

Oral Health Coalition of Alabama (OHCA)  
Meeting Minutes  
Alabama Department of Rehabilitative Services  
560 South Lawrence Street  
Montgomery, Alabama  
August 23, 2018

Members Present:

Dr. Richard Simpson, OHCA chair, AAPD, Alabama Chapter AAP  
Calvin Binion, Alabama Medicaid  
Cathy Caldwell, ADPH All KIDS  
Celeste Drayden, Alabama Primary Health Care Association  
Christine King, Sarrell Dental/DentaQuest  
Dr. Conan Davis, UAB School of Dentistry  
Dr. Nannette Phillips, TMC Head Start, RIV Head Start Association  
Dr. Tommy Johnson, ADPH, Oral Health  
Dr. Trellis Smith, ADECE  
Gavin Graf, ADPH Cancer Division  
Mary Broadnax, Alabama Primary Health Care Association  
Jeff Andrews, Alabama Primary Health Care Association  
Jennifer Morris, ADPH Oral Health  
Summer Gagnon, ADPH Oral Health  
Samille Jackson, ADPH MCH  
Schelli Francis, Cahaba Valley Health Care Center  
Sonia Cleckler, Children Rehabilitation Services  
Stuart Lockwood, Retired Dentist  
Jasmine Abner, ADPH Cancer Division  
Carol Garrett, ADPH Cancer Division  
Cindy Lesinger, ADPH Immunization

Dr. Simpson called the meeting to order asking members to introduce themselves and state the name of the organization they represent.

Minutes/Approvals:

Dr. Simpson asked for previous meeting minutes to be approved as presented. The minutes were accepted and approved.

Old Business/New Business:

Dr. Johnson stated the framework for Alabama's State Oral Health plan is complete. The Oral Health Office is working to finalize a publishable document.

Dr. Simpson reminded the coalition of Alabama's status on the State of Decay report two years ago, ranking #50, based on five parameters: basic screen survey for the elderly, the existence of a basic screen survey, existence of a State Oral Health Plan, fluoridation status and adult access to care. He reported Alabama was featured nationally on the process and progressive growth on the State of Decay report, jumping up from ranking #50 to ranking #29. This was the largest

jump ever noted on the State of Decay report. He praised the leadership, teamwork and dedication of all members of the organization in their accomplishments.

Dr. Johnson reiterated OHCA's goals in the State Oral Health Plan:

- Increase access to oral health care
- Professional education and integration
- Health literacy
- Surveillance
- Prevention

Dr. Johnson reminded the members to complete and submit their organization stewardship form as soon as possible. He gave instructions for each member representatives to select which category their organization will be responsible for implementing or assisting with in the State Oral Health Plan.

Dr. Johnson reported the Oral Health Office mailed out letters from the Public Health office and the Board of Dental Directors to each registered dentist in Alabama. The letters were to encourage them to register for the PDMP, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. The letter pertained only to dentists licensed in Alabama by the Board of Dental Examiners and have an Alabama Controlled Substance license.

Cindy Lesinger, ADPH Director of Immunization gave a presentation on HPV. Her presentation included emphasizing:

- The HPV vaccine is very safe and patients are not required to have a physical to obtain it
- The HPV has 120 strands, consequently, the vaccine only covers 9 of the most common viruses which cause infections or carry infections and cancer
- Alabama has been surveyed to be the 14th highest rated state in the nation with HPV associated cancers
- In Alabama, blacks and other races are at a higher rate for getting vaccines
- In national case studies, oropharyngeal cancer affects white men four times more than white women
- Doctors recommend patients at the age of 9-12 years old get the HPV vaccination to protect them from HPV related cancers
- The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry encourages all oral health care providers to educate parents and providers on oropharyngeal cancer (OPC) and the relationship to HPV
- Oral Health care providers are encouraged to counsel patients, parents and guardians of the benefits of obtaining the HPV vaccine
- The National HPV Vaccination Roundtable encourages dental providers to take action in their role to prevent cancer to include; practicing cancer prevention by posting information about immunizations, referring patients for vaccinations, collaborating with pediatricians and other primary care providers, and educating their staff to speak professionally and confidently about the vaccine

Summer Gagnon, ADPH Oral Health Office, gave a presentation on fluoridation. She reminded members of the new law signed on July 1, 2018, stating any water system wanting to change their fluoridation status must contact the State Health Officer and State Oral Health Office 90 days prior to doing so. She also stated one goal for community involvement is to form a fluoridation task force in each of the nine dental districts to advocate for fluoridation. She stated usb drives would be loaded with educational information on fluoridation and mailed out to the nine districts and/or requestors to encourage continuation of fluoridation. She stated Alabama does not have a state mandate for fluoridation, but in an effort to be more proactive, she has scheduled visits to several water systems in the upcoming weeks to reiterate the importance of fluoride in the water systems.

Dr. Johnson stated water systems throughout the state had the opportunity to apply for up to \$25, 000 in grant funds. Five water systems selected used the funding to initiate, update and/or expand community fluoridation. The Oral Health Office has already began announcing grant opportunities for the upcoming fiscal year.

Dr. Johnson stated that in another effort to educate communities on fluoridation the Oral Health Office has created an Alabama Water Fluoridation Toolkit. The booklet is a resource used in educating others of the health benefits and cost saving strategies of fluoride in water. He also commented the State of Alabama has been documented as one out of four states to adopt a law that requires notification from water systems to report changes of fluoridation levels

#### Organizational Updates:

Dr. Simpson reminded members Denta Quest awarded a \$25, 000.00 grant to the Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics, along with additional funds from public health, to promote the BBB program. The BBB program emphasizes and promotes family routine, family time and good health habits. There were 12 pediatric practices selected throughout the state of Alabama, which received 500 fluoride varnish packets, 500 books, and 500 toothbrush and toothpaste kits along with other promotional items. He commented the program has been very successful and the goal is to continue to encourage pediatricians to promote oral health as part of their regular well child visit and discussion and administer fluoride varnish. He stated the overall goal of the BBB program is to obtain additional funding for the program, promote it to a national level based on positive state level results and have other states follow Alabama's example.

Dr. Johnson updated the members on the Oral Health Office by introducing the newest member of his team, Jennifer Morris, State Dental Hygienist.

Cathy Caldwell, ADPH Children's Health Insurance Program reported the department has been very busy enrolling new children. She reminded organizational representatives that there is a \$1500.00 annual max for coverage, but if the provider sees a necessary need to increase coverage, the program will make an exception.

Dr. Simpson commented, according to ADA news, there has been an increase in the voicing for Medicare to cover oral health throughout the nation. He stated the National Oral Health Coalition strongly supports this issue and if/when the opportunity is presented, the Oral Health Coalition would endorse this issue.

Christine King of Denta Quest reported their focus has been on rebranding the Denta Quest name and preventive dentistry by promoting and advocating helping children at early age with dental problems.

Celeste Drayden of Alabama Primary Health Care, Denta Quest, reported she attended the Grass Roots Oral Health 20/20 Conference in Pittsburgh, PA as a representative for Alabama. Her organization is working on separating Denta Quest and Oral Health 20/20 due to the roles and responsibilities of each entity. She also stated one of the projects her organization is working on is measuring the goals of Oral Health 20/20. This objective will include each state submitting data for a progressive report, which will be shared nationally. She asked organizational representatives to submit data/information documenting their implements of progress for health goals.

Dr. Nanette Phillips, Head Start Association, announced and invited members to their annual conference scheduled for October 29, 2018 through October 31, 2018, Birmingham, Alabama.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

---

Dr. Richard Simpson, Chair

---

Linda Haigler, ASA-Oral Health Office