

ANNUAL SESSION 2013-2014

2013-2014 BOARD MEMBERS

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MSPH
Grant Writer Intern

Dear Coalition Members and Friends,

Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is a process;
working together is success.

----- Henry Ford

Thank you for your continued support of the Texas Oral Health Coalition. The Coalition continues to be the primary organization in Texas that provides a nonpartisan forum which allows a diverse network of stakeholders to collaborate and create innovative and viable solutions to improve the oral health for all Texans.

On the following pages, we list our accomplishments for the 2013-2014 program year made possible by our exceptional volunteers and staff.

We have come a long way since our inception, and while growth may never be painless, we remain intact and stay focused on our vision—for every person to enjoy optimal oral health as part of their total health across their lifespan. Thank you again for your many efforts and support.

Sincerely,
Beth Stewart, Chairperson
Texas Oral Health Coalition

Who We Are

The Texas Oral Health Coalition (TxOHC), the only 501 (c) (3) non-partisan, nonprofit statewide oral health coalition in Texas, was established November 17, 2004 and acquired nonprofit status in 2009. The purpose of the Coalition is to advocate for optimal oral health across the lifespan for all

Texans through statewide partnerships. Collaborating partners share a common vision and TxOHC member's work together to increase the public's awareness of comprehensive oral health as a vital component of total health by gathering and disseminating information relating to oral health and the delivery of oral health care in the state of Texas.

Coalition members are comprised of various stakeholders that include: medical and dental professionals, community agencies, faith-based organizations, insurance companies, policy developers, professional educators, public members, and local and state government entities.

Bylaws, IRS Form 990 and meeting minutes are posted on the organization's website and are available upon request.

"Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

--- Harry S. Truman

The Year in Review

The Board of Directors met two (2) times face to face in Austin and held six (6) quorum conference calls in 2014. Elections for Board of Directors were held November 22, 2013, and all Officers began the final year of their two-year term.

On November 23, 2013, during the post-summit Board meeting, the Board moved to renew Jessica Stewart's contract as Social Media Manager for another 12 months.

In February, 2014, the Board of Directors investigated best practices and voted to consolidate two of our standing committees and form one committee called Board Governance. This committee would be responsible for tasks once performed by the Bylaws and Nomination's committees. The Board also voted to rename the Medical/Dental Collaboration committee the Interprofessional Collaboration Committee to include health safety net providers.

Effective June 30, 2014, Secretary Angela Barnes Filzen, DDS tenured her resignation due to health reasons and Pamela Myers, RDH was appointed July 1, 2014 to complete the remainder of the term ending November 7, 2014.

A request for a grant writer internship was posted on June 3, 2014 and the Board voted to offer the position to Josefine Wolfe, RDH, CHES, MSPH out of three applicants beginning August 1, 2014.

The Board met in Austin, February, 1, 2014 for Strategic Planning and updated our existing goals, strategies and objectives.

Goal: Increase Oral Health Awareness

Strategy: To increase oral health literacy in Texas

Maintaining an active communications plan is essential in changing perceptions regarding oral health and oral disease so that oral health becomes an integral component of health policies and programs by informing, educating, and empowering community partners, public officials, policymakers, and the public.

Communications outreach continues to expand and TxOHC is pleased to report we gained **55** new members this year growing our individual membership to **237** and **100** organizational partners as of October 26, 2014.

Since implementing our communications plan in 2013, we have seen an increase of 69.5% from last year's 275 subscribers, so that we now have **417** active contacts receiving our monthly e-brief. Other modes of social media have not grown as rapidly, but they have still increased since starting from zero in 2013. TxOHC currently has **159** Likes on our Facebook page and **135** Twitter followers. We also maintain active website pages for Texas on Oral Health America's www.ToothWisdom.org and The American Academy of Pediatrics Campaign for Dental Health www.iLikemyTeeth.org. And let's not forget TxOHC's information resource website www.OralHealthTexas.org and www.fluoridefortexas.txohc.org.

In late September, TxOHC submitted a Resolution and legislative proposal requesting members of the House Public Health Committee and Senate Health and Human Services Committee to support legislation that creates an Oral Health Advisory Committee under the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to investigate amending the government Medicaid code to provide oral health care services through Medicaid for Texas adults and integrate oral health in state health policies.

We are extremely excited to report that Representative Philip Cortez from San Antonio agreed to sponsor our Bill and has sent it to the legislative writers. Preparation for talking points and fact sheets to distribute to legislators and others are currently underway. Stay tuned for our communicate as developments progress. The 84th Legislative Session begins January 13, 2015 and runs through June 1, 2015.

Goal: Increase Interprofessional Collaboration

Strategy: To change perceptions regarding oral health and disease so that oral health becomes an Integral component of health policies and programs in Texas.

TxOHC seeks to integrate oral health in state health policies because oral health is a social justice issue.

In order to reshape systems we must improve public perception of the value of oral health. Our legislative Resolution directly relates to this goal by advocating oral health be included in state health policies. Advancing interprofessional education and coordinated care remains a consistent theme in our annual summits and we are pleased to host these statewide summits for health providers and government employees.

Goal: Improve Public Oral Health

Strategy: To engage in activities to improve the oral health of all Texas citizens using evidence-based public health initiatives.

Population-based strategies like community water fluoridation and school-based dental sealants are designed to address barriers that prevent health equity for specific populations. TxOHC encourages work that intentionally uses a racial equity lens that systematically applies a racial equity impact analysis for key decisions, policies and administrative practice. Racial equity is achieved when you cannot predict advantage and disadvantage by race and... this can be measured.

So what is a **Racial Equity Impact Analysis**? Ask these 5 questions.

- 1.Are all the racial/ethnic groups who are affected by the policy/practice/decision at the table?
- 2.How will the proposed policy affect each group?
- 3.How will the proposed policy be perceived by each group?
- 4.Does the policy worsen or ignore existing disparities?
- 5.Based on the responses, what revisions are needed in the policy under discussion.

TxOHC has actively engaged in collaborating with various health associations and organizations, conducted letter writing campaigns and asked grassroots members to provide testimony at city council meetings in an attempt to deter community water fluoridation rollback attempts in Dallas, San Marcos and Austin. Currently, antifuoridationists in San Marcos are circulating petitions asking for a referendum to remove water fluoridation in the City Charter. If they are successful, then future City Councils will not be able to implement fluoridation again without another referendum. Look for this type of opposition to occur in your city. Start attending your City Council meetings and stay involved. Our Fluoride websites offer a wealth of information, resources and other links to even more resources should you need information.

Goal: Increase Access to Care

Strategy: To promote increased access to comprehensive oral health care for all Texans.

Advocating for oral health education, prevention and accessible, affordable, and culturally appropriate treatment for all Texans across the lifespan encapsulates all of our priority issues, legislative agenda and other goal strategies.

TxOHC provided written and verbal testimony in February 2014 during a Texas Health and Human Services Committee interim hearing by Chairman Jane Nelson urging her to include preventive oral health care, oral health education during pregnancy, and oral post-partum care when they were exploring ways to expand access and improve quality care for women in rural and underserved areas of the state.

“If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up people to collect wood and don’t assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.”

---Antoine de Saint-Exupery

National Partnerships

The Texas Oral Health Coalition is proud to partner and actively participate with several national organizations to promote and advance oral health care in America.

1. American Network of Oral Health Coalitions (ANOHC). Founded in 2010 www.anohc.org
 - 40 member states, advocating for 270,000,000 people across the nation.
 - Provides resources and technical support to state oral health coalitions, leverage best practices across the states, and engage in greater advocacy for oral health policy.
 - Bi-monthly webinars/teleconferences about a variety of topics, so that all members have the opportunity to be actively engaged in national issues and campaigns.
 - Beth Stewart attended the National Oral Health Conference in Fort Worth as the TxOHC representative and co-hosted an exhibitor’s booth with ANOHC.
 - Beth Stewart was reelected to the ANOHC Board of Directors in April 2014 and serves on the Advocacy and Member Development Committees.
 - Along with ANOHC, TxOHC also voted to sign support letters from U.S. Representatives Henry Waxman and Frank Pallone and First Focus to extend CHIP funding when it expires in September 2014.
 - Along with ANOHC and many others, TxOHC voted to sign on the support letter from Oral Health America urging organizers of the 2015 White House Conference on Aging to include oral health on the agenda under Healthy Aging.
2. Oral Health America (OHA) Wisdom Tooth Project
 - TxOHC signed a Memorandum of Understanding partnering to bring local/state information and oral health resources to OHA’s Wisdom Tooth Project (WTP) web portal called ToothWisdom.org, an online tool to connect and educate older adults and their caregivers to care.
 - A Texas page on this website is designed to help connect older adults and their caregivers to local care and education about the oral health issues they face, the importance of continuing prevention as we age, and the overall impact of oral health on overall health. We encourage you to visit www.toothwisdom.org/texas for more information.
3. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
 - A national campaign for dental health works to raise public awareness about oral health, emphasizes prevention, and provides accurate science-based information about why community water fluoridation (cwf) is an essential component of any community’s prevention efforts.
 - As a partner organization we have a special state page www.Texas.ilikemyteeth.org on AAP’s national fluoridation Web site, ILikeMyTeeth.org (ILMT.org) where we provide public resources and information for Texas.

- TxOHC is also a member of AAP's Rapid Response Team (RRT). AAP sends out email alerts regarding any antfluoridation efforts in the U.S. so that we post messages and send pro cwf communications.

4. DentaQuest Foundation

- In January of 2014, TxOHC entered into a Consulting Agreement with the DentaQuest Foundation to conduct a stakeholder analysis to identify regional and state organizations and thought leaders currently working toward achieving the Oral Health 2020 goals.
- Beth Stewart was asked to serve on the South/Southeast Regional Oral Health Connection Team and attended the National convening in Boston, January 22-24, 2014, the Regional Meeting in Nashville, May 21-23, 2014 and another National partner meeting October 20-22, 2014 in Philadelphia, PA.

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.”

---- Alan Kay

Sustainability

TxOHC continues to seek funding sources for sustainability. In July of 2014, TxOHC held a “Beat the Heat” donation drive, but it did not yield the results we needed. Donation forms have been developed to use with Corporations as well as Donation Pledge Cards to use with members. Contributions will help sustain the infrastructure of our worth organization by funding the day to day operations and pay the salaries of our staff members. Meetings require funding, and it is vital that our volunteer members and stakeholders have the opportunity to collaborate on as regular basis.

Program

The Coalition is pleased to host an annual oral health summit as part of its sustainability efforts. This is the 4th consecutive year TxOHC has offered continuing education credit as an approved PACE Program Provider by the Academy of General Dentistry.

The summit offers a safe forum to explore and address important issues in public oral health. Allowing attendees the opportunity to learn about successful programs, projects, or innovative education modules others have implemented may hopefully help others to replicate them in their own areas of the state.

The Texas Oral Health Coalition exists exclusively to promote and support the overall oral health of all Texans and does so by working wherever possible to build, support and assist widespread collaborative efforts between oral health professionals, other providers, communities and other stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Stewart, RDH
Chairperson
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