



*Community Partnerships in
Action: Improving Oral
Health in South Dakota*

Region VIII Successful Partnership to
Improve Oral Health in Head Start

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About Our Program . . .

Program Overview

- 268 Head Start children
- 244 Center-based children
- 24 Home-based children

PIR Dental Statistics

Before Initiative

- Exams approximately 80%
- Children needing treatment 10%
- Children receiving treatment 80%

2006

- Exams 94%
- Children needing treatment 34%
- Children receiving treatment 100%

About Our State and Community . . .

- **Inter-Lakes Service Area: 12 counties**
- Population in service area: 267,127 (approx. 10% of this population is in poverty)
- **South Dakota Dentists = 320**
 - Aging dental workforce approximately 30% of South Dakota dentists expected to retire over the next 10 yrs
- **Dentists per capita 1:2400 (national average 1:1800)**
- **Rural and remote communities with dental access challenges**
- **Reservation Communities**
 - Decay affects 78% of the 2-5 year old children in Aberdeen Area (national average 23% of low income children)
 - 30% vacancy rate for dental positions in Aberdeen Area

Our Head Start Dental Strategy . . .

- Identify the Needs
- Ongoing Role of the Health Advisory Committee
- Meeting/ Working with our Partners
 - University of Minnesota School of Dentistry
 - University of South Dakota Dental Hygiene Program
 - Lake Area Technical Institute
 - South Dakota Department of Health
 - Head Start Dental Forums
 - South Dakota Oral Health Strategies Coalition
 - South Dakota Dental Association
 - Delta Dental of South Dakota
 - Local Foundations

Our Head Start Dental Strategy . . .

- **Develop state based & local strategies**
 - Work with state partners to develop Head Start specific strategies
 - Work with health advisory committee to plan and develop program forms and processes
 - Work with policy council to develop agency policy and procedures

- **Implement the Plan**
 - Training
 - Fostering and sustaining the partnerships
 - Cooperation

Identifying Community Needs . . .

- High unmet dental need among low income children
- Small rural community with long driving distances
- Few Medicaid dental providers
- Dentists not taking new Medicaid patients
- Dental practices at capacity
- Low % of communities with water fluoridation
- Dental workforce issues
 - Shortage of pediatric dentists
 - Shrinking dental workforce

Ongoing/ Evolving Role of the Head Start Health Advisory Committee . . .

- Community Assessment for health and oral health
- Contact with Partners
 - Wrote Letter to South Dakota Dental Association
 - Involvement in Head Start Association
 - Involvement in State Oral Health Coalition
- Develop and document program policies & procedures
- Advise and develop program forms

Working with our Partners . . .

- University of MN School of Dentistry
 - Developed a clinic for children and families
 - Other Partners: Lake Area Technical Institute (Dental Assistant program), USD Dental Hygienist Program, South Dakota Dental Association, South Dakota Department of Health, Delta Dental
 - Outcomes: Short term direct service provision through community-campus partnership

- South Dakota Oral Health Coalition
 - Interdisciplinary group of professionals to advance oral health for all of South Dakota
 - Representation of Head Start as an active community partner
 - Outcomes: increased awareness of dental needs and improved working relationships with oral health care providers and partners

Working with our Partners . . .

- **Ronald McDonald Care Mobile**
 - Developed a mobile dental clinic for children and families
 - Other Partners: South Dakota Dental Association, South Dakota Department of Health, Delta Dental
 - Outcomes: improved rural community access to dental service through mobile direct service provision, increased access for Medicaid and uninsured children

- **Wellmark Foundation Grant**
 - Development of a statewide media/ oral health education campaign: Great Faces Great Smiles
 - Other Partners: South Dakota Dental Association, South Dakota Department of Health, Delta Dental
 - Outcomes: increased awareness of dental needs, education materials and training for Head Start programs, media campaign and promotional materials

Working with our Partners . . .

■ Head Start Staff, Parents and Children

- Variety of training and education opportunities to meet the needs of staff, parents and children
- **Partners:** Private Pediatric Dentists, USD Dental Hygiene Program Faculty, South Dakota Dental Association, South Dakota Department of Health, Delta Dental
- **Outcomes:** widely increased access to child preventive services within the program, increased and improved quality of oral health education to staff, families and children, improved oral health outcomes for children and families

Developing our local program . . .

- Ongoing coordination with state based programs and strategies
 - Assuring that Head Start programs are continuously involved as a partner with developing state initiatives
 - Providing PIR data and other Community Assessment data to support and document needs to funders and grantmakers
 - Advising partners about the unique aspects of Head Start programs, performance standards and regulations
 - Outcomes: extended and improved working relationships within the dental community

Developing our local program . . .

- Documentation for fluoride varnish program
 - Letter to dental home/ dental provider
 - **Dental health examination form**
 - Letter to dental provider for fluoride varnish communication
 - **Medication log**
 - Fluoride varnish log
 - **Pre/Post letters to parents**
 - Prescription medication permission form

Thank You . . .

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