



# Annual Report 2014-2015

## 2014-2015 BOARD MEMBERS

### OFFICERS:

Erik Harrington, DDS, PhD  
Chairperson

Sharon Dickinson, CDA, RDA, CDPMA  
Vice Chair

McHenry Lee, DDS, Treasurer

Pamela Myers, RDH, Secretary

### DIRECTORS:

Cathy Blunck, RDH

David Cappelli, DMD, MPH, PhD

Nancy Cline, RDH, MPH

Michelle Landrum, RDH, MEd

Christina Murphey, RN, PhD

Sherdeana Owens, DDS, MPA

### **STAFF**

Beth Stewart, RDH  
Executive Director

Jessica Stewart, MA  
Social Media Manager

Dear Coalition Members and Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the Texas Oral Health Coalition. A strong oral health voice is needed now more than ever! Throughout Texas, local communities are in danger of losing community water fluoridation from aggressive rollback attempts. A lack of school-based sealant programs exists in rural areas and a dental maldistribution problem remains.

The Texas Oral Health Coalition is the primary organization in Texas working across the state to bring together oral health professionals from all disciplines, policy makers, educators, industry leaders and others to advance comprehensive oral health care for all. We create partnerships both statewide and at the local level to identify and implement innovative and effective approaches to improving oral health.

On the following pages, we list our accomplishments for the 2014-2015 program year made possible by our exceptional volunteers and staff. As we continue to look for ways to sustain our Coalition, we remain vigilant in our vision for every Texan to enjoy optimal oral health as part of his/her total well-being through individual and shared community responsibility.

Thank you again for your many efforts and support!

### 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.

## **The Year in Review**

The 2015 Board of Directors met three (3) times face to face and held five (5) quorum conference calls. Elections for Officers and Board of Directors were held November 7, 2014 with the following members elected: Chairperson Erik Harrington, DDS, PhD, Vice-Chairperson Sharon Dickinson, CDA, RDA, CDPMA, Secretary Pam Myers, RDH and Treasurer McHenry Lee, DDS. Elected Directors were: Cathy Blunck, RDH, David Cappelli, DMD, MPH, PhD, Nancy Cline, RDH, MPH, Michelle Landrum, RDH, MEd, Christina Murphey, RN, PhD and Sherdeana Owens, DDS, MPA.

In January 2015, the Board of Directors unanimously approved changing the Bylaws to add the State Dental Director, or named designee, to be a liaison to the Board. In July 2015, TxOHC received an email from Dr. Vy Nguyen, State Dental Director announcing her resignation from the Department of State Health Services – Oral Health Branch to work for the Health Resources and Services Administration in Washington, DC and thanked the coalition for their support and oral health efforts.

The Bylaws were amended again on August 13, 2015 in an effort to increase continuity for the Board. Director terms will now be two (2) years and staggered terms, so that three (3) directors will be elected every two (2) years. The Vice Chair position will be eliminated in exchange for a Chairperson Elect to be incorporated to automatically assume the Chair position.

During the Board meeting January 30, 2015, Board members reviewed the coalition's goals and strategies and decided to make sustainability the primary focus. Without funding we cannot afford staff and without staff the coalition cannot progress to its fullest potential.

While working to secure sustainability for the coalition, members will continue to emphasize education, communications and advocacy.

## **Education**

In July 2015, TxOHC was awarded a \$5,000 ADA Samuel D. Harris Foundation grant to provide perinatal oral health education for parents and caregivers by seeking to address three specific oral health behaviors; oral hygiene, a healthy oral health diet, and dental attendance. Participants of this program will be given a set of three onesies for their baby. Each onesie will be printed with an oral health message directed at age-specific oral health behaviors; corresponding to the size of the onesie (6 months, 12 months, 18 months). Participants will be asked to complete a survey when their child is two years of age to measure the success of the project.

## **Communications**

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 proud to host these various websites for health providers and the public; [www.txohc.org](http://www.txohc.org), [www.oralhealthtexas.org](http://www.oralhealthtexas.org) and [www.fluoridefortexas.txohc.org](http://www.fluoridefortexas.txohc.org) with corresponding Facebook pages. Below is a quick snapshot of our social media footprint. If you haven't taken the time to "Like" or "Follow Us" please do so and ask your friends and colleagues to do the same. Power comes from numbers and we need to increase our numbers to improve our advocacy efforts.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Facebook Likes</b>		
• TxOHC	159	238
• Oral Health Texas	10	10
• Fluoride for Texas	n/a	30
<b>TxOHC Twitter Followers</b>	135	244
<b>E-brief Active Contacts</b>	417	433
<b>Individual Members</b>	237	264
<b>Organizational Partners</b>	100	105

## **Advocacy**

This past year, TxOHC actively engaged in collaborating with various health organizations and coalitions at the local, state and national levels, conducted letter writing campaigns to extend CHIP funding, defeat fluoridation rollback attempts in Dallas, Austin and San Marcos, and helped organize and recruit pro-fluoridation experts to serve on a panel discussion for San Marcos and Austin.

Current fluoridation efforts involve a fluoridation campaign designed to educate San Marcos voters about the proposition they will vote on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A brief regarding community water fluoridation was developed and sent to members of the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature to oppose HB1581 which would impose unnecessary new costs and reporting rules on local Texas communities.

In April, Board members voted to join the Texas Dental Access Coalition and wrote letters of support to Texas legislators regarding SB787 and HB1940. This omnibus oral health bill included the dental hygiene practitioner, collaborative practice and teledentistry.

The resolution and white paper TxOHC sent legislators in September 2014 regarding oral health integration in state health policies and adult Medicaid services was not able to get off the ground. Unfortunately, the representative that offered to carry our bill was not re-elected in November 2014.

Looking forward, plans are underway for TxOHC to host an oral health policy workshop for key stakeholders February 26, 2016 in Austin, TX with the goal of developing a state oral health roadmap.

The program will feature presentations from state leaders and other experts who will discuss emerging approaches and methods including challenges and successes. Participants will be encouraged to engage one another in facilitated discussions to share models, experiences, and lessons learned to improve population oral health. Including:

- Identify gaps or barriers in state policies, financing methods and community interventions that prevent access for underserved populations to receive dental care.
- Examine emerging strategies for population health initiatives and the workforce and data infrastructure required to be successful.
- Learn how partnerships (state/federal, state interagency, state/local, public/private) advance the population oral health agenda.

In the afternoon, attendees will be asked to develop an oral health roadmap to help guide the work, in each of the following areas:

- Building the statewide network to advance the Oral Health 2020 movement
- Increasing awareness on the social determinants of health and oral health equity

- Changing public perception on the value of oral health
- Eradicating dental disease in children
- Incorporating oral health into the primary education system
- Acquiring a comprehensive Medicaid adult dental benefit and advocating for a comprehensive Medicare dental benefit
- Developing a comprehensive state-based oral health measurement system and utilizing the state oral health data repository
- Advancing interprofessional education and coordinated care

In light of the coalition's focus on health equity, it will be important for stakeholders to use a racial equity impact analysis for key decisions, policies and administrative practice. The oral health roadmap will help identify our role as individuals, and our leadership as a coalition to address barriers that prevent health equity for specific populations.

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

### **Sustainability**

In an effort to acquire sustainability for the coalition, one of our organizational partners, Midwest Dental Equipment and Supply proposed a special collaborative stakeholder initiative for our members. Members will receive substantial price discounts on merchandise, capital equipment and laboratory services, a reduced service rate of \$140 per hour and opportunities for free quarterly service call and equipment maintenance training sessions. As extra incentive for a successful launch in 2016, for each merchandise or equipment order placed with Midwest Dental in excess of \$500, your name will be added to a drawing for a free TPC Portable Unit! Drawing will be held during the 2016 annual meeting during the oral health summit.

It is this type of innovative thinking that will ensure the future of TxOHC, so that we may continue working to enhance the efficiency and quality of the delivery of oral health care in our state.

### **Program**

The Coalition is pleased to host an annual oral health summit as part of its sustainability efforts. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 replicate them in their own communities.

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.

Sincerely,

Beth Stewart, RDH  
TxOHC Executive Director