



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Office of the Secretary

1 Davis Square, Suite 100, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Telephone: (304) 558-0684 Fax: (304) 558-1130

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.
Cabinet Secretary

December 16, 2010

The Honorable Joseph M. Minard, President Pro Tempore
West Virginia Senate
State Capitol Building 1, Room 227-M
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

The Honorable Richard Thompson, Speaker
West Virginia House of Delegates
State Capitol Building 1, Room 228-M
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear President Pro Tempore Minard and Speaker Thompson:

As required by West Virginia Code §16-41-6, regarding the Oral Health Improvement Act, please find enclosed the Oral Health Program Update for November, 2010. This report is provided by the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health's Oral Health Program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to write or call Anne Williams, Director, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, 350 Capitol Street, Room 427, Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3714, telephone (304) 558-7261, or email Anne.A.Williams@wv.gov.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Lewis".

Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.
Cabinet Secretary

MJL/bn

Enclosure

cc: Chris Curtis, MPH
Nancye Bazzle, MPH
Anne Williams
Gregory M. Gray
Darrell Holmes
Anne Williams

Oral Health Program Update

West Virginia 2010



November 2010



*Bureau for Public Health
350 Capitol Street, Room 427
Charleston, WV 25301*

*Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D., Cabinet Secretary*

Oral Health Program Update

November 1

2010

The Oral Health Program is housed within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health. The Program is comprised of three major components: The Children's Dentistry Project, The Donated Denture Project, and The Pre-Employment Project.

West Virginia's Oral Health Program

Introduction

Over the last year, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' Oral Health Program has undergone a number of significant changes. The primary change from the previous year is that West Virginia now has an Oral Health Plan that follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. The second change relates to personnel. David Walker, DDS resigned his position as the State Dental Director and was replaced by Jason Roush, DDS.

Dr. Jason Roush assumed the position of State Dental Director on September 17, 2010. Dr. Roush is a West Virginia native, grew up in Pleasants County, graduated from West Virginia University School of Dentistry and currently resides in Jackson County. Dr. Roush has a private practice in Wood County, and works with a Federally Qualified Health Center providing school-based dental services in Wirt and Jackson Counties. Dr. Roush is also a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Dental Practice and Rural Health for West Virginia University School of Dentistry. He is a member of the American Dental Association, West Virginia Dental Association, Delta Sigma Delta, West Virginia University's Alumni Association and a member of the Blennerhassett Dental Society where he served as President and Vice President. Dr. Roush brings a unique perspective of both the public and private sector to the position. His goal is to further implement the Oral Health Plan and accomplish the mission as set forth in the plan.

The mission of the West Virginia Oral Health Program is to improve the oral health status of West Virginia by providing a structured approach to meeting the oral health needs of everyone in the State.

The goals of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health's Oral Health Program have remained unchanged over the past several years. The goals are to provide preventative education and improve oral health care access. Although the Oral Health Program is housed within the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, recent accomplishments of the Program are a result of collaborative efforts with other government agencies and community partners. Activities of the Office continue to be guided by an Oral Health Advisory Board consisting of key stakeholders. The Oral Health Advisory Board was established in 2008, and continues to meet on a routine basis, working to address the oral health issues of West Virginia. The Board was instrumental in developing the first State Oral Health Plan and has established goals for the upcoming year. It is moving to develop a statewide Oral Health Coalition as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Funding for this effort is provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Accomplishments

Oral Health Plan – In 2009, the urgency to develop and submit a formal State Oral Health Plan recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was identified. The plan was developed in accordance with the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and recommendations. Funding was provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to Marshall University School of Medicine’s Health and Technical Assistance Center to provide technical assistance to the Department of Health and Human Resources. The plan is a living, evolving document. The Oral Health Plan was established with input from the Oral Health Advisory Board and other interested members of the community, keeping in mind the provisions of the Oral Health Improvement Act, found in Chapter 16, Article 41 of the West Virginia Code. The Plan provides an overview of the burden of oral health disease, goals and strategies to improve the oral health status and follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. Nine town hall/community meetings were convened in all regions of the State to gather input from interested parties. Input and approval from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Oral Health Advisory Board was used in the final stages of development. Key recommendations and highlights are as follows:

1. Develop a statewide surveillance system to capture accurate and real time data
2. Strengthen and improve dental workforce
3. Promote oral health across a lifespan
4. Evaluate reimbursement rates
5. Phase in expansion of dental coverage
6. Outline objectives to achieve infrastructure

In September, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors released a national analysis of state oral health plans, The State Oral Health Plan Comparison Tool. Out of 42 states with oral health plans, West Virginia is one of 18 states that scored 19 or better on the Comparison Tool. West Virginia met 19 of the 22 established benchmarks. The State Oral Health Plan Comparison Tool is available at http://www.cdhp.org/resourcestate_oral_health_policy_comparison_tool.

State Wide Surveillance – Fiscal Year 2011 will mark the first time West Virginia has Institutional Review Board approved, reportable baseline data as requested by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Currently, a surveillance team is evaluating the oral health of kindergarten and third graders using a randomized school sample. The Program plans to make this data publicly available in 2011.

Program Reports

Children's Dentistry Project

The Children's Dentistry Project is a collaborative education initiative that works with other Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health programs to raise awareness of the importance of proper dental hygiene as an integral part of preventive, primary health care. A core component of the Project is to emphasize the need to establish a proper self-care regiment and promotion of a dental home at an early age. This Project has three complementary components:

Fluoride Water Testing

- The Children's Dentistry Project provides water test kits to families to test the fluoride levels of private water systems and received 641 Water Test Reports back from those families during the 2010 Fiscal Year.

Fluoride Rinse Project

- Fluoride is the most cost effective means of prevention in oral health care. The Fluoride Rinse Project offers an effective fluoride supplement alternative. During the 2010 Fiscal Year 1,111 children participated.

Oral Health Education

- The Children's Dentistry Project provides statewide Oral Health Education to school aged children through local Oral Health Educators. The curriculum focuses on prevention through proper dental hygiene, including instruction on proper brushing techniques, flossing, healthy diet, and regular visits to the dentist. Also included in the presentation is a discussion of the danger all types of tobacco use has on oral health. During the 2010 Fiscal Year, 105,751 children received these educational services.

Pre-Employment Project

- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program provides funding for a variety of supportive services for the purpose of transitioning adults from welfare to work. Adults receiving a monthly TANF check can only receive these benefits for five years in their lifetime and must be in a work plan to lead to employment. If the county Family Support Specialist identifies service needs for dental and/or vision care to help the person become "employable", he/she will issue a referral, valid for one year, to present to a local provider participating in the Project.
- In Fiscal Year 2010, the Pre-Employment Project processed 2,230 dental claims and 1,521 vision claims.

Donated Denture Project

- The Donated Denture Project is a state-funded program for medically indigent patients who need dentures. To qualify, participants must receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for the disabled if under 65 and if 65 or older, income must be at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level. Dentists donate their services to patients who meet the eligibility requirements and the Donated Denture Project reimburses the dentist for dentures, full or partial, up to \$500. Funding is very limited for this Project (approximately \$40,000 annually). The Project supplies 100 to 125 individuals throughout the State with dentures. The Project pays for no other dental services and patients need to be “denture-ready” when referred.
- During Fiscal Year 2010, this Project served 150 adults.

Dental Equipment for Community Health Centers

During Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the Governor and State Legislature allocated \$1,000,000 to purchase dental equipment in eight community health centers. This equipment will better position centers to recruit dentists to economically challenged, underserved areas and enhance their ability to provide quality services. Funding was awarded through a competitive grant process. Grant applications were reviewed by a committee using established criteria developed to assure expansion of services, increased ability to recruit dental professionals, and adherence to federal guidelines regarding sliding fees. The 18 new dental operatories and 17 existing dental operatories are expected to serve 9,542 additional patients.

The following Federally Qualified Health Centers were funded to support dental services:

- Bluestone Health Center
- Cabin Creek Health Systems
- Clay-Battelle Health Services
- Lincoln Primary Care Center
- Minnie Hamilton Health System
- New River Health Association
- Tri-County Health System
- Valley Health Systems
- WomenCare

Support for Free Clinic Services

The State will also provide \$333,333 per year over the next three years to the West Virginia Association of Free Clinics to compensate for provision of services to low-income persons lacking dental insurance who need oral health care in order to attain or maintain employment. These funds were made available from the Attorney General's Office through a vitamin settlement.

Future Plans

The Oral Health Program, along with the Oral Health Advisory Board, will continue strengthening data to become "Go Ready" for future funding, build on existing programs, strengthen partnerships and develop an oral health coalition. **The plan is set and the mission is clear, the Oral Health Program is ready and determined to meet the increasing dental needs of all West Virginians.**