



The Bellwether

Leading Local Efforts to Improve the Nation's Oral Health

A Newsletter of the
American Association
for Community
Dental Programs

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News from the Chair

AACDP's annual meeting was held on April 26–27, 2008, in Miami, FL, preceding the 2008 National Oral Health Conference (NOHC). The meeting offered an opportunity to present several unique and useful sessions.

Medicaid, SCHIP, and Local Promising Practices for Oral Health Access

The meeting began with **Meg Booth** (Children's Dental Health Project), **Larry Hill** (CincySmiles Foundation), and **Carrie Stempski** (Oral Health Partnership) presenting a session on Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and local promising practices for access to oral health care. Speakers remarked on how positive changes in legislation, policy, and work force expansion, as well as innovative initiatives, have helped make oral health care more accessible for children and families.



Federal Activities and Their Impact on Local Programs

Chris Halliday (Indian Health Service), **Bill Maas** (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), **Jay Anderson** (Health Resources and Services Administration), and **Mark Nehring** (Maternal and Child Health Bureau) shared their expertise on current and future federal activities and projects and how these may impact local programs.

Getting a Head Start on Achieving Optimal Oral Health

Deborah Jacobi (Apple Tree Dental), **Lisa Bell** (State of Wisconsin, Division of Public Health), and **Mark Doherty** (Safety Net Solutions) described promising models that utilize standardized assessments by dental hygienists as an entryway to the oral health care system and the use of collaboration

to establish a dental home for children enrolled in Head Start programs. The speakers addressed the challenges faced and lessons learned in establishing these models.

Data: Friend or Foe? Collecting Data for Planning and Evaluation

Kathy Phipps, consultant, conducted a skill-building session on collecting data for planning and evaluation.

State Practice Act Work Force Issues, and How They Impact Access

Shelly Gehshan (National Association of State Health Plans), **Tammi Byrd** (health promotion specialist), **Beth Mertz** (University of California San Francisco, Center for the Health Professions), **Mary Willard** (Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium), and **Beverly Litchfield** (Prevention Partners) offered insight into how changing state practice acts impact work force issues and access and provided results from several states.

Business Meeting

Highlights of AACDP's business meeting, held on April 29, 2008, include the following:

Meeting participants elected **Amos Deinard** as chair-elect with **Maureen Oostdik** assuming the position of chair and **Jackie Campbell Brumley** continuing as secretary/treasurer, which is a 2-year position. Participants also elected the following executive committee members: **Myron Allukian Jr.**, **Georgia Fisher**, **Judy Gelinas**, **Laura Gushue**, **Katrina Holt**, **Carrie Janszen**, **Sue Klemm**, **Nancy Rublee**, and **Scott Wolpin**.

Larry Hill agreed to serve as AACDP executive director to provide guidance to the officers and executive committee and to provide continuity in the association's activities. Given the changes in the association structure, the need to update the bylaws was identified. Amos Deinard offered to lead this effort. ■

Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievements in Community Dental Programs

During AACDP's annual meeting, **Myron Allukian Jr.** and **Bob Isman** presented the Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievements in Community Dental Programs sponsored by AACDP to **Jared Fine**, Dental Health Administrator for the Alameda County Department of Public Health in Oakland, CA, for exemplary service to communities, distinguished leadership, creativity in promoting essential public health services, achieving results through collaborative efforts with other health professionals and organizations, and demonstrating sensitivity to addressing the needs of special populations.

Jared Fine's career has exemplified the public health philosophy of service to communities. For more than 30 years, he has been a leader in dental public health at the local, state, and national levels. In addition to directing the dental public health activities of a large urban county health department, he has been the president of his local dental society and has served as chair of the board of the Dental Health Foundation and of the Oral Health Section of the American Public Health Association.

In the early days of the AIDS epidemic, many health professionals (especially dentists) were reluctant to treat individuals with HIV. Jared Fine was one of the first in the country to organize an education and training program for oral health professionals on treating those with HIV. In addition, he has been chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the California First 5 Oral Health Education and Training Project, which provides education and training



Left to right: Robert Bagramian, Linda Bennett, Jared Fine, and Janet Fine

to health professionals and oral health professionals to promote earlier preventive dental visits by infants and young children.

Jared Fine is the local project coordinator of the Healthy Kids, Healthy Teeth Program, a national demonstration project aimed at increasing access to oral health care, reducing the incidence and severity of oral disease, and controlling the costs of oral health care among infants and children from birth through age 5 enrolled in Medi-Cal, the Medicaid program in Alameda County, CA.

Jared Fine has devoted his career to supporting the needs of special populations, including persons with HIV/AIDS, individuals with low incomes or from minority groups, pregnant women with low incomes, and underserved infants and children.

Jared Fine's rich and varied career is an inspiration to us all, and his dedication to improving oral health among those most in need is worthy of the utmost admiration. ■

In the News

On March 6, 2008, Representative Elijah Cummings (Maryland) and Senator Sherrod Brown (Ohio) introduced the **Deamonte Driver Dental Care Access Improvement Act of 2008** (HR 5549, S 2723) to expand the dental work force and improve oral health access, prevention, and data reporting. The act includes the following components:

- Amend the Public Health Service Act to require the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to make grants to schools of dentistry and hospitals with accredited training programs in pediatric dentistry.
- Amend Title V (Maternal and Child Health Services) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to require the secretary to provide for a pilot program to increase access to oral health care for underserved populations through the use of allied oral health professionals.
- Require the secretary to award grants to federally qualified health centers to expand and improve the provision of oral health services to medically underserved populations.
- Authorize the secretary to award grants to develop, implement, and evaluate public health and clinical strategies to prevent and manage early childhood caries.
- Amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a business tax credit for a portion of compensation received for providing oral health services under SSA Titles XIX (Medicaid) or XXI (SCHIP) or from an uninsured individual.
- Require the secretary, acting through the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to conduct a public education and awareness campaign on preventing, controlling, and ultimately eliminating early childhood caries.
- Amend SSA Titles XIX and XXI to expand reporting requirements with respect to children's oral health services.

- Require the comptroller general to study payment rates for oral health services provided to individuals under Medicaid or SCHIP.
- Require the secretary to ensure the inclusion of oral health prevention and promotion activities within existing prenatal and maternal and child health programs.

For more information, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

The **National Children's Oral Health Foundation** (NCOHF) received a grant from the 3M Foundation to engage pediatric and family physicians and early childhood educators in the Twin Cities (Minneapolis–St. Paul, Minnesota) who will support community efforts to break the cycle of oral disease in young children at risk for such disease. Amos Deinard, a recognized pioneer in the prevention of oral disease and AACDP chair-elect, will guide this innovative program.

The program will pilot an important component of the NCOHF Oral Health Zone (OHZ) in the Twin Cities beginning in fall 2008. An OHZ brings together a community's leading stakeholders involved in children's health issues to respond to pediatric oral disease. The program, which emphasizes education and prevention, aims to reverse the upward trend of the disease. The goal of the program is to integrate primary caries prevention into the menu of well-child-care services so that child morbidity and health care costs decrease.

This program is expected to expand access to and participation in preventive oral health services (e.g., risk assessment, education, fluoride varnish, referrals) for children from families with low incomes living in the Twin Cities area. Emphasizing education and prevention, the program will increase oral health literacy, increase the number of venues in which children receive preventive services, and reverse the upward trend of pediatric oral disease. Successful implementation of this program will provide valuable information on how to motivate staff working in pediatric primary care clinics and other child-related venues (e.g., Early Head Start,

Head Start, WIC) to become involved in preventing pediatric oral disease.

For more information, contact NCOHF at (704) 350-1600 or at info@ncohf.org, or visit the foundation's Web site at <http://www.ncohf.org>. ■

Save the Date!

The **National Summit of Clinicians for Health-care Justice** will host *Network, Learn, and Rally for Health Justice* on October 23–25, 2008, in Washington, DC. This gathering of clinicians will focus on exploring cutting-edge solutions to health-care-related problems, rediscovering professional excitement, making a difference in health care, and being a vital voice in health care justice. To register or for more information go to <http://www.allclinicians.org/home.php>.

AACDP's **2009 annual meeting** will be held on April 19, 2009, preceding NOHC, which will be held on April 20–22, 2009, in Portland, Oregon. A preliminary business agenda and other information will be posted on AACDP's Web site in spring 2009. ■

Resources

AACDP's **Web site** is a useful resource for members. The site offers information about the association, the annual meeting, publications, and more. The site is organized with tabs across the top:

- **About** tab provides a description of the association.
- **Contact** tab provides the name and address for correspondence.
- **Meetings** tab features information (in the spring) about the upcoming annual meeting and (year round) offers links to the agenda and presentations from meetings held from 2005 to the present.



- **Publications** tab features products from AACDP, including *A Guide for Developing and Enhancing Community Oral Health Programs* (2006), *A Model Framework for Community Oral Health Programs Based Upon the Ten Essential Public Health Services* (2006), *Seal America: The Prevention Invention* (2nd ed.) (2007), and *The Bellwether* (newsletter).
- **Membership** tab provides information about AACDP and how to join online. The membership tab can also be used to search for members' contact information.

After you visit <http://www.aacdp.com>, please send comments and suggestions to info@aacdp.com. AACDP's Web site is hosted and maintained by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center.

Minnesota Community Collaborative Practice Head Start Oral Health Model: A Strong Start and Guide for the Future describes Minnesota's efforts to implement the Community Collaborative Practice Head Start Oral Health Model to expand the role of allied oral health professionals to increase compliance with the federal Head Start program performance standards. It includes a timeline of policy and regulatory initiatives, evaluation methods, key findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

Available at no charge at <http://www.mnheadstart.org/HS08%20REPORT6%20KEYLINE.pdf>.

Toward a Stronger Oral Health Safety Net: Oral Health Care in Massachusetts Community Health Centers presents findings from a survey to collect information about community health center dental programs in Massachusetts and to identify the challenges program directors face and the factors that impede timely and effective care. Topics discussed include the survey aim and methods, capacity and access, work force issues, services, a leadership profile, and leadership experience.

Available at no charge at http://www.catalystinstitute.org/media/reports/Dental_Director_Survey_Report.pdf. ■

Permission is given to forward *The Bellwether: Leading Local Efforts to Improve the Nation's Oral Health*, in its entirety, to others. For all other uses, requests for permission to duplicate and use all or part of the information contained in this publication should be sent to the address below.

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