

Oregon Oral Health Coalition K-12 Committee
Minutes from the meeting on 12-3-2021

Attendance: Kyle Allen, Kim Bartholomew, Laura Geelan, Tom Holt, Laurie Johnson, Jodi Loper, Linda Mann, Laura McKeane, Robin Moody, Karen Phillips, Alicia Reidman, Carolyn Tziu, Alynn Vienot

Excused (i.e., responded in some way to the invitation): Carrie Peterson, Molly Perino, Brett Hamilton, Jessica Dusek, Flor Flores-Mendez, Molly Yeend, Vanessa Rabine, Liz Wyles, Yadira Martinez

Review of agenda, minutes of the 9-10-2021 meeting, dashboard, website (healthyteeth.us), and Facebook page ([Healthy Teeth for a Lifetime](#)).

Kimberly Bartholomew, Beaverton School District Nurse, gave us a brief look at her day...a Friday when she was not supposed to be working: Immunization clinic, COVID tracing, and picking up mattresses and bunkbeds for a family who needed them. Regarding the school year: Initially, contact tracing was conducted for every child who had been exposed to another person with COVID (e.g., sitting next to on the bus or less than 6 feet from the positive person). Now, the schools have permission from the state to do “test to stay,” which the parents are responsible for. Not all parents can afford to test, nor do they have access to a free clinic. The schools are no longer doing online learning, so the children cannot access school in that way. Again, we are seeing inequities due to social determinates of health.

The number of positive cases has gone down dramatically. They are not seeing a spread in the schools. The schools are doing a great job with mitigation. It seems like the weak link is on the buses, where there aren’t enough bus drivers and buses to keep the kids distanced. It’s down to three feet apart for most schools around the state. Most of the spread is now from kids and adults who are asymptomatic, but only realized their infectivity after being tested. The numbers went up after Thanksgiving. If the kids test positive, they have to go home and all the kids that were around them have to be evaluated. However, if the child is fully immunized and is exposed, they get to stay unless they have symptoms.

Kimberly said when the school dental sealant programs identify dental needs, it’s just the tip of the iceberg – it serves as an alert. The school staff then knows to look deeper to discover other unmet needs. Kimberly said she was grateful to Virginia Garcia for giving her toothbrushes. The brushes were used by teachers in the classroom to instruct the children – some of whom had never had a toothbrush in their hand.

Laurie gave a presentation about oral health in Oregon, breakthrough infections, anti-viral pills, Omicron, vaccination status, the mandate and its effect, and expectations for the future (see PowerPoint).

Karen Phillips presented the following (see PowerPoint):

- **Oregon Health Authority (OHA) update** – a review of school dental sealant program data over the years; how services have been affected during the COVID years; “Served schools” refer to schools that have a connection with a School Dental Sealant Program (SDSP), but may not have

actually received services this past year. Since the sample size of students receiving services is smaller during the past two years, the data cannot be compared accurately with previous years. It appears anecdotally, however, that the number of students referred out for further care has increased significantly.

- **Smile Survey:** The next Smile Survey will be during the 2022-23 school year. Many states have reported their schools are reluctant to participate now in dental surveys. Too many concerns about COVID and fewer students in attendance consistently.
- **Site visits:** Site visits and other communication has shown there is confusion about proper placement of Glass Ionomer sealants. OHA is planning a webinar with the GI company to clarify the procedure.
- **Medical-dental integration:** OHA and CCOs are re-engaging to improve the number of fluoride varnishes provided by medical personnel. Dr. Rafia is working on medical-dental integration.
- OHA will be having webinars on Trauma-Informed Care, health equity, racism/bias 101, and gender identity with experts in the fields - all with an oral health focus. Emails will be sent out from the OHA Oral Health Program to everyone, with continuing education credits possibly being offered.

Healthy Teeth, Bright Futures: *Tom Holt* reported HTBF is developing a strategic plan for the next three years. The plan includes implementing the K-12 curriculum (HB 2969), oral health leadership, data dashboards, raising awareness of oral health, Medicaid reform and the 1115 waiver, oral health workforce, and connecting kids to care (especially in the foster care system).

Alynn Vienot: Alynn added remarks about the challenges involved in the continuity of care in the foster care system – aligning/coordinating with the state, gaining access to the MMIS system, and tying into the social services networks.

Tom Holt mentioned a coordination system called “Connect Oregon.” If you have a person in front of you with a need, you can enter that person’s information into the system and the need goes to the people who can meet the need.

School Sealant Program Status Update (Survey)

- Survey included 9-10-2021 responses and update 12-2-2021 responses. See attached for complete survey.
- **Tom Holt** mentioned that **Jessica Dusek** completed her Community Dental Health Coordinator education, more than a year’s process, during the past year. Congratulations **Jessica!**
- **Staffing:** Staffing is a problem nationwide. Retirement of the baby boomers is one of the contributing issues, but COVID is exacerbating the problem.

- **Fundraising:** No progress. Programs still have needs. Tom mentioned that the Zoom fundraisers have been frequent with fewer and fewer positive responses. Fundraiser fatigue. Last year, there was a good response due to understanding COVID concerns, but not now.

Connecting to Federal, State, and Community Resources: *Jodi Loper* gave us an update on the Salem Boys and Girls Club (BGC). The BGC is a dental clinic, but they do go into the schools, one of which is the Oregon School of the Deaf. Jodi coordinates care for these kids annually. Most kids live on campus. The BGC works with *Carrie Peterson* and the Tooth Taxi, and with *Wilbur Ramírez-Rodríguez* and the mobile clinic from Pacific University. Jodi's been leading this activity for 15 years, has seen the kids grow up. She partnered with the OHA to conduct monthly vaccination clinics, in November serving 5–11-year-old kids just two days after the vaccine was released. She said the OHA has partnered them with the FQHC *Willamette Family Medical Clinic* FQHC and the BGC also has a long-term partnership with the *Northwest Human Services West Salem* FQHC. When providing vaccines, the BGC also provides food boxes and resource bags. They are a Community Based Organization (CBO) and receive funding through FEMA. The BGC also partners with Connect Oregon and knows that when they refer a family/person to this organization they can follow through to ensure those people are receiving the services. Jodi said we may contact her (JLoper@bgc-salem.org) for information about Connect Oregon, Unitus, and 211. A new BGC is being built near Chemeketa.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Next meeting: Friday, March 11, 2022. Invitations for the quarterly meetings will be sent out soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Johnson