

From Reginald Louie, DDS, MPH  
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## **Oral Health Strategies for Region IX Head Start Grantees**

Programs should begin by identifying the barriers/challenges in obtaining dental exams and treatment. It may be useful to convene the health advisory committee and/or a parent focus group to help determine the various perspectives. The TA network might work with grantees to integrate one or more of these strategies into a program's overall Training and Technical Assistance Plan.

1. Invite a local dentist/dental hygienist to be on the Health Services Advisory Committee. This person should be able to help assess and address the oral health needs within the program.
  2. Develop a letter from the Health Services Advisory Committee to dentists including a survey asking whether the dentists would: (a) see pre-school children from Head Start, e.g., 3-5 year olds in HS or Birth-3 year olds in EHS; and, (b) accept Medicaid and SCHIP reimbursement for care. Don't forget that personal contacts are most effective from other health professionals and Head Start program staff.
  3. Access oral health resources, e.g., information, health education training materials and resources from the National Head Start Oral Health Resource Center (<http://www.mchoralhealth.org/HeadStart/>) or the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors Head Start Oral Health Project ([http://www.astdd.org/index.php?template=head\\_start.html](http://www.astdd.org/index.php?template=head_start.html)).
  4. Contact the American Dental Association, National Dental Association, Hispanic Dental Association, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American Dental Hygienists' Association or the state and local components of these organizations for information, guidance and assistance with your oral health needs.
  5. Contact your State Head Start Collaboration Director, State Dental Director or local community dental director for information, guidance and assistance with your oral health needs.
- State Dental Directors by State:
- a. Arizona - Joyce Flieger, BSDH, MPH 602-542-1866 [fliegej@azdhs.gov](mailto:fliegej@azdhs.gov)
    - 1) Arizona Oral Health Coalition – [www.Azsmiles.org](http://www.Azsmiles.org)
    - 2) Pima County – [Margaret.Perry@pimahealth.org](mailto:Margaret.Perry@pimahealth.org)
  - b. California – Roberta Campbell, BS, RDA 916-552-9968 [rcampbel@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:rcampbel@dhs.ca.gov) (Acting)
    - 1) Child Health Disability Prevention Program (CHDP) – Gale Duke, RDH 858-613-9446 [gduke@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:gduke@dhs.ca.gov) and dental resource guide <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/CHDP/pdf/dentalguide.pdf>
    - 2) California Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program (CCDDPP) with local and county dental programs and contact individuals [http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/cdic/cdcb/Medicine/OralHealth/Children's\\_Dental/html/coordinatorlist.htm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/cdic/cdcb/Medicine/OralHealth/Children's_Dental/html/coordinatorlist.htm)
    - 3) First Smiles Oral Health Program - [www.first5oralhealth.org](http://www.first5oralhealth.org)

- 4) Oral Health Access Council (OHAC) a multi-lateral, non-partisan initiative directed towards improving the oral health status of the state's traditionally underserved and vulnerable populations – <http://www.dentalhealthfoundation.org/topics/access/index.shtml>
  - c. Hawai`i – Mark H.K. Greer, DMD, MPH 808-832-5700 [mark.greer@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:mark.greer@doh.hawaii.gov)
  - d. Nevada – Christine Wood, RDH, BS 775-684-5953 [pcwood@health.nv.gov](mailto:pcwood@health.nv.gov) or the state oral health program website – [www.health2k.state.nv.us/oral](http://www.health2k.state.nv.us/oral)
  - e. American Samoa – Salamo Laumoli, DO 684-633-1195 [salamo@hotmail.com](mailto:salamo@hotmail.com)
  - f. Northern Mariana Islands – Alberto Ventura, DDS 670-236-8369
  - g. Guam – Suzanne Sison, DDS 671-735-7364 [sasison@dphss.govguam.net](mailto:sasison@dphss.govguam.net)
  - h. Republic of Palau – Maria Hindenberg, DDS 680-488-2440 [m\\_hindenburg@palau-health.net](mailto:m_hindenburg@palau-health.net)
- State Head Start Collaboration Directors by State:
    - a. Arizona – Jennifer Johnson 602-542-2391 [jjohnson@az.gov](mailto:jjohnson@az.gov)
    - b. California – Mike Zito 916-323-9727 [MZito@cde.ca.gov](mailto:MZito@cde.ca.gov)
    - c. Nevada - Margot Chappel 775-448-5254 [mchappel@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:mchappel@dhhs.nv.gov)
    - d. Hawai`i – Jacqueline Rose 808-586-5240 [jrose@dhs.hawaii.gov](mailto:jrose@dhs.hawaii.gov)
  - State Medicaid/SCHIP Dental Program Contacts by State:  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaiddentalcoverage/downloads/dentalcontacts.pdf>
  - Arizona Medicaid/SCHIP Managed Care Dental Program Participating Plans: For assistance in finding a dentist participating in Medicaid managed care health plan see specific plan for a client at:  
<https://www.ahcccs.state.az.us/Services/HealthPlans.asp>
  - California Medi-Cal Beneficiaries: Delta Dental is the fiscal intermediary for the fee-for-service Denti-Cal program and can help beneficiaries find a dentist; call a toll-free number for this assistance – 800-322-6384.
  - Hawai`i Medicaid Beneficiaries: For assistance in finding a dentist contact Community Case Management Corp. at 808-486-8030 or <http://www.ccmchawaii.net/medicaid.htm>
6. Contact the Dental School or Dental Hygiene schools in your State:
    - a. Arizona – Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Medicine – 480-219-6000  
<http://www.asdoh.atsu.edu/>
    - b. California
      - University of California, Los Angeles School of Dentistry 310-825-2337  
<http://www.ucla.dent.edu/>
      - University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry 415-476-1323  
<http://www.dentistry.ucsf.edu/>
      - University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry (San Francisco) 415-929-6400 <http://www.dental.pacific.edu/>
      - University of Southern California School of Dentistry (Los Angeles) 213-740-2811 <http://www.usc.edu/hsc/dental/>
      - Loma Linda University School of Dentistry (Loma Linda) 909-558-1200  
<http://www.llu.edu/llu/dentistry/>
    - c. Nevada – University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine 702-774-2500 <http://dentalschool.unlv.edu/>

7. Contact the primary care association in your state; it can assist in locating a local community or migrant health center with dental services:
  - a. Arizona – Arizona Association of Community Health Centers 602-253-0090  
<http://www.aachc.org/>
  - b. California –California Primary Care Association 916-440-8170  
<http://www.cPCA.org/resources/findclinic/>
  - c. Nevada – Great Basin Primary Care Association 775-887-0417  
<http://www.gbPCA.org/>
  - d. Hawai`i –Hawai`i Primary Care Association 808-536-8442  
<http://www.hawaiipca.net/>
  
8. Put together a list of the public health dental clinics (community health centers, federally and/or state qualified health centers) in your area and share it with staff and families. Contact your State Oral Health Program or see below websites for public health clinic or community health center locations:
  - a. Arizona – <http://www.machc.com/MemberLocations.aspx#1> or <http://www.aachc.org/memberslist.html>
  - b. California -<http://www.cPCA.org/resources/findclinic/>
  - c. Nevada – <https://www.gbPCA.org/GBPCAdB/websiteFiles/listContacts.asp?GroupID=4>
  - d. Hawai`i – <http://www.hawaiipca.net>
  
9. If there is a State or local Oral Health Coalition: send a representative to the meetings.
  
10. Take an active role in supporting legislative changes in your state to increase oral health for underserved populations such as Head Start.
  
11. Become aware of the Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) eligibility criteria, coverage and periodicity schedule in your state. Contact the following websites for more information:
  - a. Arizona – References at <http://www.ahcccs.state.az.us/Regulations/OSPpolicy/> (chapter 400, policy 430, page 9-12)
  - b. California – California Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program  
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/CHDP/pdf/dentalguide.pdf>
  - c. Hawai`i – References at <http://www.headstartreviews.com/docs/Hawaii+EPSDT.pdf> Also contact Cynthia Nishimura State EPSDT Coordinator – 808-692-8112 or [cnishimura@medicaid.dhs.state.hi.us](mailto:cnishimura@medicaid.dhs.state.hi.us)
  - d. Nevada – <http://dhcfp.state.nv.us/epsdt.htm> for general information about EPSDT or <http://dhcfp.state.nv.us/MSM/Ch%201500%205-17-04.pdf> for the EPSDT Service Manual.
  
12. If your state held a Head Start Oral Health Forum, read the action plan and review the participation list for local contact persons to assist you with obtaining dental treatment. For a copy of state forum plans and participants, go to:  
<http://www.mchoralhealth.org/HeadStart/hsforums.html#Region9>
  
13. Review other oral health models to gain knowledge on successful strategies.

14. Develop a list of available dentists who will see pre-school and special health care needs children including Medicaid and SCHIP providers.
15. Explore partnership agreements developed within contractual agreements or Memoranda of Understanding between you and the dentist or service providing organization.
  - a. In your contracts, use Head Start funds to pay for the dental services if all other resources are exhausted.
16. Include oral health in your community assessments for other health concerns, e.g., family and community partnerships, nutrition.
17. Discuss your concerns with your federal program specialist, technical assistance specialist (TAS) and Dr. Reg Louie, Region IX Head Start Oral Health Consultant at 415.437.7873 or [reginald.louie@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:reginald.louie@acf.hhs.gov). Document your efforts toward securing dental care in writing.
18. Have education sessions for staff, parents and children on oral health and the concept of a dental home.
19. Train health staff to provide information on Medicaid and SCHIP dental insurance and promote the importance of dental visits.
20. Train staff to work with Medicaid agencies to inform parents of the dental services available to them through their insurance programs.
21. Track follow-up and treatment by documenting the results of screening to help remind parents of follow-up needs.
22. Train staff to work with parents and dentists to follow-up on treatment needs and subsequent recall visits upon completion of needed treatment.
23. Provide dental travel funds to help parents with costs.
24. Consider implementing program based preventive strategies such as a fluoride varnish programs for Early Head Start and Head Start Children.
25. Include oral health components in your:
  - a. Community Assessment
  - b. Annual Self-assessment
  - c. Ongoing Monitoring Protocols