



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Office of the Secretary

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Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary

December 20, 2013

The Honorable Jeffrey V. Kessler, Senate President
West Virginia Senate
Room 227M, Building 1
State Capitol Complex
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

The Honorable Tim Miley, Speaker
West Virginia House of Delegates
Room 228M, Building 1
State Capitol Complex
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear President Kessler and Speaker Miley:

As required by West Virginia Code §16-41-6, regarding the Oral Health Improvement Act, please find enclosed the West Virginia Oral Health Program Update 2013. This update is provided by the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, West Virginia Oral Health Program.

If additional information is needed, please contact Christina Mullins, Director, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, via telephone at (304) 356-4392 or e-mail at christina.r.mullins@wv.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen L. Bowling".

Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary

KLB/vc

Enclosure

cc: Letitia E. Tierney, MD, JD
Anne Williams
Christina Mullins
Gregory M. Gray
Joseph Minard
Legislative Library

West Virginia Oral Health Program Update



November 2013



*Bureau for Public Health
Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health
350 Capitol Street, Room 427
Charleston, WV 25301*

*Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
Karen L. Bowling, Cabinet Secretary*

2013 Legislative Report

West Virginia Oral Health Program

Introduction

The mission of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health (OMCFH), Oral Health Program (OHP) is to promote and improve the oral health of all West Virginians. The goals of the Program are to provide preventive education, improve access to oral health care, and monitor the oral health status of the citizens across the State. The OHP is comprised of the Donated Denture Project, Pre-Employment Project, Oral Disease Prevention Project, Fluoride Rinse Project, Oral Health Education, Fluoride Varnish Project, Fluoride Water Testing, Dental Workforce Project, and Oral Health Surveillance all under the direction of the State Dental Director. Over the past year, West Virginia has made significant progress in the area of oral health, including securing additional funding from outside sources dedicated to improving the oral health of West Virginia citizens. Accomplishments of the Program are a result of collaborative efforts with other government agencies and community partners. Activities of the OHP continue to be guided by an Oral Health Advisory Board (OHAB) consisting of key stakeholders. The OHAB was established in 2008 and continues to meet on a routine basis to advise the OHP in addressing oral health issues of West Virginia.

Accomplishments

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – The West Virginia OHP is one of 21 recipients awarded a “State Oral Disease Prevention Programs” grant. The aim of this grant is to assist state health departments to improve the oral health of their state residents, in particular those children and adults who are most at-risk for oral diseases such as tooth decay (cavities). With this funding, the OHP works closely with the West Virginia Department of Education, local dental providers and other community partners to reduce the incidence of childhood caries (cavities) through the application of dental sealants to children who might not otherwise receive preventive dental services. The Program will use the awarded CDC funding to develop and implement the West Virginia Oral Disease Prevention Project that will reach an additional 109 (35%) high need schools during the five year project period.

Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) – In 2012, the West Virginia OHP was awarded approximately 1.5 million dollars over a three year period for the Dental Loan Reimbursement Project. The goals of the Project are to increase the number of dental school graduates choosing to provide services in West Virginia and to increase the number of persons with an identified dental home within Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (DHPSA). During year one of the project period, the OHP was successful in providing loan reimbursement to four dentists working in DHPSA. The Project hired a team of four dental professionals to serve on the HRSA Workforce Technical Assistance (TA) team. This team consists of a dentist who specializes in oral surgery, a registered dental hygienist, a dental office manager, and a dental office billing manager. The purpose of this team is to have a “mobile” dental office that is able to travel the State and provide technical assistance to dental offices in need, especially those located in DHPSA. To date, the TA team has provided assistance to five Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) across the State. Services include assistance with office design, office flow systems, school-based sealant projects, dentists’ employment contracts,

equipment needs, system evaluation, and chart review. The TA team has also prepared a recruitment toolkit for newly graduated dentists.

In addition, nearly \$800,000 was awarded to the OHP over a four year period to improve the oral health of pregnant women in West Virginia. The Program will coordinate with community, state, and national partners to expand upon the Helping Appalachian Parents Initiative (HAPI) so that at-risk mothers and infants across the State can have access to comprehensive preventive and restorative care. The goals of this Project are to establish a statewide approach to deliver oral health care to low income pregnant women; increase the number of low income children who have an established dental home; and expand the West Virginia Oral Health Surveillance System to monitor and evaluate the oral health of pregnant women. The OHP will partner with the OMCFH - Right From The Start Program (RFTS), the West Virginia HAPI Project and other organizations to accomplish these goals.

DentaQuest Oral Health 2014 Grant – The OHP has been working diligently during year one of implementation. One of the most significant successes that occurred in West Virginia was the completion of an all baseline oral health surveillance and the completion and implementation of the Surveillance Plan. The OHP and its partners conducted universal Pre-K, adult, and older adult basic screening surveillances. The Program shared the collected data along with school-age surveillance, consumer and workforce surveys during the data dissemination meeting held in February 2013. The meeting was held to share the oral health information with stakeholders, oral health advocates, and community leaders in hopes that the data would be used to encourage individuals and organizations to continue efforts in oral health promotion and prevention.

Increasing the number of non-dental health care professionals receiving oral health core competency curriculum or training, is an example of yet another accomplishment as a result of the DentaQuest funding. The Smiles for Life curriculum has been incorporated into several health professional training programs including the West Virginia University School of Medicine and Pharmacy and Marshall University School of Medicine. As an additional measure, the OHP has begun to require school staff and other organizations who request oral health supplies and literature from the Program to complete at least one Smiles for Life module based on the population they serve.

Donated Denture Project

The OMCFH administers the Donated Denture Project in which dentists donate their time to fit a patient (low income senior citizens and adults with disabilities deemed eligible under the program's guidelines) for dentures/partial and then are reimbursed up to \$500 for the lab fee. The Project has 65 dentists throughout the State participating and a waiting list for eligible individuals per county is maintained. State funding is limited to \$40,000 yearly which generally covers 100 to 125 eligible persons being placed for services. However, in FY 2013, the Donated Denture Project received extra funding from expiring grant monies and therefore, 439 individuals actually received dentures and/or partials. In FY 2013, 531 applications were received and 496 eligible persons received services through this Project. Most persons on the current waiting list (through October 2013) will be placed with a dental provider to get dentures or partials within two months of their approval if they are "denture-ready" (do not need extractions done or other dental work which may keep them from wearing dentures). The demand for this program remains high throughout the State and is a valuable tool to help low-

income persons improve their health by being able to eat properly as well as their self-esteem, speech and appearance.

Pre-Employment Dental/Vision Project

The OMCFH administers the Bureau for Children and Families' Pre-Employment Dental/Vision Project which supports services to assist adults transitioning into the workforce. In FY 2013, 2,043 dental referrals and 2,022 vision referrals were issued by county DHHR workers to eligible individuals on the West Virginia WORKS Program (individuals must have a child or children in the home, meet the low income requirements for the program, and are able to work). Referrals are good for one year. Dental services (up to a lifetime benefit of \$3,300 as determined by the Pre-Employment fee schedule) include exams, cleanings, fillings, extractions, dentures/partials, root canals, and crowns. Vision benefits cover an exam and glasses, if needed, to assist such clients in becoming "employable." In FY 2013, approximately three million dollars was spent on dental and vision services with about 2,300 clients utilizing their referral (dental, vision, or both). Throughout West Virginia, 300 dentists and 200 vision providers participate in the Pre-Employment Project (recruitment is on-going) with some areas of the State being better represented than others. The average amount spent per client is \$1,300. This Project remains a very popular and effective part of the West Virginia WORKS Program helping clients not only become more ready for employment, but boosts self-esteem and improves their general health by addressing dental and vision problems that can be corrected.

Oral Disease Prevention Project

The Oral Disease Prevention Project is a school-based dental sealant project funded by the recent CDC grant award. The Project will match local dental providers to 16 targeted Title I elementary schools to provide preventive dental services during the 2013-2014 school year. Over the next five years, the Oral Disease Prevention Project will expand to a total of 109 Title I elementary schools throughout the State.

Fluoride Rinse Project

The OHP provides the Fluoride Rinse Project in participating West Virginia public schools. A permission form is provided to the schools for parental consent. This mouth rinsing project is restricted to first through sixth grades. Kindergarten classrooms may participate, if adequate supervision is available to make sure the rinse is not swallowed. All materials and supplies are provided to the schools free of charge. Fluoride is the most cost effective means of prevention in oral health care. During FY 2013, 9,634 children participated. This past year, the OHP has updated the Fluoride Rinse Manual which was implemented this 2013-2014 school year.

Oral Health Education

A network of Regional Oral Health Educators provides oral health education to children and families in all 55 counties through schools, early childhood programs, and community health fairs. During FY 2013, 58,281 children received these educational services. During FY 2012-2013, the OHP contracted with Marshall University to develop a standardized oral health curriculum. Three oral health resource guides, grades Pre-K/Headstart, K-5 and 6-12, were developed to coincide with the West Virginia Department of Education Content Standards and Objectives and promote effortless classroom adaptation by school personnel. The curriculum teaches prevention through proper oral hygiene, including instructions on brushing; flossing;

choosing healthy foods; tobacco and drug prevention; and the importance of establishing a dental home.

Fluoride Varnish Project

The West Virginia Medical Infant and Child Oral Health Training Program is now housed under the OHP and is currently in redesign. The fundamentals of the original Program will not change; however, the name will change to the Fluoride Varnish Project. The Project will continue to provide on-going, evidence-based information that is open to all primary care physicians in West Virginia who demonstrate interest in the Project. The Project will provide a source of continuing education credits to participants who complete the training course. Project participants will receive a training manual that includes a copy of the presenters PowerPoint presentation, program implementation guide, coding and billing information, templates for West Virginia Medicaid and West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIPS), and parent education and dental resources.

Fluoride Water Testing

Water test kits are provided to families for testing fluoride levels of private water systems. This component of the OHP assisted 228 families test for elevated fluoride levels during FY 2013. The OHP follows the CDC guidelines for water fluoridation levels.

Dental Workforce Project

The Dental Workforce Project provides loan reimbursement to new and/or recently graduated dental providers that agree to practice in a DHPSA. During FY 2013, a total of four dentists were awarded loan reimbursement. This Project offers complex technical assistance to dental practices located in DHPSAs to increase productivity and financial viability through a highly qualified technical assistance (TA) team. To date, the TA team has provided assistance to five FQHCs across the State. Services include assistance with office design, office flow systems, school-based sealant project, dentists' employment contracts, equipment needs, system evaluation, and chart review. A recruitment toolkit is available for newly graduated dentists.

Oral Health Surveillance

The Program shared recently collected surveillance data on Pre-K, third grade, adult, and the older adult oral health status along with the consumer and workforce surveys, during the data dissemination meeting held in February 2013. The meeting was held to share the oral health information with stakeholders, oral health advocates, and community leaders, in hopes that the data would be used to encourage individuals and organizations to continue efforts in oral health promotion and prevention. The OHP also developed its first surveillance system. The Oral Health Surveillance Plan systematically accounts for the collection of statewide oral health data. The table below lists the National Oral Health Surveillance System (NOHSS) indicators and databases that will be monitored in the oral health surveillance activities. In addition to the NOHSS indicators, the OHP will monitor Healthy People 2020 indicators, dental workforce and youth tobacco use.

NOHSS Indicators	Data Source
Dental Visit in the Past Year	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and Uniform Data Set) (UDS)
Teeth Cleaning	BRFSS, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), West Virginia Medicaid Claims Data and CHIP Annual Reporting Template System (CARTS)
Complete Tooth Loss	BRFSS
Lost Six or More Teeth	BRFSS
Water Fluoridation	Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS)
Caries Experience	Basic Screening Survey (BSS)
Untreated Tooth Decay	BSS
Dental Sealants	BSS
Cancer of the Oral Cavity and Pharynx	West Virginia Cancer Registry (WVCR) and Vital Records

Future Plans

The OHP will continue to:

- Conduct initial oral health basic screening surveillance for pregnant women and conduct the second round of surveillance on third grade students;
- Strengthen partnerships;
- Build on existing programs;
- Support the Oral Health Coalition (OHC);
- Continue to provide loan reimbursement through the Dental Workforce Loan Reimbursement Project;
- Build capacity for future efforts;
- Continue School-Based Dental Sealant Expansion through the Oral Disease Prevention Project;
- Train additional medical personnel and their ancillaries on fluoride varnish application; and
- Update the State Oral Health Plan.