

Florida State Oral Health Improvement Plan (SOHIP) Early Childhood Caries (ECC) Workgroup Action Plan

Recommendation 1: Improve access to clinical and practice - based oral health programs.

Strategy/Objective/Action Step	Status	Target Date	Responsible Party	Comments
Strategy 1: Increase pediatric oral screening programs, especially for infants and toddlers, in community health centers, county health departments, and other public and private health care facilities.		On-going		
Objective 1: Train physician and staff (physician assistants and nurses) to screen and provide educational and preventive treatments to 0-3 year olds (training protocol must include: screening, risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, fluoride varnish application, oral hygiene instruction, and referral to dental home).	In progress	On-going	DOH, UFCD	DOH is currently developing a protocol for County Health Department physician training and UFCD (Dr. Frank Catalanotto through a HRSA grant is developing a protocol to train private practice physicians in Duval and Charlotte, Lee, and Collier counties.
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research other state or organizations programs. 	Completed	2006		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize broad-based advisory groups to develop protocol (FDA, FDHA, FAP, FAPD, DOH, UFCD, Nova) . 	In progress	On-going		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear concept with Boards of Dentistry and Medicine. 	Completed	2006		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop surveys to evaluate programs. 	In progress	On-going		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement pilot programs in select counties or organizations. 	In progress	On-going		
Objective 2: Advocate that AHCA/Medicaid reimburse physicians for preventive and educational oral health procedures (e.g. screening, risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, fluoride varnish application, and oral	In progress		DOH	

hygiene instruction).				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop working relationship with AHCA. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise AHCA of physician oral health training protocols and procedures for reimbursement that will satisfy all stakeholders (e.g. FDA, FAP, FAPD). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the impact of Medicaid Reform. 				
Objective 3: Request that AHCA reimburse Dental Providers for risk assessment and anticipatory guidance procedures.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research other states. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research if new billing codes will be necessary. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact AHCA as to what steps need to be undertaken to get reimbursement. 				
Objective 4: Advocate that Traditional Insurance Payers reimburse physicians for preventive and educational oral health procedures (e.g. screening, risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, fluoride varnish application, and oral hygiene instruction).				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research other states. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research what 3rd party private insurance companies reimburse. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Florida 3rd party private insurers and plan a summit to discuss. 				
Strategy 2: Integrate oral health risk assessment, screening, and oral health education into existing maternal and child health programs such as Healthy Start, WIC and Head Start programs and other Moms				This strategy is currently required in Head Start

programs (Mommy and Me).				
Objective 1: Increase parental oral health knowledge and decrease prevalence of oral disease in parents to be.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify other maternal and child programs. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tie to food monies – in order to receive food benefits must get child and mother dental screenings. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate that Medicaid cover Minimally Invasive Clinical Treatments for pregnant mothers. 				
Strategy 3: Develop programs that improve the oral health of pregnant women.				
Objective 1: Research and increase the use of supplemental dental caries preventive programs for pregnant mothers.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the use of Chlorhexidine mouthrinses used daily prenatally to reduce the number of mutans Streptococci in mother's saliva. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the use of 0.05% sodium fluoride along with chlorhexidine to reduce the number of mutans Sterptococci and to delay colonization. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the effectiveness of Xylitol supplements (gums, mouthrinses) as an agent to positively affect a mother's oral health condition. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the use of Fluoride Varnishes. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the effectiveness of MI Paste as an agent to help prevent caries, erosion, and decalcification; repair enamel; and decrease dentin hypersensitivity by delivering bio-available calcium and phosphate ions 				

to the teeth.				
Objective 2: Develop Oral Health Education programs and materials for mothers to be.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate existing programs such as the Bright Futures program. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide ECC risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, oral hygiene instruction and education, and referral to dental home programs in WIC, physician offices and other social service programs. 				
Strategy 4: Advocate for mandatory oral health screening exams for entry into preschool or kindergarten.				
Objective 1: Decrease the prevalence of dental disease in children entering Florida schools.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research other states and similar programs. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Craft a bill to mandate school entry oral exams. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form workgroup including DOE, DOH, ADA, ADHA, etc. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a mobile oral health unit to provide school entry screenings. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening exams should include anticipatory guidance, risk assessment, and referral to a dental home. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and distribute parental/child oral health education programs and materials. 				
Strategy 5: Increase access to dental procedures for severe cases of ECC.				
Objective 1: Investigate alternative means of accessing anesthesia.				

Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research other states. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore ways to allow or permit anesthesiologists to provide in-house (outside of hospital) anesthesiology services. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate mobile anesthesiologists that will travel to dental offices. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize anesthesia under medical instead of dental Medicaid. 				
Objective 2: Investigate access to hospitals/operating rooms.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research other states. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research utilizing single day surgery centers. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop oral health teams within surgical practices. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with other routine outpatient/inpatient surgeries (e.g. tonsillectomies, tubes in ears, etc.) to have oral health ECC procedures performed if indicated – more effective use of operating rooms and anesthesiology. 				

Recommendation 2: Legislate or advocate for changes in the oral health care delivery system.

Strategy/Objective/Action Step	Status	Target Date	Responsible Party	Comments
Strategy 1: Raise awareness concerning the lawsuit initiated by the Florida Pediatric Society and endorsed by other groups such as FAPD, etc.				
Objective 1: Increase pressure on decision makers to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates and improve the program.				

Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research potential media campaign to increase public awareness. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research grass roots education campaign to increase public awareness. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact affiliated health associations (public, private, professional, and academic) to support legislation. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a website detailing the lawsuit and how to get involved. 				
Strategy 2: Research new and/or expanded utilization of Allied Personnel (both dental and medical) through amending the Dental Practice Act.				
Objective 1: Advocate allowing dental hygienists to provide educational and preventive oral health services in public health facilities or schools under public health supervision (or via teledentistry – utilizing store and forward technology and collaborative agreements similar to Apple Tree Dental in Minnesota).				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define preventive and oral health services. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage change in the legislature to enable “trained” allied dental professionals to provide preventive services that include fluoride varnish and dental sealants under public health supervision in public health arenas. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define “public Health supervision” as it would relate to the state of Florida. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research how this new supervision level will fit under the Dental Practice Act and whether any changes need to be made to the Act. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop training programs. 				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research other state statutes, rules, and programs. 				
<p>Objective 2: Advocate allowing dental hygienists to provide educational and preventive oral health services under the supervision of a physician.</p>				
<p>Action Steps</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research other states. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify bill writer. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify bill sponsor in legislature. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify supporters that will advocate for change in Practice Act(s) (dental and medical?). 				
<p>Objective 3: Consider the ADA's proposed workforce categories for dental team:</p> <p>1) <u>Community Dental Health Coordinator</u> "New team member that will be specifically trained to help organize community programs and function in remote locations and other underserved areas. CDHCs will be of particular value to public programs, but could be useful in larger private practices, too. CDHCs will enable the existing workforce to expand its reach deep into underserved communities and influence local health and community organizations to adopt initiatives to promote oral health. CDHCs working in facilities without the continuous presence of a dentist could perform palliative temporization of conditions (limited to hand instrumentation only) for later diagnosis and treatment by a dentist." (quote from ADA: http://www.ada.org/prof/resources/pubs/adanews/adanewsarticle.asp?articleid</p>				

<p>=2231 – for core competencies, etc. see: http://www.ada.org/prof/center/feature_letters_cdhc.pdf).</p> <p>2) <u>Oral Preventive Assistant</u> “OPAs may be utilized to provide preventive services for relatively uncomplicated patients, permitting dental hygienists to focus on more complicated patients. OPAs can also fill a role in public facilities such as community health centers and schools. The OPA model is designed to create an assistant who has solid background in providing patients with oral health education and information as well as the basic elements of preventive care.” (quote from ADA: http://www.ada.org/prof/resources/pubs/adanews/adanewsarticle.asp?articleid=2231).</p>				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research how these new allied personnel will fit under the Dental Practice Act and whether any changes need to be made to the Act. 				
Objective 4: Consider the ADHA's new Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research how these new allied personnel will fit under the Dental Practice Act and whether any changes need to be made to the Act. 				
Objective 5: Advocate for a County Dental Health Education Coordinator in each county.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research other states. 				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define position and duties. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research how these new allied personnel will fit under the Dental Practice Act and whether any changes need to be made to the Act. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research economic feasibility. 				
Objective 6: Consider other new mid-level dental workforce providers.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research other states. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research how these new allied personnel will fit under the Dental Practice Act and whether any changes need to be made to the Act. 				

Recommendation 3: Educate the public and decision makers about ECC.

Strategy/Objective/Action Step	Status	Target Date	Responsible Party	Comments
Strategy 1: Initiate an Oral Health Mass Media Campaign (similar to anti-tobacco Campaigns) focusing on ECC, parents and infants and toddlers.				
Objective 1: Develop public service announcements, brochures, billboards.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate campaigns and materials used in other states. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate what materials are currently available (e.g. Alliance brochure, National MCH Oral Health Resource Center and Healthy Start materials). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate funding opportunities and/or partners (e.g. foundations, federal or state grants – Blue Foundation Health Foundation of South Florida, Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, etc. 				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify specific subjects – fluoridation, sealants, oral hygiene, routine professional dental care, baby formula, sippy cup use, etc. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make kid friendly. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a state oral health education web site (or link to Oral Health Florida). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach state communications office to develop public service announcements based on recommendations of SOHIP advisors. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate advertising on school buses. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit local dental associations to fund and play part in development of media campaigns – tailor to individual communities. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide media to places where public can easily access – offices of family physicians, pediatricians, and OB/GYNs and other child and family oriented health programs. 				
<p>Objective 2: Develop and initiate a pilot program and study in one or more counties.</p>				
<p>Action Steps</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research other states. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate what materials may be available in other states or federally (e.g. Alliance Brochure, National MCH Oral Health Resource Center, etc.). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate what grant funding may be available. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team with an academic center (UF, Nova) to utilize their expertise in evaluation. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and recruit an appropriate county(s). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify community partnerships. 				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform a survey investigating oral health knowledge of public prior to, during, and after implementation of the program. 				
Strategy 2: Develop oral health education programs in other child health programs (such as WIC and Mommy and Me).				
Objective 1: Institute oral health education in School Education Programs.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include annual, age-appropriate oral health education in state of Florida's K-12 health curriculum. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact School Health Advisory Councils about standardizing curriculums. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Dentists Care in each county school health department. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Oral Health Education for School Nurses. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory brushing after school meals. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish "Dental Clubs" in high school, colleges, and universities. 				
Objective 2: Institute oral health education in Other Child Health (and parental health) programs.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and research child health programs. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research other states and their programs. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross reference agencies. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop screening protocols and programs to determine the need for supplemental fluoride. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research the "Mouthwise" program. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish oral health education programs for delivery nurses, Ob/Gyn 				

nurses, pediatric nurses, WIC nurses, nutritionists, etc.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and run oral health education tapes in lobby and waiting rooms of various child health programs. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify specific subjects – fluoridation, sealants, oral hygiene, routine professional dental care, baby formula, sippy cup use, etc. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add oral health materials to Healthy Start goody bags. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add dental component in prenatal education. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate utilizing dental, dental hygiene, and dental assisting students to provide “voluntary” community education programs. 				

Recommendation 4: Improve access to care by assuring a highly trained, diverse, appropriately allocated workforce.

Strategy/Objective/Action Step	Status	Target Date	Responsible Party	Comments
Strategy 1: Research, support, and train medical providers (prenatal physicians, pediatric physicians, and family physicians) and medical auxiliary staff to screen for oral disease, risk assess, provide anticipatory guidance, refer to a dental home, and provide fluoride varnish treatments to 0-3 (or 4?) year olds.	Recommended	2005		
Objective 1: Research, support, and implement ECC/oral health training programs for Florida-licensed public health medical practitioners.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research other similar State programs. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present concept to Board of Dentistry and Board of Medicine to gain opinion as to legality of physicians and staff 				

applying fluoride varnish.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize broad-based advisory groups (such as DOH, FDA, FAP, FAPD, AHCA, UFCD) to establish guidelines, protocols, and reimbursement parameters. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop reimbursement protocols – Stratify Reimbursement Levels: Severe - 4 applications a year Moderate – 3 applications a year Mild – 2 applications a year <p>Reimbursement for physicians should come from medical pool or have separate code.</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop training protocols that include: Parental Prenatal and Postnatal Risk Assessment, Oral Hygiene Education and Instruction, Anticipatory Guidance, Establishment of a Dental Home. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to AHCA to have Medicaid reimburse physicians for fluoride varnish applications. 				
Objective 2: Research, support and implement ECC/oral health training programs for Florida-licensed private practice medical practitioners.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research other similar State programs. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present concept to Board of Dentistry and Board of Medicine to gain opinion as to legality of physicians and staff applying fluoride varnish. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize broad-based advisory groups (such as DOH, FDA, FAP, FAPD, AHCA, UFCD) to establish guidelines, protocols, and reimbursement parameters. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop reimbursement protocols – 				

<p>Stratify Reimbursement Levels: Severe - 4 applications a year Moderate – 3 applications a year Mild – 2 applications a year</p> <p>Reimbursement for physicians should come from medical pool or have separate code.</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop training protocols that include: Parental Prenatal and Postnatal Risk Assessment, Oral Hygiene Education and Instruction, Anticipatory Guidance, Establishment of a Dental Home. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate web-based training programs. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate establishing a position who will travel to and train providers in their offices. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to AHCA to have Medicaid reimburse physicians for fluoride varnish applications. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop hands on training programs that can be provided at dental and medical meetings. 				
<p>Objective 3: Establish ECC/oral health training programs in pediatric medical residency programs.</p>				
<p>Action Steps</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact residency programs and inquire as to their acceptance of providing oral health training. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop training programs and protocols. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train faculty. 				
<p>Strategy 2: Encourage accredited academic institutions such as UFCD, Nova, and the dental hygiene schools to develop and provide ECC intensive programs that give licensed general dentists, physicians, and dental</p>				

hygienists intensive ECC management and management of young children.				
Objective 1: Increase the training opportunities for dental and medical providers.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research other state training programs. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop web-based instructional programs. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the development of ECC training programs through professional dental associations, dental schools, professional medical associations, and medical schools. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train faculty first. 				
Strategy 3: Provide incentives for dental professionals to practice in rural or on underserved populations				
Objective 1: : Provide loan repayment programs or loan forgiveness programs for dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants for practicing in rural or underserved areas or on underserved patients.	Recommended	2007	FDA	Currently on the books as law for dentists, needs to be implemented – may be implemented by the end of the year – funding issue currently before the State legislature – proposed 1 ½ million
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for monies to support existing law. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop protocol to implement loan forgiveness program. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and recruit potential grantees. 				

Recommendation 5: Increase funding for ECC programs.

Strategy/Objective/Action Step	Status	Target Date	Responsible Party	Comments
Strategy 1: Advocate for increasing the reimbursement rates for Medicaid dental				

procedures.				
Objective 1: Increase pressure on decision makers to increase reimbursement rates for dental and ECC-related procedures				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research other successful state programs. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a working relationship with AHCA. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form an independent alliance to advocate/lobby/educate during the current 2007 Florida legislative session. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways to increase public awareness and advocacy. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate SOHIP becoming a 501(c)3 entity so that it may advocate for better reimbursement rates. 				
Strategy 2: Investigate innovative insurance and Medicaid reform plans				
Objective 1: Increase Medicaid reimbursements an extra 20 percent over standard reimbursement rates for rural dentists who see Medicaid patients.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a working relationship with AHCA. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research other states. 				
Objective 2: Increase Medicaid reimbursement (e.g. 20% over standard reimbursement rates) for dentists who complete a certified training program focused on treating the very young (or special needs) and subsequently treat the very young and children with special needs.				
Action Steps				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a working relationship with 				

AHCA.				
• Research other states.				
Objective 3: Reform other aspects of Medicaid to reduce administrative costs.				
Action Steps				
• Research other states.				
• Simplify administrative procedures – enrollment and eligibility.				
• Simplify billing procedures.				
• Investigate electronic medical records				
• Develop a working relationship with AHCA.				
• Develop patient management coordinators.				
• Develop patient accountability contracts.				
Objective 4: Expand Medicaid coverage.				
Action Steps				
• Develop a line of communication with AHCA.				
• Research other states.				
• Expand Medicaid coverage to reimburse for ECC operating room procedures.				
• Develop new codes specific to ECC treatment.				
• Expand dental coverage to 0-1 year olds.				
• Encourage community-based organizations such as Kiwanis, Rotary, Elk's, Shriners, or NFL foundations to take on oral health as a mission.				
Strategy 3: Investigate potential grants that will support programs, studies, etc.				
Objective 1: Increase funds available to support ECC programs.				
Action Steps				
• Research other states.				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify other funding sources. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate Medicaid (or other) matching programs for innovate programs. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate SOHIP becoming a 501(c)3 entity so that it may lobby for funding. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate state foundations (the Blue Foundation, Health Foundation of South Florida, Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, etc.) 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate national foundations (Kaiser Foundation, Gates Foundation, etc.) 				