



# Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.

## Annual Report

### 2013

#### 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 promote optimal oral health over the lifespan of all Texans through a statewide partnership. 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 Board of Directors met 4 times face to face in Austin and held 7 quorum conference calls for 2013. Officer elections were held November 30, 2012, and the following members of the Board of Directors were elected for 2013:

Chairperson	Beth Stewart, RDH
Vice Chair	Sharon Dickinson, CDA, RDA, CDPMA
Secretary	Angela Barnes-Filzen, DDS
Treasurer	Shirley Miranda, BDS, CAGS, MScD
Directors at large	Daniel Snare, CEO
"	Sarah Dirks, DDS
"	Michelle, Landrum, RDH, M.Ed
"	H. Whitney Payne, Jr., DDS, MPH
"	Cathy Blunck, RDH
Ex-Officio	Nancy Cline, RDH, MPH – (TDHA liaison)
"	Rex Law, DDS – (Immediate Past Chair)

A Bylaws change in 2012 requires all officers serve a two year term beginning in 2013. Directors at large are elected for one year. On October 4, 2013, the Board of Directors voted to remove ex-officio association liaisons and add another Board member at large for the 2014 Board of Directors.

TxOHC is pleased to report that membership has grown to 188 members as of November 20, 2013.

Standing Committees:

- Bylaws/Policy
- Planning
- Budget & Finance
- Nominations

Special Committees:

- Oral Health Literacy
- Elder Dental Care
- Medical/Dental Collaboration
- Legislative/Advocacy

These special committees met several times throughout the year to develop work plans that addressed the Coalition's new priority goals. Once the Board approves each committee's work plan they will be ready to implement their activities in 2014.

In February of 2013, the Board of Directors revised and updated the Coalition's Priority Goals.

1. **Oral Health Literacy**

Change perceptions regarding oral health and oral disease so that oral health becomes an integral component of health policies and programs in Texas by informing, educating, and empowering community partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public.

2. **Elder Dental Care**

Integrate oral health care into all elder-care services and facilities.

3. **Medical/Dental Collaboration**

Promote collaboration of public-private partners to enhance Interprofessional and culturally appropriate community-based prevention strategies.

Established perennial goals remain for TxOHC to promote community water fluoridation and school based prevention programs. In support of these goals, TxOHC developed a separate water fluoridation website with information for providers and consumers at <http://www.fluoridefortexas.txohc.org/> and a separate website page regarding school-based oral health programs to provide links to external resources designed to assist professional providers, school boards, and the public in establishing and maintaining such programs in a safe and ethical manner at <http://www.txohc.org/School-Based%20Programs.html>.

After reviewing the Communications plan from 2005, an update was in order to adapt to current technology and find new ways to engage members and distribute oral health information to the public.

- A monthly e-brief was implemented to share valuable information from the national and state level for members and nonmembers. TxOHC currently has 275 active subscribers.
- TxOHC hired a part-time social media manager to help update and maintain the [www.TxOHC.org](http://www.TxOHC.org) website which provides a massive amount of resource information for health care providers and Coalition members.
- As a way to increase oral health awareness and increase oral health literacy, TxOHC developed and implemented a new website [www.oralhealthtexas.org](http://www.oralhealthtexas.org) devoted to

providing oral health education materials for all ages focusing on education, prevention, access and treatment.

- [www.OralHealthTexas.org](http://www.OralHealthTexas.org) emphasizes providing easily accessible infographics, videos, posters and flyers in one location. Anyone may download these items to use for teaching aids to help increase understanding and oral health knowledge. We encourage you to test your oral health knowledge with the Oral Health Literacy Quiz.
- The Coaliton also set up Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Google+ accounts under TxOHC and Oral Health Texas to share the latest oral health news. TxOHC tends to focus more on information for the health care provider while Oral Health Texas provides information for the general public.

### **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](http://www.anohc.org)
  - 33 member states
  - 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.
  - Submitted information for the Coalition Comparison Tool developed by the Children's Dental Health Project.
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](http://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](http://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](http://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 antifuoridation efforts in the U.S. so that we post messages and send pro cwf communications.
- February 1, 2013 - the TxOHC Board unanimously approved of endorsing the National Maternal & Child Oral Health Resource Center's consensus statement regarding **Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement** which states, "Preventive, diagnostic, and restorative dental treatment is safe throughout pregnancy and is effective in improving and maintaining oral health." We are currently seeking ways to partner with OB/GYN's to promote this statement.

### **Sustainability**

TxOHC continues to seek funding sources for sustainability. Throughout the years, various Boards of Directors have discussed charging membership dues. This Board asked to include a survey in the summit evaluations regarding member dues and for this issue to be included as an agenda item so they may gather input from the general membership.

### **Programs**

The Coalition is pleased to host an annual oral health summit as part of its sustainability efforts. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year TxOHC has offered continuing education credit and is 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.

### **Board of Directors**

**Chairperson** Beth Stewart, RDH, Midland \* **Vice-Chairperson** Sharon Dickinson, CDA, RDA, CDPMA, El Paso \* **Secretary** Angela Barnes-Filzen, DDS, Houston \* **Treasurer** Shirley Miranda, BDS, Dallas \*

**Directors:** Sarah Dirks, DDS, San Antonio \* Michelle Landrum, RDH, M.Ed., Austin \* H. Whitney Payne, DDS, MPH, Keller \* Cathy Blunck, RDH, Buda \* Daniel Snare, CEO, Houston \* **Ex-Officio Members:** TDHA Representative Nancy V. Cline, RDH, MPH, Blanco \* Immediate Past Chair Rex Law, DDS, Pittsburg

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