



Government of the District of Columbia  
Department of Health  
Oral Health Program



First Oral Health Leadership Summit

July 18, 2003

*“Rebuilding on a Framework for Improving Oral  
Health in the District of Columbia”*



## Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	1
.....	
<i>Purpose of Summit</i> .....	1
<b>Challenges in Washington, DC</b> .....	2
<i>Poverty in Washington, DC</i> .....	3
<i>How Poverty Impacts Oral Health</i> .....	4
<i>Oral Health in Washington, DC</i> .....	4
<i>Oral Health Leadership in Washington, DC</i> .....	5
<b>Summit Recommendations</b> .....	6
<i>Oral Health Leadership Priority Issues</i> .....	10
<b>What the District of Columbia is Currently Doing (Post 2003 Oral Health Leadership Summit)</b> .....	11
<i>School-Based Dental Sealant Pilot Project</i> .....	11
<i>DC Oral Health Coalition</i> .....	13
.....	
<i>Oral Health Assessment &amp; Child Health Certificate Forms</i> .....	13
<i>Children with Special Health Care Needs</i> .....	13
<i>Forging Partnerships</i> .....	13

<b>Conclusion.....</b>	<b>14</b>
.	
<b>Acknowledgements.....</b>	<b>15</b>
....	
<i>Sponsors.....</i>	<i>15</i>
..	
<b>Appendix A – Plenary</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Speakers.....</b>	
<b>Appendix B – DC Oral Health Leadership Summit</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Agenda.....</b>	



## **Introduction**

The District of Columbia held its first Oral Health Leadership Summit on July 18, 2003 at Gallaudet University, Washington DC. The theme of the Summit was *Rebuilding on a Framework for Improving Oral Health in the District of Columbia*. The Summit was planned as one of the District's strategic responses to former U.S Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher's report on *Oral Health in America* issued in May 2000 and current U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Richard Carmona's recently released report *The National Call to Action to Promote Oral Health*. This one-day summit addressed issues such as oral health policy development, oral health quality assurance, and initiating linkages with dental and medical providers as well as the dental community. The summit also discussed issues surrounding low Medicaid reimbursement rates, bureaucratic administrative requirements, lack of uniformity and methods to rebuild the dental infrastructure in the District in order to facilitate greater access to dental services. The District of Columbia's unique position to benefit from the knowledge and resources of many local and national organizations committed to improving the oral health needs of children, women, men and families were also addressed. The Oral Health Leadership Summit was the first big step in formalizing the needed integrated oral health delivery system and health plan that will reach children with unmet needs.

### *Purpose of Summit*

Approximately 70 individuals from both the private and public sectors attended the Summit. These individuals had both the experience and desire to make sound policies and propose recommendations on how to improve the oral health of individuals and communities within the District of Columbia (DC). There was representation from the health policy arena, dental and medical providers, insurers, federal and local government representatives, members of academia, dental researchers, local community leaders, health officials, and legislators to name a few.

The Summit aimed to enable stakeholders to learn more about each other and to discuss opportunities to work together in order to better serve the oral health needs of families, women, children and adolescents in the District of Columbia. More specifically, the Summit aimed to:

- Broaden the ownership for oral health improvement in the District of Columbia;
- Increase the awareness of the scope of oral health problems in the District of Columbia;

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*July 18, 2003*

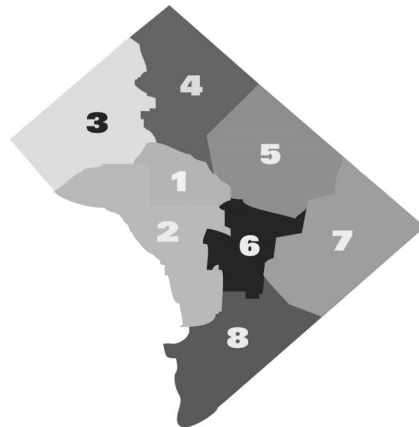


- Discuss and develop oral health prevention, and access strategies particularly for those who are underserved within the District of Columbia;
- Discuss and develop strategies that enhance the coordination, distribution or replication of past successful oral health and treatment services in the District of Columbia.
- Build a network of individuals and organizations committed to finding an effective approach to improving oral health and dental care for District residents by fostering a positive, nonjudgmental, and comfortable environment which allows people the opportunity to think of innovative solutions that go beyond traditional approaches;
- Highlight what is unique about the District of Columbia and its environs; and
- Develop specific plans for next steps for public health in the District of Columbia.

## **Challenges in Washington, DC**

According to the last Census done in 2000, the District of Columbia is home to 572,059 people<sup>1</sup>. Although there are integrated neighborhoods, the District is largely segregated along lines of income and race, resulting in great health disparities. The northeastern and southeastern Wards (see Diagram 1) have the highest concentration of low-income residents and African Americans while the northwestern Wards have the greatest proportion of high-income residents and Caucasians.

**Diagram 1: Map Showing the Wards of Washington, DC**



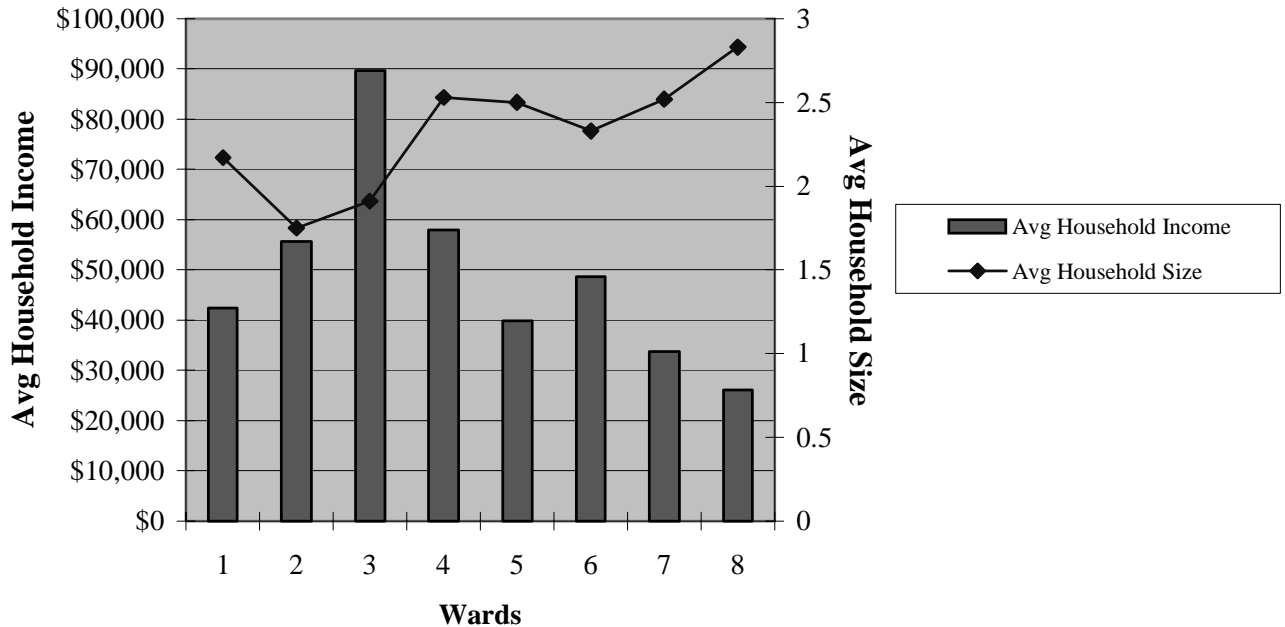
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<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau. United States Census 2000. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/11000.html>. Retrieved June 2004.

Poverty in Washington, DC

Compared to the United States average of 12.6 percent, 19.7 percent of District residents are disadvantaged and placed at risk of poor oral health as a result of living in poverty. Among children, the rate is even more alarming with over 30 percent younger than five years living in poverty. Poverty rates vary significantly in DC by Ward<sup>2</sup>. The median household income of DC residents in 1998 was \$43,011, with the median incomes in Ward 3 and Ward 8 being \$89,675 and \$26,145, respectively, as indicated in Graph 1 below. The average annual income for the poorest fifth of DC families declined 17 percent in the last decade while families in the middle fifth experienced a decline of 14 percent. These disturbing facts denote that twenty percent of the District population receives 62 percent of the income while the bottom 20 percent receives only 2 percent.

**Graph 1: The Average Household Income & Size Per Ward in Washington, DC**



As indicated by Graph 1 above, Wards 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8 contain most of the District’s poor families and are overwhelmingly African American. The census tracts also classify these Wards as medically underserved areas.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. <http://www.census.gov>. Retrieved 2001.



*How Poverty Impacts Oral Health*

As stated in the Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health (2003)<sup>3</sup>, there are severe disparities in the incidence and prevalence of dental disease according to income. In fact, low-income children are two times more at risk than more affluent children to be affected by dental diseases and are more likely to remain untreated. These untreated diseases may result in pain and suffering that affects the child's self-esteem, ability to eat, attend school and communicate among other things. Sadly these disparities often continue into adolescence and perhaps even adulthood since good oral habits were not instilled at an early age.

*Oral Health in Washington, DC*

The District's high rate of poverty (approximately 10.6 percent of the District's population are living below the Federal Poverty Level<sup>4</sup>) combined with its large minority population (approximately 75 percent of the population are African Americans and Hispanics) results in very low oral health indicators. According to the 2000 Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System survey:

- Almost 30% of African Americans in DC indicated that they had lost six or more teeth due to decay or gum disease compared to 12 percent of Hispanics.
- About 33% of Hispanics and African Americans had not visited a dentist in the past year.
- Males in the District have the highest incidence (25.4) and mortality rate (11.4) per 100,000 of oral cancer in the country.

Unfortunately, the last major specific District Needs Assessment on Oral Health was in 1985 and focused on children in school. However, the District of Columbia, Oral Health Program was able to conduct a limited Oral Health Needs Assessment through funding from the W. Kellogg Foundation supported Community Voices Collaborative. This limited Oral Health Needs Assessment was carried out in the summer of 2002. District residents were asked to respond to nine questions in order to collect basic information about their oral health needs and practices.

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *A National Call to Action to Promote Oral Health*. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. NIH Publication No. 03-5303, May 2003

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. Washington QuickFacts. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53000.html>. Retrieved August 2004.

The survey captured information on oral hygiene practices, number of dental visits, methods of payments, and barriers to services. Some of the significant findings from the survey were:

- Approximately 52% of those surveyed (respondents were individuals and parents of children older than 2 years of age) had an oral health visit in 2001
- 55.3% of those surveyed said that access problems resulted in their inability to visit an oral health care provider. More specifically:
  - o 27% were unable to afford the high dental costs
  - o 17.5% did not know a dentist or have access to one
  - o 7.8% were unable to obtain an appointment at a convenient time
  - o 3% were unable to get to the dentist's office
- 43.8% of those surveyed had lost at least one tooth due to dental caries or periodontal disease (which was slightly better than the Year 2010 target of 42% and better than the 1999 national baseline of 31%). Of those surveyed:
  - o 39% had lost 1 to 5 teeth
  - o Approximately 14% had lost 6 or more teeth
  - o 3.2% had lost all their teeth
- 67.4% of those surveyed reported having insurance that paid some or all of their dental expenses while 31.3% had no such insurance.

### *Oral Health Leadership in Washington, DC*

A major challenge faced by the District of Columbia was the absence of a dental directive for more than a decade and a half. Additionally, the school-based dental program, which acted as the main source of primary and preventative dental care to children, folded in 1981. Both of these events made it difficult for the District to develop neighborhood-specific baseline data by which a needs assessment could be performed and appropriate programs developed and implemented. They may have also attributed to some of the oral related problems faced within the District.

Nonetheless, the DC DOH's Medical Assistance Administration organized an Oral Health Task Force in August of 2001 upon the request of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) – now known as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Its purpose was to address the oral health needs of children either enrolled in State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), MCOs, or who used a fee-for-service plan.



Through the work of the Task Force, a 150% increase in Medicaid dental fees went into effect October 2003.

## **Summit Recommendations**

Workshops for the Summit were broken into two sessions. The morning session (Strategy Development Phase I) addressed barriers and resources while the afternoon session (Strategy Development Phase II) aimed to develop strategies for an oral health plan. Attendees were able to choose from the following topics to discuss both development phases:

- Oral Health Needs of Children & Adolescents
- Oral Health Needs of Working Families & the Uninsured
- Oral Health of Special Needs Populations (Disabled, Seniors, MRDDA, HIV/AIDS)
- Dialoguing with Dental and Medical Providers

### ***Oral Health Needs of Children & Adolescents***

*Facilitator:* Dr. John Rossetti, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration

*Aim:* To discuss ways to improve the District's children and adolescents access to oral health care in a timely manner within DC.

*Recommendations:*

#### **Morning Session**

1. DC families should receive more education about the importance of proper oral health.
2. More collaboration is needed between both private and public sectors to address oral health problems in the District.
3. Oral Health programs within the District need to learn from the success stories of other programs.
  - a. A volunteer program (similar to the one that exists in Chicago) should be implemented to provide low-income patients with oral health care.
4. The following should be considered to help address dental provider access issues
  - a. Dental Schools within DC should be utilized more to help address some of the dental issues faced.

*Oral Health Leadership Summit • Washington, DC  
July 18, 2003*



- b. Dental providers in the military, VA and public health services that are licensed to practice within the District should be considered as a possible source of inexpensive (or complimentary) care to the underserved within DC.
  - c. Dentists should be rotated throughout underserved areas within the District.
5. Health care providers from Upward Bound should return to low-income communities in DC to influence and mentor youth to enter similar professions.
  6. Medicaid reimbursement rates should be increased.
  7. Foreign-trained dentists should be allowed to do the Dental Board exams in Maryland and the District of Columbia in order to help fill the shortage of dentists available to serve DC residents.
  8. Head Start and Early Head Start programs should be used as a model to build a system of dental care.
  9. Access to quality, timely dental care needs to be improved within the District.
  10. More holistic approach to treating patients should be adopted. Patients' mental, physical and dental health should all be evaluated when a patient sees a provider.

#### Afternoon Session

1. The public-private partnership that eroded as a result of the absence of a DC Department of Health Dental Director for over 20 years should be re-established.
  - a. DC DOH should re-establish the position of Oral Health Dental Director
2. Dentists need to be educated about how to treat small children.
  - a. Pediatric dentistry needs to be emphasized more on the dental curriculum.

#### ***Oral Health Needs of Working Families & The Uninsured***

*Facilitator:* Dr. Steven Price, Health Concepts International and Private Practice Dentist in District of Columbia

*Aim:* To discuss ways to improve the oral health in the District of Columbia, particularly for Working Families & The Uninsured

*Recommendations:*

#### Morning Session

1. Dental insurance coverage should be increased, especially since Medicaid does not provide dental services to adults and DC Healthcare Alliance only provides services to the extremely poor in the District.
2. The position of Oral Health Director should be re-instituted within the DC Department of Health in order to direct focus on the oral health issues faced by the residents within the District.

Afternoon Session

1. Providers should participate in the DC Healthcare Alliance and Safety Net.
2. Oral health dental insurance coverage should be expanded to benefit a wider population.
3. The position of Oral Health Director should be re-instituted within the DC Department of Health.
4. A Dental Advisory group should be established in order to meet with National Policy Makers.
5. Foundations should be engaged to solicit funds to improve Oral Health in the District.
6. Health promotion campaigns should be launched to increase Oral Health awareness in the District.
7. Dentists should be lobbied to consider extending hours of operation to include evenings and/or weekends to accommodate the schedules of working patients.
8. A rotational system for dental providers should be established to give dentists more flexibility to schedule patients during evenings and weekends.
9. Dental vans equipped to treat patients should be scheduled to visit various work sites around the District to facilitate working patients' schedules.
10. Oral Health data that is generated should accurately reflect the District's unique population (particularly its large immigrant community).

***Oral Health of Special Needs Populations (Disabled, Seniors, MRDDA, HIV/AIDS)***

*Facilitator:* Mr. William Hunter, Deputy Maternal & Child Health Officer, District of Columbia Department of Health

*Aim:* To identify needed oral health services not being accessed by Special Needs Populations

*Recommendations:*

Morning Session

1. Dentists should be rotated in clinics that serve patients with special needs in order to provide them with more experience in treating this special population.
2. Dental schools should place more emphasis on training dental students to treat patients with special health care needs.
3. More business training and community relations courses should be taught in dental schools.
4. Academic, community and religious collaboration is needed in order to receive additional funds and to increase oral health education/awareness.

Afternoon Session

1. Policy makers should be educated/reminded about the oral health issues faced by individuals with special health care needs.
2. A school based oral health program should be re-established within the District on a permanent basis in order to increase access to oral health care to underserved children.
  - a. DC Public Schools should be included as a partner to address the oral health needs of individuals with special population meetings.
3. Dental students should get more training to deal with individuals with special health care needs.
4. Telemedicine should be implemented within the District.
5. Community involvement should be fostered by:
  - a. Incorporating the community's voice while an oral health plan for the District is created.
  - b. Having town-hall meetings.

***Dialoguing with Dental and Medical Providers***

*Facilitator:* Dr. Donald Schneider, Dental Consultant in Health Policy and Dental Research

*Aim:* To discuss ways to initiate standard setting in the dental world, improving quality of care and identifying indicators of care.

*Recommendations:*

Morning Session

1. Public awareness about the importance of oral health needs to be heightened.
2. Oral Health education needs to begin with younger audiences in order to instill proper oral hygiene habits at an early age.
3. Oral Health education should be targeted to the immigrant population in DC, as they may be from cultures that do not emphasize the need for good oral health.
4. Dentistry should be “demystified” in order to decrease public’s apprehension about visiting dentist.

Afternoon Session

1. DC residents need to be made aware of where to go to seek oral health treatment.
2. Medicaid reimbursement rates need to be increased.
3. More outreach needs to be performed to encourage dental providers to enroll into managed care.

Oral Health Leadership Summit Priority Issues

Discussions from the various sessions generated many thought provoking issues. Participants were able to identify and recommend possible solutions to many of these. Some of the more common, reoccurring topics throughout the Summit were:

1. *The public’s awareness to the benefits of good Oral Health needs to be increased* - Campaigns, improved health promotion efforts, etc. needs to be developed and/or increased to change District residents’ attitude towards oral health.
2. *There is a greater need for community collaboration* – Access to additional resources, knowledgeable advice, creativity, skills and motivation needed to further develop the DC DOH Oral Health program will be facilitated with greater community collaboration.
3. *The position of DC DOH Dental Director should be re-established* - Because the District has been without a Dental Director for over two decades many of its public-private partnership has disappeared and therefore needs to be re-forged.

## **What the District of Columbia is Currently Doing: (Post 2003 Oral Health Leadership Summit)**

In an attempt to address some of the oral health issues experienced by the District, the Oral Health Program of the DC DOH has begun to develop and implement program based on the recommendations made during the Summit. The following are activities that are currently being carried out by the Oral Health program.

### *School-Based Dental Sealant Pilot Project*

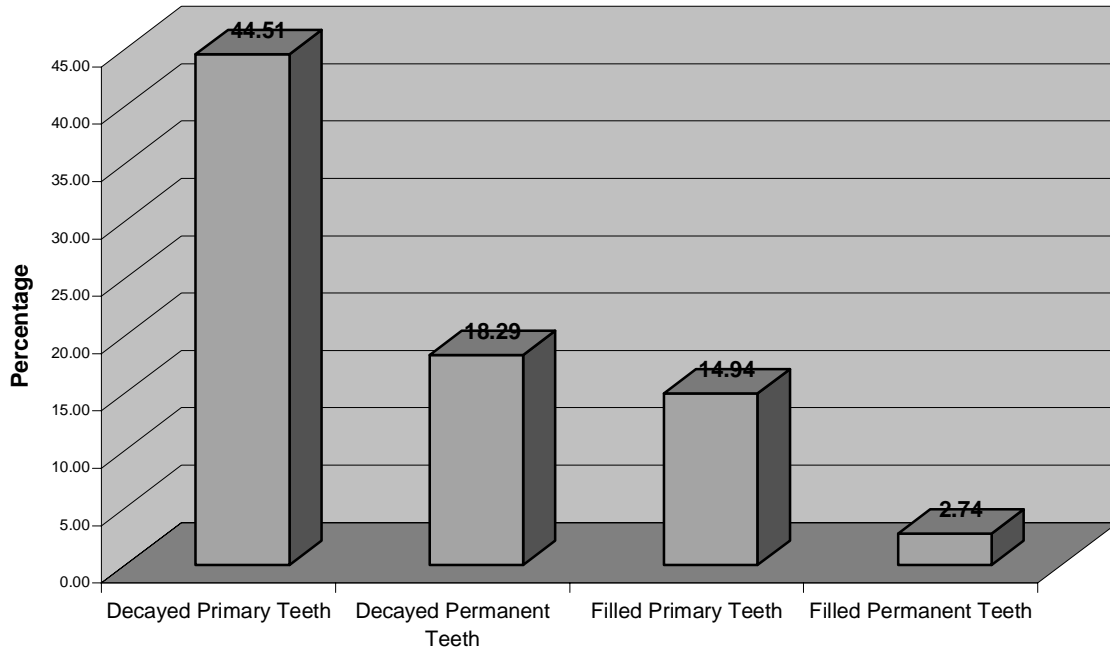
The School Dental Sealant Pilot Project was initiated in seven elementary Transformation Schools (TS) in DC. At this point more than 400 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been examined and provided oral health treatment including sealants. The provision of dental services also allowed valuable oral health data to be collected from each participating child. This data contributes to the development and implementation of an oral health database surveillance system. The program captures data regarding:

- Decayed, Missing and Filled Surfaces (DMFS) of both primary and permanent dentitions
- Percent student participation in the free/reduced lunch program
- Ward (school location)
- Percentage of parental consent form returned
- Number of students referred for urgent and routine care
- Gender & race/ethnicity
- Sealants (previously and currently placed)
- Cost per child treated

Of the students examined 50% had decayed primary teeth, 20% had decayed permanent teeth, 18% had filled primary teeth and 5% had filled permanent teeth (see Graph 2 on the following page). Consequently, approximately 90% of all students examined received sealants resulting in more than 988 sealants being placed.

In addition to the clinical accomplishments of the School Based Dental Sealant Project, the program also provided an educational component. All 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, whether or not they

**Graph 2: History of Caries for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Transformation Elementary School Students**



had returned a signed parental consent form, were instructed on how to adopt proper oral health behaviors such as the correct way to brush and the effects of proper diet on oral health.

As a result of this program, access to oral health services in these otherwise neglected communities was greatly improved. Additionally, oral health awareness of students, staff, families and other community members was increased. These efforts will play a valuable role in decreasing the incidence of early childhood tooth decay within individual schools as well as the total DC community.

The dental sealant project uses portable dental equipment in the schools. The team comprises of a retired dentist and a dental assistant. The dental assistant is a resident of the community in which some of the TS are located and has a child that attends a TS. She is a former Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipient trained by the dental program to be a dental assistant.



*DC Oral Health Coalition*

An Oral Health Coalition for the District of Columbia was convened in order to provide a more comprehensive approach to oral health policy, planning and programming. The coalition consists of a voluntary network of individuals and organizations that are committed to finding an effective local approach to improving oral health and decreasing the access barriers within the District of Columbia.

*OHA & CHC Forms*

Oral Health Assessment (OHA) and Child Health Certificate (CHC) forms were developed in Spring 2004. The OHA replaces the Dental Appraisal Form and should be completed for all children of the age of three years or older. Both the OHA and CHC forms will replace all other enrollment forms for children enrolled in public and private schools, Head Start, and childcare, and may also be used for camp, after school, and athletic programs. The forms aims to improve the efficiency with which the health status of children enrolling in child related educational programs in the District are assessed concurrently making the process more convenient for parents and providers. DC DOH collaborated with governmental and community agencies, as well as health professionals and other stakeholders to develop the new forms. These non-DOH entities are all committed to supporting DOH in their efforts to improve the health and well being of children in the District of Columbia.

*Children with Special Health Care Needs*

Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCNs) often receive lower levels of health services including dental, than other children and are in dire need of oral health services. The DC Oral Health Program is providing dental care for Children with Special Needs in order to improve the oral health of this unique population within the District. The program is currently housed on two sites, Mamie D. Lee in Northeast DC and Sharpe Health School in Northwest DC

Provision of Dental Care for Children with Special Needs aims to improve the oral health of this unique population residing within DC The program has developed organizational structure, roles, relationships and accountability mechanisms.

Since Children with Special Health Care Needs uniformly receive lower levels of health services including dental, than other children, Special Needs children in the DC are in dire need



of oral health services. In addition to providing clinical services at the two schools using existing but refurbished dental equipment, the oral health program will also be conducting outreach, education and home based monitoring and coaching to assist parents and caregivers of these special needs children to understand the importance of oral health and gain the skills required to implement their child's oral health care plan. The Dental Staff at Children National Center (CNMC) is providing the clinical dental treatment at the two special needs schools.

### *Forging Partnerships*

Presentations discussing the DC DOH Oral Health Program have been made to national oral health conferences. These presentations have facilitated the development, expansion and improvement of relationships between oral health partners in order to promote an integrated oral health system and increase resources within the District. Audiences include the DC Dental Society Leadership Summit, DC Mayor's Health Policy Council Children's Forum, the American Association of Community Dental Programs, the Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program Pre-Conference Symposium National Oral Health Conference, Annual Joint Meeting of American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) as well as the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD).

## **Conclusion**

The first Department of Health Oral Health Leadership Summit held on July 18, 2003 brought together many of the leading figures in Oral Health Care from both the public and private sectors within the District of Columbia. Insightful recommendations were generated from both developmental phases of the Summit where the following topics were discussed:

- Oral Health Needs of Children & Adolescents;
- Oral Health Needs of Working Families & the Uninsured;
- Oral Health of Special Needs Populations (Disabled, Seniors, MRDDA, HIV/AIDS); and
- Dialoguing with Dental and Medical Providers.

The recommendations from the Summit are being used in developing the five-year Oral Health Plan for the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia Oral Health Coalition will also address some of the recommendations proposed by the Summit.

## **Acknowledgements**

The Oral Health Program of the District of Columbia, Department of Health would like to thank the following for their assistance in planning the Oral Health Leadership Summit. The time, creativity and hard work contributed by these individuals resulted in the success of the Summit.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
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The Health Resources and Services Administration,

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors,

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation funded DCDOH Community Voices Collaborative Project, and

The District of Columbia Department of Health.

Without your support, the Oral Health Leadership Summit would not have been the success it was.

## **Appendix A**

### Plenary Speakers

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**Appendix B**

**A Leadership Summit Sponsored by DC Department of Health  
Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center  
July 18, 2003  
AGENDA**

8:00 – 8:30 am	<b>Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</b>
8:30 – 8:40 am	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Phyllis Mayo, Ph.D. Chief of Staff, DC Department of Health
8:45 – 9:00 am	<b>Remarks &amp; Greetings</b> Bailus Walker, Jr., PhD., MPH, Chairman, Mayor’s Health Policy Council
9:00 – 9:10 am	<b>Remarks</b> Sandra Allen (Invited) Council Member (Ward 8)
9:10 – 9:25am	<b>Remarks &amp; Greetings</b> Michael Richardson, MD, FACP Chief Medical Officer Primary Care, Prevention and Planning DC Department of Health
9:30 – 10:00 am	<b>Oral Health in America: Critical Issues, Trends &amp; Strategies</b> Caswell Evans, DDS, MPH Editor, Surgeon’s General Report on Oral Health Director, National Oral Health Initiatives Surgeon General’s Office.
10:00 – 10:15 am	<b>Status of Oral Health in the District of Columbia</b> Emanuel Finn, DDS, MS Oral Health Program Manager DC Department of Health
10:15 – 10:45 am	<b>Financing and Workforce Considerations</b> James J. Crall, DDS, ScD Maternal and Child Health Bureau National Oral Health Policy Center Division of Community Health Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery New York, NY.
10:45 – 11:00 am	<b>Break</b>
11:00 – 12:30 pm	<b>AM Roundtable Discussions: Strategy Development Phase I - Discussions on barriers and resources</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing the Oral Health Needs of Children &amp; Adolescents.</li> <li>• Addressing the Oral Health Needs of Working Families &amp; the Uninsured.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing the Oral Health of Special Needs Populations (Disabled, Seniors, MRDDA, HIV/AIDS)</li> <li>• Dialoguing with Dental and Medical Providers.</li> </ul>
12:30 – 1:15 pm	<p><b>Lunch and Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Pipeline Profession and Practice Community Initiative funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation</b>  Donna Grant-Mills, RDH, M.Ed., DDS  Program Director  RWJF Community Based Dental Education Program  Howard University College of Dentistry’s</p> <p><b>Provisions of Oral Health Services to Children with Special Needs Project</b>  Marilyn Seabrooks Mydral, MPA  Maternal and Child Health Officer  DC Department of Health</p>
1:15 – 2:45 pm	<p><b>PM Roundtable Discussions: Strategy Development Phase II - Discussions on barriers and resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing the Oral Health Needs of Children &amp; Adolescents.</li> <li>• Addressing the Oral Health Needs of Working Families &amp; the Uninsured.</li> <li>• Addressing the Oral Health of Special Needs Populations (Disabled, Seniors, MRDDA, HIV/AIDS)</li> <li>• Dialoguing with Dental and Medical Providers.</li> </ul>
2:45 – 3:45 pm	<b>Reporting Out</b>
3:45 – 4:00 pm	<p><b>Next Steps and Closing Remarks</b>  Emanuel Finn, DDS, MS.  Oral Health Program Manager  DC Department of Health.</p>





**Government of the District  
of Columbia  
Department of Health  
Oral Health Division**



**Oral Health Leadership  
Summit  
November 30, 2005**

*“Shaping the Future of Oral Health:  
From Cavities to Oral Cancer”*



## **Introduction**

The District of Columbia held its first Oral Health Leadership Summit on July 18, 2003 with the theme of “*Rebuilding on a Framework for Improving Oral Health in the District of Columbia*”. The 1<sup>st</sup> Summit was planned as one of the District’s strategic responses to former U.S Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher’s report on *Oral Health in America* issued in May 2000 and current U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Richard Carmona’s report on *The National Call to Action to Promote Oral Health*. This one-day summit addressed issues such as oral health policy development, oral health quality assurance, and initiating linkages with dental and medical providers as well as the dental community. The summit also discussed issues surrounding low Medicaid reimbursement rates, bureaucratic administrative requirements, lack of uniformity and methods to rebuild the dental infrastructure in the District in order to facilitate greater access to dental services.

With the groundwork being laid to highlight the importance of an integrated oral health delivery system and health plan that will reach District residents with unmet needs, the DC DOH Oral Health Division recognized that there was still more to be done. In an attempt to address these challenges, a second Summit was held on November 30, 2005. This Summit not only continued with the work started in 2003, but also addressed disparities in oral health within the District of Columbia, particularly as it affects the dental access of children. The Oral Health Summit provided a forum for District policy makers and key stakeholders to learn about critical oral health issues from a variety of perspectives and stakeholders. The setting also provided a venue and opportunity to dialogue, debate, discuss and develop strategies to address oral health disparities.

### Current Status of Oral Health in Washington, DC

The District’s high rate of poverty (approximately 10.6 percent of the District’s population are living below the Federal Poverty Level) combined with its large minority population (approximately 75 percent of the population are African Americans and Hispanics) results in very low oral health indicators. According to the 2000 Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System survey:

- Almost 30% of African Americans in DC indicated that they had lost six or more teeth due to decay or gum disease compared to 12 percent of Hispanics.
- About 33% of Hispanics and African Americans had not visited a dentist in the past year.
- Males in the District have the highest incidence (25.4) and mortality rate (11.4) per 100,000 of oral cancer in the country.

## Summit Sessions

### I. Colgate® Bright Smiles Bright Futures Program™

*Description:* This session provided a brief overview of the Colgate® Bright Smiles Bright Futures Program™ (initiative to promote the importance of oral health through education and prevention).

*Objectives:* This session aimed to provide participants with information about the Colgate® Bright Smiles Bright Futures Program™. After completing this session, participants should have been:

- Familiarized with the goals and mission of the Colgate® Bright Smiles Bright Futures Program™; and
- Aware of the services provided by the Colgate® Bright Smiles Bright Futures Program™.

*Presenters:*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Title</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Dr. Marsha Butler	Vice President, Global Professional Relations and Marketing, Colgate-Palmolive Company	Colgate® Bright Smiles Bright Futures Program™

### II. School-Based Oral Health Programs

*Description:* Oral disease is the most common childhood disease that is more likely to disproportionately affect children from lower-income families. In an attempt to address this disparity, this session provided insight from various points-of-view on current and future initiatives to positively impact the oral health of students within the District.

*Objectives:* This session aimed to provide participants with an overview of oral health initiatives currently in place to address the “silent epidemic” of dental disease hurting students in DC Public Schools (DCPS). After completing this session, participants should have been:

- Able to identify why oral health services within schools are important;
- Aware of current and future initiatives in place to improve the oral health status of students within DCPS; and
- Familiarized with current data obtained from the School-Based Dental Sealant program.





Presenters:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Title</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Ms. Angela Tilghman	Principal, Miner Elementary School	Importance of oral health services within schools (particularly as it applies to DC)
Dr. Iris Morton	Private dentist/Primary dentist – School-Based Sealant Program	Experiences providing dental services within schools (particularly interaction with students, staff & parents)
Ms. Twana Dinnall	Dental Coordinator	Data from School-Based Sealant Program & future policy implications
Dr. Jim Feldman	Immediate Past President, DC Dental Society; Chair, Give Kids a Smile Day	Give Kids a Smile Day
Ms. Ann Debiasi	Washington Director, Children Dental Health Project	Facilitator

**III. Panel Discussion: Oral Health Coverage & Access to Care**

*Description:* Inability to pay for needed dental services (both preventative & restorative) has been proven to be a major factor in oral health disparities. This panel discussion provided a brief overview of some of the challenges faced by low-income DC residents when attempting to reimburse providers as well as some proposals to address this issue.

*Objectives:* This session aimed to provide participants with an overview of some of the challenges faced by low-income DC residents when attempting to reimburse providers as well as some proposals to address this issue. After completing this session, participants should have been:

- Familiarized with the case *Salazar v. The District of Columbia*; and
- Aware of approaches to address oral health problems facing the underinsured and uninsured population.

Presenters:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Title</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Ms. B. J. Wolf	Chief, Office of Children, Families & Youth, Medical Assistance Administration, DC DOH	Salazar Consent Decree
Ms. Angela Jones	Executive Director, DC Action for	Advocating efforts &



	Children	recommendations to improve the oral health of children in DC
Ms. Sharon Baskerville	Executive Director, DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA)	Medical Homes project & the inclusion of oral health
Dr. Milton Bernard	President, Quality Plan Administrators, Inc.	Enhancing Medicaid Managed Care to improve recipient's oral health care
Dr. Candace Mitchell	Vice President, Medical Affairs Mary's Center for Maternal & Child Health	Moderator

IV. *Luncheon Presentation: The Role of Oral Health in Disaster Preparedness*

*Description:* Unfortunately, in recent time, there has been an increase in the possibility of events occurring that produces mass-causalities. This luncheon presentation described how the role of dentistry has expanded in order to play a greater role in preparing for disasters and to act as first-line responder.

*Objectives:* This session aimed to provide participants with an overview of how dentistry's role has expanded by playing a greater part in disaster preparedness and response. After completing this session, participants should have been:

- Able to identify the importance of dentistry in disaster preparedness;
- Aware of how dentistry plays a role in disaster preparedness;
- Aware of how dentistry plays a role in disaster response; and
- Familiarized with future initiatives to increase the role of dentistry in both disaster preparedness and response.

*Presenters:*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Title</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Dr. Michael Colvard	Assistant Professor and Periodontal Surgeon, Department of Oral Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, College of Dentistry, University of Illinois at Chicago	Role of dentistry in disaster preparedness and disaster response.
Dr. Ryle Bell	Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Howard University College of Dentistry	Introduction



V. *Oral Health Programs and the Community*

*Description:* Organized grass-roots efforts have been proven to play a significant role in identifying communities most in need of dental services and lobbying providers to provide these services. This session highlighted the experiences of some dental programs within DC with strong ties to the community as well as the role of the community-based dental education and practice and its impact on dental access.

*Objectives:* This session aimed to provide participants with an overview of the achievements and challenges faced by dental programs throughout DC. After completing this session, participants should have been:

- Cognizant of the importance of collaborations between dental programs and the communities they serves;
- Aware of community-based dental education and private benefits; and
- Familiarized with the experiences of various dental programs within DC.

*Presenters:*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Title</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Dr. Donna Grant-Mills	Howard University College of Dentistry	Howard University College of Dentistry's experience with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Pipeline, Profession & Practice Community Dental Education grant
Dr. Maria Rosa-Watson	Research Director, Spanish Catholic Center-Centro Catolico Hispanico	The role of the Spanish Catholic Center in serving the oral health needs of District residents
Ms. Sue Carmadese	Clinical Manager, Children's National Medical Center	Experiences as an oral health clinician at Children's National Medical Center
Dr. Michelle Locket	Unity Health Care – Dental Program	Experiences providing oral health care in a community-based health center
Dr. Donna Grant-Mills	Howard University College of Dentistry	Howard University College of Dentistry's experience with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Pipeline, Profession & Practice Community Dental Education grant

VI. *Oral Health Services for Specialized Populations*



*Description:* Oral health services that are required by each population may vary depending on specific needs. As a result, this session highlighted some of the oral health needs of particular populations and discussed both the programs that have been implemented as well as those that are to be developed.

*Objectives:* This session aimed to provide participants with an overview of how the oral health needs of different populations may vary and the services that should be developed and implemented to address these needs. After completing this session, participants should have been:

- Able to identify how the oral health needs of the populations discussed varies; and
- Aware of current and future initiatives in to address and improve the oral health status of these different populations.

*Presenters:*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Title</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Ms. Rebecca Bruno	Advocacy Associate, So Others Might Eat	Homeless population
Ms. Lois Wessel	Association of Clinicians for the Underserved	Early Childhood Caries Prevention Project
Dr. Gail Christopher	Director of Health Policy Institute; Joint Center for Political Economic Studies	Oral Health of African American Males
Dr. Steven Price	Private dentist	Facilitator

VII. [Local Initiatives to Address Oral Health Disparities](#)

*Description:* The DC Department of Health (DOH) is charged with ensuring that District residents have access to needed health services. This session focused on how the DC DOH is specifically addressing the oral health needs of District residents.

*Objectives:* This session aimed to provide participants with an overview of some of the current and future initiatives of the DC DOH to effectively address the oral needs of DC residents. After completing this session, participants should have been:

- Able to identify current and future oral health initiatives;
- Familiarized with the role of a cancer registry; and
- Aware of Medicaid issues affecting the delivery of oral health services in the District.



*Shaping the Future of Oral Health: From Cavities to Oral Cancer*

*Presenters:*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Title</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Dr. Sukhminder Sandhu & Dr. Timothy Cote	DC Department of Health	Epidemiology of Oral Cancer in District
Ms. Sarah Lichtman Spector	Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society of District of Columbia	Medicaid Issues in the District
Dr. Bailus Walker	Mayor's Health Policy Council, Chairman	Facilitator



## **Summit Recommendations**

The following is a summary of recommendations and comments given by participants at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oral Health Summit as stated on evaluation forms:

### *Most Useful Aspects of Summit*

- Networking opportunities
- Learning about current oral health activities
- Being informed of current DC Oral Health Division challenges
- Discussion and information given about dental providers' role in disaster preparedness
- Information given about a variety of oral health projects hosted throughout including (but not limited to), School-Based Sealant Program, "Give Kids a Smile Day", surveillance (oral cancer)
- Panel discussions focusing on "School Based Oral Health Program" and "Oral Health Coverage & Access to Care"
- Diverse and knowledgeable audience
- Opportunity to hear from both elected and non-elected local leaders about current oral health initiatives
- Reaffirming the importance of the relationship between oral health and general health
- Statistical data provided about the District's oral health status
- Details given about oral health programs aimed towards children and the community
- Discussion about the importance of strong policies, procedure and political capital to strengthen oral health's status

### *Recommendations for Future Summits*

- Presenters should share additional lessons learned
- Have one or two action items – publish a statement on a particular issue
- Follow-up with periodic meetings to discuss projects and initiatives to help provide area for collaboration
- Important that speakers have follow-up discussions on areas of concern
- Allow more time for question/answer period and audience dialogue
- Greatly expand opportunities for interactive sessions and networking

*Shaping the Future of Oral Health: From Cavities to Oral Cancer*

- Greater collaboration with other District agencies and District representatives (e.g. Councilmembers)
- Additional government representatives should be present to address funding and the role of the government plays in meeting the oral health care needs of the District residents
- Create a long and short term plan based on recommendations
- More emphasis should be placed on the role of the Oral Health Coalition/task force
- Prioritize action items to improve oral health in DC
- Develop action plan that consists of subsequent Summits

*Future Topics*

- Recruiting & retaining mid-level oral health professionals (e.g. RDH) in an underinsured/public health setting
- Research
- Oral health statistics for the region
- Role of community clinics
- Involvement of public health educators from local investors
- Impact on dental disease on pre-term labor
- Advocacy/ community-based organization session – Aimed at engaging participants in advocacy for increased resources for oral health in DC
- Participating with Primary Care Providers
- Managed care contracting
- Impact on populace of various intervention and support programs of dental care
- Children and mentally ill children with health issues - Incorporating a consumer response competent offering real-life feedback on
- City's use (lack of use) of tobacco funds
- Expanded function of dental hygienists
- License for foreign trained dentist
- Litigation and dentistry
- Increased partnership with teachers to develop curriculum that places more emphasis on oral health and parent participation
- Funding for programs



*Shaping the Future of Oral Health: From Cavities to Oral Cancer*

- Integration of oral health with general health care
- Reciprocity in dentistry (i.e. licensing)
- Relationship between dentistry and the Board of Education
- Expanded oral health school programs
- Best practices in current oral health issues
- Primary oral health
- Medicaid & Medicare's role in providing dental coverage to the adult population (best practices from other states)
- Coordinated presentation of collaborations stating how oral health should be directed for future improvement
- Evaluation of School Based Sealant Program
- Solutions to change the law as it affects oral health

*Additional Comments*

- The email list of attendees should be used to recruit oral health coalition members
- More adult oral health issues
- Oral cancer conference (part/full day)
- More pediatricians and physicians should participate in the Summit
- Share findings from Summit and keep participants active
- Oral Health Coalition should be re-examined to direct future oral health efforts
- Create a listserve to inform oral health experts about upcoming hearings and other public oral health related events





### **What the Oral Health Division is Currently Doing**

In an attempt to address some of the oral health issues experienced by the District, the Oral Health Program of the DC DOH has begun to develop and implement program based on the recommendations made during the Summit. The following are activities that are currently being carried out by the Oral Health program.

1. *School-Based Dental Program*

The Oral Health Division began a pilot School-Based Dental Program in nine elementary DC Public Schools designated as Transformation (T) Schools. The Program commenced in the first T-school (Davis Elementary) in September 2003 and completed the last T-school (Turner Elementary) in September 2004. Since its inception 812 DC Public Schools (DCPS) elementary school students who presented their signed parental consent forms were provided with preventive oral health treatment services. In FY '05, 301 students were examined, of those 301 students, 283 students – or 94% – received dental sealants. All students of grades being served, regardless of whether or not they presented their parental consent form, received oral health education.

During FY '05, the Oral Health Division began to provide sealants and other preventive oral health treatment services to non-Transformation schools that have at least 50% of its students participating in the National School Lunch Program (children from families with incomes at or below 130% FPL are eligible for free meals and those with incomes between 130% and 185% FPL are eligible for reduced-price meals). The Program has also started to provide dental services in two schools simultaneously. By providing dental services to students enrolled in schools that meet this criteria, it is expected that these students would have access to necessary dental services that they would have otherwise have had no access to.

The Project provides the following services:

- **Sealant Application** - Sealants are thin plastic materials that are applied to the chewing surfaces of permanent molars; they are most effective in reducing cavities in children with newly formed permanent teeth as usually found in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders (6 - 8 years)
- **Fluoride Treatment** - Fluoride treatment is used as a preventive measure because it is absorbed into the enamel of the teeth making them more resistant to acid producing bacteria

- **Dental Screenings** - Helps to build a positive attitude in the student towards dental health, encourage parents to schedule dental examinations for their child, and be used to enhance the health education program
- **Oral Health Education & Promotion** - Inform students, parents and teachers of the importance of good oral health and advice them on techniques to prevent oral diseases
- **Data Collection** - The Project serves as a valuable source of original oral health data as the Division, in conjunction with the DC DOH and the District at large, continues to build its oral health data.

The Project also serves as an invaluable source of primary oral health data. Data collected includes:

- Decayed, Missing and Filled Surfaces of both primary and permanent dentitions
- Percent participation in free/reduced lunch program
- Ward (school location)
- Percentage of parental consent returned
- Number of children referred for urgent/routine care & cost per child/tooth treated
- Gender & race/ethnicity
- Sealants (previously and currently placed)

3. [District of Columbia Oral Health Coalition](#)

In June 2004, the Oral Health Division convened the DC Oral Health Coalition. The Vision Statement of the Coalition is “*Access to Oral Health Care for All Residents in the District of Columbia*”. Its Mission Statement is “*Improving access to oral health care to District of Columbia residents by increasing oral education, prevention, awareness, and treatment; and the development of Oral Health Homes*”. Members of the DC Oral Health Coalition includes:

- DC Dental Society
- Hispanic Dental Association, Washington Metro
- National Dental Association
- Robert T. Freeman Dental Society
- Howard University (College of Dentistry)
- Mayor’s Office of Health Policy
- Children’s Health Project of DC
- DC DOH (Oral Health Division)

- DC DOH (Maternal & Family Health Administration)

4. *Provision of Oral Health Services to Children with Special Health Care Needs*

The Oral Health Division was given the responsibility of providing project oversight to the Provision of Oral Health Services to Children with Special Health Care Needs project in August 2004. As a result of the change in project oversight, the project was approved for its third year of funding for the amount of \$100,000. Children's National Medical Center is contracted to provide dental services to the children at two DC Public Health Schools. They are Melvin C. Sharpe and Mamie. D. Lee Health Schools.

5. *OHA & CHC Forms*

Oral Health Assessment (OHA) and Child Health Certificate (CHC) forms were developed in Spring 2004. The OHA replaces the Dental Appraisal Form and should be completed for all children three years of age or older. Both the OHA and CHC forms will replace all other enrollment forms for children enrolled in public and private schools, Head Start, and childcare, and may also be used for camp, after school, and athletic programs. The forms aims to improve the efficiency with which the health status of children enrolling in child related educational programs in the District are assessed concurrently making the process more convenient for parents and providers. DC DOH collaborated with governmental and community agencies, as well as health professionals and other stakeholders to develop the new forms. These non-DOH entities are all committed to supporting DOH in their efforts to improve the health and well being of children in the District of Columbia.

## **Future Plans for the Oral Health Division**

### 1. *Five-Year Oral Health Plan*

The DC Oral Health Division is in the initial stages of developing a five-year oral health plan that aims to identify suitable and effective strategies to target vulnerable and underserved populations, establish integrated and culturally appropriate interventions, and set priorities for the District of Columbia. Representatives from both the private and public sector will provide input for this plan.

### 2. *Strategic Plan: Bioterrorism and Dentistry*

The Oral Health Division have been having discussions with the Emergency Health and Medical Services Administration (EHMSA) to increase the Division's role in dealing with an event of a bioterrorist attack and other catastrophic events. Some of the possible opportunities being explored are:

- Incorporating Howard University College of Dentistry and the DC licensed dentists as part of a dental response team;
- Perform outreach and lectures at Howard University College of Dentistry and high schools to help prepare students to deal with possibility of a threat;
- Assist EHMSA to prepare a professional educational plan/curriculum for the Howard University College of Dentistry;
- Staff of the Oral Health Division becoming a member of the Emergency Reserve Corp; and
- Recruiting District dental providers to become a member of the Emergency Reserve Corp.
- The luncheon speaker at the summit was Dr. Michael Colvard, Director of Emergency Medicine Readiness Training Center (DEMRT) at the College of Dentistry, University of Illinois Chicago.
- Dr. Colvard addressed The Role of Oral Health Provider in Disaster Preparedness and Response

### 3. *Provision of Oral Health Services to Woodson Wellness Center*

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DC Department of Health, Oral Health Division; DCPS and the Department of Mental Health Saint Elizabeths Hospital has been finalized. This MOU will allow dental residents from Saint Elizabeths Hospital to rotate through the Woodson Wellness Center in order to provide preventative and restorative dental care to students who present with their signed parental const form. The residents will be supervised by staff dentists

from St. Elizabeths hospital as well as Dr. Emanuel Finn (Chief, Oral Health Division). Dental supplies and equipment have already been purchased for this innovative, new service at the Woodson Wellness Center.



### Acknowledgements

The Oral Health Division of the District of Columbia, Department of Health would like to thank the following for their assistance in planning and implementing the Oral Health Leadership Summit. The time, creativity and hard work contributed by these individuals resulted in the success of the Summit.

Name	Organization
Leila Abrar	Office of Communications (DC DOH)
Samuel Barrington	Maternal & Family Health Administration (DC DOH)
Valora Bishop	Maternal & Family Health Administration (DC DOH)
Sybil Bowick	Office of Communications (DC DOH)
Judith Johnson	Office of Communications (DC DOH)
Stephanie Martin	Maternal & Family Health Administration (DC DOH)
Farhia Mussa	Maternal & Family Health Administration (DC DOH)
Alimayu Oding	Office of Communications (DC DOH)
Angela Simmons	Maternal & Family Health Administration (DC DOH)
Erica Thomas	Maternal & Family Health Administration (DC DOH)
Renee Withers	Office of the Director (DC DOH)

### *Sponsors*

The Oral Health Program of the District of Columbia, Department of Health would like to thank the following for financially supporting the Oral Health Leadership Summit, without which the Summit would have never been a reality:

- Doral
- Downtown DC Business Improvement District
- Hispanic Dental Association
- The District of Columbia Department of Health.



District of Columbia Department of Health • Oral Health Division  
2<sup>nd</sup> Oral Health Summit

Oral Health Leadership Summit • Washington, DC  
November 30, 2005



Shaping the Future of Oral Health: From Cavities to Oral Cancer  
Wednesday, November 30, 2005

**Agenda**

- 8:15 am – 9:00 am ***Registration & Continental Breakfast***
- 9:00 am – 9:35 am ***Opening Session***  
*Introduction* - **Emanuel Finn, DDS, MS**, Chief, Oral Health Division, DC Department of Health  
*Welcome* - **Gregg A. Pane, MD, MPA**, Director, DC Department of Health  
*Remarks* - **RADM Dushanka Kleinman, DDS, MScD**, Chief Dental Officer, Public Health Service; Deputy Director, National Institutes of Dental & Craniofacial Research, National Institute of Health  
*Progress Report: Oral Health in the District* - **Emanuel Finn, DDS, MS**, Chief, Oral Health Division, DC Department of Health
- 9:35 am – 10:00 am ***Colgate® Bright Smiles Bright Futures Program™***  
**Marsha Butler, DDS**, Vice President, Global Professional Relations & Marketing
- 10:00 am – 10:55 am ***School-Based Oral Health Programs***
  - **Lavonne Taliaferro-Bunch, MA**, Acting Principal, Miner Elementary School
  - **Iris Morton, DDS, MS**, Dental Provider, DC DOH School-Based Dental Program & Private Dentist
  - **Twana Dinnall, MHS**, Dental Coordinator, Oral Health Division, DC Department of Health
  - **Jim Feldman, DDS**, Chair, Give Kids A Smile Day & Immediate Past President DC Dental Society
  - *Facilitator* – **Anne De Biasi, MHA**, Washington Director, Children Dental Health Project
- 11:00 am – 12:10 pm ***Panel Discussion - Oral Health Coverage & Access to Care***
  - **Frankeena Wright, MPH**, Senior Health Policy Analyst, DC Action for Children
  - **B. J. Wolf, RN**, Chief, Office of Children & Families, MAA, DC Department of Health
  - **Milton Bernard, DDS**, President, Quality Plan Administrators
  - **Sharon Baskerville**, Executive Director, DC Primary Care Association
  - *Facilitator* – **Candace Mitchell, DDS, MBA**, Vice President, Medical Affairs, Mary's Center for Maternal & Child Health; Co-Chair DC Oral Health Coalition
- 12:15 pm – 1:25 pm ***Lunch & Networking***  
**Awards Ceremony**
  - *Individual Impact Award* – **Maria Gomez, RN, MPH**, Founder, CEO & President, Mary's Center for Maternal & Child Health, Washington DC
  - *Corporate Crown Award* – **W. K. Kellogg Foundation**

***Lunch & Networking Continued***

*Oral Health Leadership Summit • Washington, DC*  
*November 30, 2005*



- *Institutional Incisors Award* – **Howard University College of Dentistry**
- *Awards Presented by* **Dr. Gregg A. Pane** (Director, DC Department of Health) and **Dr. Carlos Cano** (Senior Deputy Director, Maternal & Family Health Administration, DC Department of Health)

*Remarks*

**The Honorable David Catania, JD**, Councilmember At-Large & Chairperson, Committee on Health, Council of the District of Columbia

*Luncheon Presentation: The Role of Oral Health Provider in Disaster Preparedness and Response*

**Dr. Michael Colvard**, Assistant Professor and Periodontal Surgeon, Department of Oral Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, College of Dentistry, University of Illinois at Chicago

1:30 pm – 2:40 pm

*Concurrent Break-Out Sessions*

*Session I: Oral Health Programs & the Community*

- **Donna Grant-Mills, DDS, M.De**, Assistant Professor; Project Director, Robert Wood Johnson Pipeline Grant, Howard University College of Dentistry
- **Maria-Rosa Watson, DDS, MS, DrPH**, Research Director, Health Clinics Spanish Catholic Center
- **Sue Carmadese, RDH, BA** Clinical Manager, Department of Pediatric Dentistry
- **Michele Parker-Lockett, DDS**, Dental Officer, Walker Jones Community Health Clinic
- *Facilitator* – **Jay Anderson, DMD, MHSA**, Chief Dental Officer, Division of Clinical Quality, Bureau of Primary Health Care, Health Research & Services Administration

*Session II: Oral Health Services for Specialized Populations*

- **Rebecca Bruno, MPM**, Advocacy Associate, **So Others Might Eat**
- **Lois Wessel, RN, CFNP**, Certified Family Nurse Practitioner & Project Director, ACU Early Childhood Caries Prevention Project & Indoor Air Quality Project, Association of Clinician's for the Underserved
- **Gail Christopher, DN**, Vice President, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Office of Health, Women and Families
- *Facilitator* – **Steven Price, DDS**, Private Dentist, Smile Perfection; Co-Chair DC Oral Health Coalition

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm

*Local Initiatives to Address Oral Health Disparities*

- **Sukhminder Sandhu, PhD, MPH**, Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & **Timothy Cote, MD, MPH**, US Public Health Service Officer, District of Columbia Department of Health
- **Sarah Lichtman Spector, JD**, Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society of District of Columbia
- *Facilitator* – **Bailus Walker, Jr., PhD, MPH**, Professor of Environmental & Occupational Medicine & Toxicology, Howard University College of Medicine; Chairman, Mayor's Health Policy Council, Washington, DC

3:35 pm – 3:45 pm *Wrap-Up*