

Our Children, Our Families Council

Summary of the San Francisco Children's Oral Health (COH) Collaborative

(Last updated 5/14/15)

Goals of the Effort

The Children's Oral Health (COH) Collaborative is committed to eradicating health disparities in childhood oral health and making San Francisco cavity-free. In 2013, the collaborative developed San Francisco's first citywide strategic plan to systematically improve children's oral health in San Francisco.

This strategic plan includes:

- Concrete plans for increasing access to oral health care among underserved San Francisco communities.
- Ensuring oral health is integrated into San Francisco's robust medical care systems.
- Promoting the importance of children's oral health to decision-makers, parents, teachers, medical professionals and other caregivers.
- Creating citywide evaluation and reporting systems so that progress and challenges are visible to all stakeholders.

Since drafting the strategic plan in 2013, the group has been working to put this strategic plan into effect.

Focal Population of the Effort

The COH Collaborative is focused on improving oral health outcomes through preventive care in children ages 0 to 10 and pregnant women across the city. They specifically target populations most at risk, including low-income, communities of color, children with special needs, and recent immigrants.

Impact

The Children's Oral Health Collaborative's most important accomplishment thus far has been the development and release of San Francisco's first ever Strategic Plan for improving oral health outcomes in the city. They have already established partnership with multiple organizations including:

- UCSF
- San Francisco Department of Public Health
- San Francisco Unified School District
- Native American Health Center
- Mission Neighborhood Health Center
- APA Family Support Services
- Mission Head Start
- Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco
- San Francisco Dental Society
- University of the Pacific

They are making progress toward the implementation of the strategic plan. In February 2015, the San Francisco Health Commission endorsed the SFHIP Children's Oral Health Strategic Plan and passed a resolution supporting the plan to improve the oral health of all San Francisco children. As a direct result of COH Collaborative efforts, fluoride varnish treatments – which can play a huge role in preventing tooth decay in young children – are becoming more readily available in DPH clinics across the city. More broadly, the COH Collaborative has already begun to improve public awareness of the disparities in oral health outcomes.

Challenges

The COH Collaborative's great challenge relates to the minimal amount of funding that affordable dental care receives statewide. In California, the dental safety net is impoverished, especially when compared to the medical safety net. The COH would therefore like to see more funding allocated for dental care statewide, and they would also like San Francisco to do a better job of tapping available funding streams to receive the best care possible.

Origins of the Effort

In the fall of 2013, a diverse group of children's oral health stakeholders came together to begin San Francisco's first ever citywide strategic planning process for children's oral health. This one-year effort, supported by both the UCSF Clinical & Transitional Science Institute's Community Engagement & Health Policy Program and the SF Department of Public Health, was funded by Metta Fund and engaged many partners across multiple sectors, disciplines, and organizations. It resulted in not only the development of a blueprint to guide the city to advance children's oral health, but it also galvanized a dedicated collaborative, and raised the awareness of the importance of oral health overall. Support from the Hellman Foundation has enabled the work of the San Francisco Children's Oral Health Collaborative to continue, with a focus on coordinating the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Leading the Effort

The Children's Oral Health Collaborative is co-led by Lisa Chung and Margaret Fisher. Lisa is a public health dentist, Associate Clinical Professor at the University of California San Francisco's School of Dentistry, and researcher at UCSF's Center to Address Disparities in Children's Oral Health. Margaret Fisher, RDHAP, is the Oral Health Consultant for the Children's Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program at the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Their work with the COH Collaborative is made possible by a generous grant from the Hellman Foundation. These two co-leaders, along with an administrative assistant, are the only funded staff members of the collaborative. Moreover, the Hellman Foundation funding is not indefinite, which is why the COH Collaborative is working with the Department of Public Health to try and create a special position to allow this important work to continue.

Members of the Effort

Members are divided into specific work groups aligned to the different strategies in the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan:

ACCESS Work Group:

Chair: Carolyn Brown, DDS; SF Community Clinic Consortium
Cordelia Achuck, DDS; North East Medical Services
Andrea Almario, RDH; South of Market Health Center
Steven Ambrose, DDS; SFDPH
Curtis Chan, MD, MPH; SFDPH
Deborah Elam, MS, CAE; SF Dental Society
Jared Fine, DDS, MPH; Alameda County Public Health Department
Catherine Fuller, RN, MSN, FNP; SFUSD
Paul Glassman, DDS, MA, MBA; University of the Pacific
Nancy Kwon Hsieh, DDS, MS; CA Society of Pediatric Dentistry
Magdalena Louie, MS, RD; SFDPH
Walter Lucio, DDS, MPH; Delta Dental
Maryna Pechereska, MPH; Mission Head Start/Early Head Start
Steven Silverstein, DMD, MPH; UCSF

INTEGRATION Work Group:

Chair: Susan Fisher-Owens, MD, MPH; UCSF & SFDPH
Jennifer Do, MD; Sutter Health
Sean Dongre, AB; SF Health Plan
Margaret Fisher, RDHAP, BS; SFDPH
Fernando Gomez-Benitez, Mission Neighborhood Health Center

Cecilia Gonzalez, MD; Kaiser Permanente SF
Kevin Grumbach, MD, UCSF
Irene Hilton, DDS, MPH; SFDPH
Jeanne Lee, MD, MPH; SFDPH
Christine Pecci, MD; UCSF, SFDPH
Jessena Ramirez-Sacasa, Sutter Health
Kenneth Tai, MD; North East Medical Services

PROMOTION Work Group:

Chair: Amor Santiago, DPM, MPH, E.D.; Asian Pacific Islanders Health Parity Coalition
Bahar Amanzadeh, DDS, MPH; UCSF
Derick Aoki, MPH; First 5 San Francisco-Children & Families Commission
Judith Barker, PhD, MA, MSc; UCSF
Vanessa Bohm, MA; CARECEN
Kristen Hoeft, MPH; UCSF
Gabrielle Jones, MA, MPH; National Children's Oral Health Foundation
Sharon Rose, MPH; UCSF
Gisselle Rullier, RDH; SF Dental Hygiene Society
Marianne Szeto, MPH, SFDPH

EVALUATION & COORDINATION Work Group:

Chari: Stuart Gansky, MS, DrPH; UCSF
Lisa Chung, DDS, MPH; UCSF
Robert Isman, DDS, MPH; California Department of Health Care Services
Mary Jue, MSN, RN, PHN; SFUSD
Christine Miller, RDH, MHS, MA; University of the Pacific
Claire Sit, RDH; SFDPH
Jodi Stookey, PhD, SFDPH

Structure of the Effort

Currently in Year One of implementing the plan, the COH Collaborative, consisting of 20 citywide stakeholders, meets quarterly. This committee, consisting of four implementation work teams, are working to move forward with achieving the target Year One goals of the Strategic Plan. The four implementation teams are targeting the four core areas of the Strategic Plan: *access* to dental services, *integration* of oral health into all areas of health, oral health *promotion* and education, and *evaluation* of progress made towards the three year indicators and identified performance measures. The smaller work groups meet monthly for check-ins. In addition to during meetings, communication takes place over email and shared Google Docs.

The Role of Data

Data informs the COH Collaborative's work. As the foundation for their strategic plan, they used data from the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Kindergarten Dental Screening Project, which screens every kindergartener in SFUSD each year. They analyze the data which shows level of tooth decay over time by race, ethnicity, income (based on free or reduced lunch qualification), zip code, and school. Since this screening project began in 2000 from collaboration among SFUSD, the Department of Public Health, the SF Dental Society, and the National Dental Association, the COH Collaborative can analyze changes in tooth decay among kindergarteners over time and assess whether they are making in impact recently.

Related Documents

Include a bulleted list of any documents they shared with you that may be relevant to others (strategic plans, etc)

- San Francisco Children's Oral Health Strategic Plan 2014-2017, accessible via the Hellman Foundation's website: < http://assets.thehcn.net/content/sites/sanfrancisco/Final_document_Nov_2014_20141126111021.pdf>

- San Francisco Health Commission Resolution No. 15-4, In Support of Improving the Oral Health of All Children in the City and County of San Francisco County, accessible via the SFUSD website: <
<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/hc/HCAgen/HCAgen2015/Feb%2017/Resolution%20for%20HC%20on%20SF%20Children%27s%20Oral%20Health%20Strategic%20Plan%20%202-17-15.pdf>>
- Description of the COH Collaborative from the Hellman Foundation website:
<<http://www.hellmanfoundation.org/childrens-oral-health.html>>
- Description of the COH Collaborative from the SF Health Improvement Partnership (SF HIP) website:
<<http://www.sfhip.org/index.php?module=Tiles&controller=index&action=display&alias=COH>>