates would be asked for a letter of support. It is expected the bill will be introduced in the next legislative session.

Dr. Simpson asked Dr. Conan Davis to update the committee on the dental school's Dentistry Care Day. It is, Wednesday, November 15, 2017. They will partner with the AL Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, the College of Dentistry, American and International College of Dentists and others in passing a resolution that encourages dentists statewide to provide services in their dental offices on that day or close that date to support this charitable event. Dr. Davis reported that UAB continues to work with Cahaba Valley to serve some of their referrals as part of the event.

Dr. Simpson reported on Edwina Taylor's project idea of improving access to dental care for the elderly and indigent adult populations. The Alabama Association of Free Clinics exist, with 15 free health clinics located throughout the state. A few of these have dental clinics on site such as the Good Samaritan Clinic in Tuscaloosa and Huntsville. Edwina's initial thought was to collaborate and pursue significant funding for all of these free health clinics to provide dental care. This would include identifying the location of each clinic, which ones have dental services, coordinating with Districts of the Alabama Dental Association and partners to identify resources and volunteers to serve in the clinics. The process would include contacting those clinics that do have dental services to obtain recommendations on how to pursue donations of time, services, and equipment to get more dental clinics opened in the free health clinics.

Dr. Simpson congratulated Lynn Beshear on her selection by the Governor to be Commissioner for Mental Health. He reported that she has been a strong oral health advocate for many years and has now sent Mr. Jeff Blancett as her replacement on OHCA.

Mr. Blancett provided an update on the River Region ER Referral and Pay It Forward Projects. He commented on the ER Referral Project, which was a pilot program initiated last summer in Montgomery area hospitals. The hospitals funded the project and through their case management program, referred patients with dental pain to FQHC dental clinics in Montgomery for care. The Joint Public Charity hospital agreed to continue funding the program by donating \$30,000.00 for the remainder of the year, but the hospitals would have to match the \$30,000.00, equaling \$60,000.00 for the total cost of the program. So far, the hospitals have not agreed to fund the match. Jeff stated there was a meeting with HSI and other hospitals with interest in referred patients in addition to integrating the program into the Maternal Child Health program.

The Pay It Forward program involves clients volunteering time through nonprofit organizations and earning dental care from a panel of private dentists in the community at a rate of 4 hours volunteer time for \$100 of dental care services. About 18 people have received dental care through the Friendship Mission in Montgomery. There is a huge issue with broken appointments from clients; therefore, some dentists are no longer participating in the program.

Jeff reported that Lynn Beshear would be reforming the Governor's Opioid Task force, and plans to appoint someone from OHCA to serve on the Task Force.

New Business:

Dr. Simpson asked Beth Huckabee to give an update of the Alabama Medicaid program. She stated that on May 5th, the Governor sent a letter to Commissioner, Stephanie Azar, requesting the agency pursue a two track process to evaluate potential cost savings to the dental program. The first track included ALDA working with Medicaid to identify and recommend potential cost savings and submitting a report by July 31, 2017, to Medicaid and the Governor. The second part included Alabama Medicaid releasing a request for a proposal to managed care organizations. The RFP was developed and released to secure a dental benefit manager contract. Beth stated bids are due by August 31, 2017 and an evaluation process will take place after the bid deadline. If the process continues, they will issue an intent to award, unless given other directives. Questions regarding any portion of this process can be submitted to the following email address: dbmrfp@medicaid.alabama.gov.

Summer Gagnon, ADPH Oral Health Division, provided a presentation on the OHCA's new web page. She reported that we now have a web page, updated with a resource page, a fluoridation page, and contact information page. Members can view the web page through adph.gov, select the letter O from the index, choose Oral Health Coalition, then the browser will direct to the home page. The home page contains a selection for fluoridation, members, resources and contact information. Under the Members section, minutes from the OHCA and Executive Committee meeting are for viewing. Summer asked for links to member web pages and their organizations so she can upload that information. She advised that the page is a work in progress, so ideas, recommendation, suggestions for improvement are encouraged. Dr. Simpson advised members to provide high definition logos and links to their websites. Some have already provided these to Sherry; others still need to provide those. Summer also reported on OHCA's Face Book page. She has updated the page under the Oral Health Coalition of Alabama. Members will use the web page as source of information, to target public views, as well as to report events/activities. She encouraged all members to like and share the page to expand the newsfeed. Summer will be the administrator managing the web and the Face Book page.

Dr. Simpson asked each member to give an update on any pertinent information regarding his or her organization.

- Sonia Cleckler, Children Rehabilitation Services of Alabama, commented that CRS has numerous cleft lip/cleft palate clinics, where their patients seen at these clinics and craniofacial clinics were referred out to orthodontists. They are now working with the UAB School of Dentistry to streamline the process. For Medicaid recipients with a cleft lip/palate diagnosis, CRS care coordinators will handle the process of getting their records transferred

and getting necessary preliminary ortho placement on the same day of diagnosis. Prior authorization is no longer required. This saves patients trips through on site approval during the day of visit. Beth Huckabee, AL Medicaid, thanked Sonia for a job well done in getting this job accomplished.

- Linda Lee, Academy of Pediatrics, reported AAP continues to encourage pediatricians to do oral health risk assessment, fluoride varnishing and referrals to dentists through the 1st Look Program funded through ALL KIDS and Medicaid. They have an online training module for pediatricians, nurse practitioners, and nurses, however only about 65 pediatricians are actually billing. They have identified five mentors to work with those who are not implementing the program and foster resources to encourage them to follow this practice. They are in the process of trying to renew the CME module online. Linda also reported that they are applying for a grant to fund the Brush, Book, and Bed, a project originated by the Academy of Pediatrics. The hope is to collaborate with several groups to secure funding and implement the program through 15 pediatric offices statewide. The project will give parents books, brushes, and guides that promote structure and good information about bedtime routines. A primary purpose of the project is to encourage inter-professional collaboration between dentists and pediatricians to promote dental homes for young children. Linda also reported the Academy of Pediatrics scheduled an oral health speaker at the next conference.
- Kaye Melnick, ADPH – ALL Kids, reported that September 30, 2017 is the end of their fiscal year and the date their funding ends. They are not sure about their funding status for FY 2018.
- Rob Boyles, ADPH Primary Care and Rural Health, reported his office continues to promote dental care in rural, underserved communities through recruitment and retention programs and through the National Health Service Corps program. Dentists can receive loan repayment through service in a qualifying community through an FQHC, CHC, or rural hospital. Dr. Mitchell asked if programs were promoted through the UAB dental school, due to the fact, each year, he provides presentations to students in their junior year of dental studies.
- Christine King, Sarrell Dental/DentaQuest reported on the request to manage care organizations for RFPs from Alabama Medicaid. A bidder's conference was held to provide RFP, which include numerous companies. Sarrell represented as one of the larger providers of dental care for Medicaid. Delta Dental and several others were there as well.
- Jessica Hardy, ADPH, reported the Well Woman program, implemented in three counties, Wilcox, Butler and Dallas, for women ages 15-54 receive a health assessment, and an oral health screen. The nurses at the health departments provide the screenings. As data is collected, they will share information with the Oral Health Division, even though this data would not meet the seniors BSS minimum age of 60.
- Marva Guerrero, and Dasel Marshall, East Coast Migrant Head Start program gave an overview of the Head Start Migrant Program. They face issues finding dentists who will come to their centers to provide screenings. They have problems contracting with dentists in Mobile and Baldwin counties who will provide screenings and follow-up. For children not on Medicaid, the Head Start program is responsible for paying for needed dental care, which has become a large expense to the program. Sherry reported, she would help East Coast Migrant Head Start program to receive the same services that the

Migrant Head Start program from Chandler Mt. (St.Clair County) receive. Sherry works with the UAB pediatric dental residents to screen, provide FLV, and refer as needed.

- Dr. Simpson announced the date for the next meeting is November 9, 2017, in Birmingham. He also asked members to please email him any recommendations they might have about the webpage, the SOHP, and other planned projects.
- Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Dr. Richard Simpson, Chair

Linda Haigler, ASA-Oral Health Dept