



# Annual Report 2015-2016

Dear Coalition Members and Friends,

*Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.*

*- Mattie Stepanek*

If there is one word that summarizes this year for the Texas Oral Health Coalition (TxOHC), it is collaboration. According to Wikipedia, collaboration is the process of two or more people or organizations working together to realize or achieve something successfully.

TxOHC was honored to collaborate with multiple organizations this year, such as; **Midwest Dental** in a collaborative stakeholder initiative that offers members substantial price discounts on merchandise, capital equipment and laboratory services; providing oral health education materials for the **Nurse Family Partnership** of Houston for their clients from the Maternal Child Oral Health Workgroup's Perinatal Program; the **DentaQuest Foundation** in promoting the Oral Health 2020 national movement where oral health is essential to lifelong health and wellbeing; the **Texas Health Institute** on a statewide collaborative initiative in *Advancing the Oral Health Movement in Texas* to unite Texans and stimulate interprofessional collaborations and mobilize stakeholders to create shared solutions to improve the oral health landscape in Texas; partnering on a grant proposal with the **TMF Health Quality Institute** to train non-dental staff to collect oral health data on older adults in skilled living centers and how to provide daily oral health care; creating and sharing an educational video on Denture Care for Caregivers with **mmLearn.org**; the **Health Resources in Action (HRiA)** to work with local groups to reverse cessation of community water fluoridation for residents of Bell County WCID1; and the Masters in Public Health Program, College of Graduate Health Studies, **A.T. Still University** that allowed one of their MPH-D candidates to complete her Practicum with TxOHC and provide an analysis of Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions in Texas to name just a few.

It is through collaborative efforts such as these that allow people to share resources, efforts and visions and unite behind a common goal. Working on a common purpose and utilizing the strengths and talents of traditional and non-traditional partners can create the opportunity for greater collective impact. Collaboration empowers all and allows us to shape the world we live in so that every person can enjoy the right to a healthy life.

Please enjoy learning about our activities and accomplishments on the following pages and know that TxOHC remains vigilant in our vision for every Texan to enjoy optimal oral health as part of his/her total wellbeing through individual and shared community responsibility.

Thank you for your continued support and many efforts!

Beth Stewart, Director  
Texas Oral Health Coalition

## 2015-2016 BOARD MEMBERS

### OFFICERS:

- Erik Harrington, DDS, PhD  
Chairperson
- Sherdeana Owens, DDS,  
MPA, Chair Elect
- Sharon Dickinson, CDA,  
RDA, CDPMA, CRFDA,  
CPFDA, Secretary
- McHenry Lee, DDS  
Treasurer

### DIRECTORS:

- David Cappelli, DMD,  
MPH, PhD
- Nancy Cline, RDH, MPH
- Kila Johnson, DDS
- Donna Morris, RDH, MEd
- Christina Murphey, RN,  
PhD
- Maria Wellisch, RN, LNFA
- Ex-Officio – DSHS OHP  
Rhonda Stokley, DDS

### STAFF:

- Beth Stewart, RDH  
Executive Director
- Jessica Stewart, MA  
Administrative Assistant &  
Social Media Manager

*Effectively, change is almost impossible without industry-wide collaboration, cooperation and consensus.*

*- Simon Mainwaring*

## Who We Are

The Texas Oral Health Coalition (TxOHC) is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) statewide oral health coalition established November 17, 2004 with nonprofit status acquired in 2009. The mission of the Coalition is to promote oral health across the lifespan by advocating for optimal oral health 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 organizational partners and individual members that may 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 2016 Board of Directors met three (3) times face to face and held six (6) quorum conference calls. Elections for Officers and Board of Directors were held November 6, 2015 with the following members elected: Sherdeana Owens, DDS, MPA, as Chair Elect with David Cappelli, DMD, MPH, PhD; Nancy Cline, RDH, MPH, and Christina Murphey, RN, PhD elected to a two-year term and Donna Morris, RDH, MEd; Maria Wellisch, RN, LNFA; and Kila Johnson, DDS elected to a one-year term. The Bylaws were amended in 2015 in an effort to increase continuity for the Board. Director terms will be two (2) years and staggered terms, so that three (3) directors will be elected every two (2) years. The Vice Chair position was eliminated in exchange for a Chairperson Elect to be incorporated to automatically assume the Chair position.



TxOHC hosted an oral health policy workshop February 25, 2016 and invited interested stakeholders from across Texas to reflect on progress made since 2012 across five priority areas: community fluoridation, dental home, oral health literacy, statewide surveillance system, and integrating oral health into elder services. Presentations from state leaders and other experts discussed emerging approaches and methods including challenges and successes. Participants were encouraged to engage one another in facilitated discussions to share models, experiences, and lessons learned to improve population oral health.

## Current Initiatives:

### Maternal Child Oral Health

The TxOHC Maternal Child Oral Health Workgroup developed and disseminated oral health education materials aimed at low-income perinatal women targeting teen pregnancy programs in Title I schools and perinatal populations in Community Health Clinics/Community Programs in San Marcos, Corpus Christi and Houston. Approximately 200 participants signed up for this program.



SWEET DREAMS



NOT SWEET DRINKS

This perinatal program addresses three specific oral health behaviors, a healthy diet for infants, oral hygiene and dental attendance. Participants first listen to a brief oral health presentation then sign up to participate in a series of short text surveys until their child is two years of age to measure the success of the project. Expectant or new mothers receive a gift bag containing a set of three onesies for their baby printed with an age-specific oral health message corresponding to the size of the onesie, (3 months, 6 months and 12 months). Post cards relating to each size and message contain oral health instructions and pictures demonstrating this information, as well as, a one-page educational piece in English and Spanish that includes all three oral health behaviors we are looking to enforce in the home.

TxOHC currently seeks funding opportunities to expand this program and include partnering with NFPs, WIC, and OB-GYNs.

### Older Adult Oral Health

Workgroup members assembled a broad based consortium to incorporate new oral health standards, policies and practices in Long- Term Care (LTC) facilities. Members also expressed interest in investigating an I-Option pilot project in regards to Silver Diamine Fluoride for eldercare. Morningside Ministries and mm.Learn.org offered to partner with TxOHC on the development of a video regarding oral health care tips for caregivers. *Denture Care for Caregivers* was completed in September 2016 and a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) focus group stated they thought the information was helpful and this video should be mandatory for all CNAs.



### Reduce Emergency Department Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions

The Texas Oral Health Coalition is excited to announce A.T. Still University MPH-D student, Namrata Singhal, BDS, MPH-Dc, is completing her Practicum requirements with the Coalition by conducting a cost/charge analysis to reduce the burden of uninsured Emergency Department Non-Traumatic Dental Condition (ED NTDC) visits in selected hospitals and/or urgent care clinics in Texas. We are currently soliciting hospitals and/or urgent care clinics to partner with and provide the data needed for this endeavor.

The primary objectives in her project are to understand how much each ED NTDC visit costs for the hospital and urgent care clinic, and to provide a rationale for advocating for a dental voucher program. Diverting such visits from the emergency room to partnering dental clinics can lead to substantial cost savings for the hospitals and allow the patients to be seen by dental providers.

### Community Water Fluoridation

Texas has fallen from 79.6% of its population with access to community water fluoridation (CWF) in 2012 to 75% in 2015. TxOHC is working diligently with the Texas Fluoridation Program (TFP) after finding many communities have turned off the tap without notifying the City Council or Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The coordination of letter writing campaigns and contacting local health advocates with requests to contact their policy makers remains constant and ongoing.



In January 2016, TxOHC received a request to present pro-fluoridation information beside an anti-fluoridation speaker at the annual Texas Municipal Utilities Association conference May 12, 2016 in Kerrville, TX. TxOHC Executive Director, Beth Stewart, contacted the President of the American Fluoridation Society, Dr. Johnny Johnson, DMD, MS, and requested his assistance. Dr. Johnson stated the



facts and busted the myths in a successful and entertaining presentation. Beth Stewart with TxOHC furnished community water fluoridation resource folders for attendees and Deba Dutta and Larry Rice were there with the TFP display and offering technical assistance.

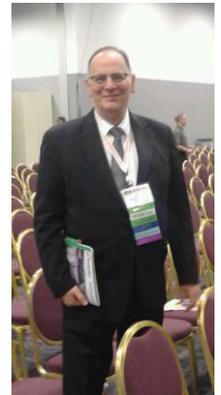
TxOHC was one of three organizations across the nation awarded a grant from Health Resources in Action (HRiA), a nonprofit public health organization, to offer training and technical assistance to preserve or implement water fluoridation in a specific community. The National Advisory Council for CWF chose Bell County as a project site and on September 23, 2016, national representatives from HRiA, state level representatives from THI and TxOHC and local advocates participated in a Fluoridation Advocacy Training held in Belton. TxOHC and the Texas

Health Institute are working closely with local organizers on implementing an advocacy campaign to fluoridate Bell County again with efforts remain ongoing.

September 14, 2016, Executive Director Beth Stewart, was privileged to speak to a group of water operators in Cedar Park about oral health and community water fluoridation at the request of TFP.

### Statewide Surveillance System

Dr. David Cappelli, DMD, MPH, PhD and his team at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) have created an oral health data repository for the state of Texas. The Repository of Oral Health Data Evaluation & Outcomes (ROHDEO) will be housed at UTHSCSA and allow Texas to achieve standardization of the metrics needed to measure oral health, identify oral health disparities, target unmet needs among underserved populations, influence policy change, and illustrate the oral health landscape in Texas. On August 17, 2016, the UTHSCSA hosted an informative Statewide Oral Health Standardization Session of School Age Children on the Basic Screening Survey at St David's Foundation instructed by Lori Cofano and David Cappelli. Attendees were excited to learn more about ROHDEO at the J.J. Pickle Commons Learning Center where the second Texas Oral Health Metric Summit took place on August 18, 2016. Stay tuned for the launch in 2017.



### Dental Home

According to the 2014 CMS-416 Report for Texas, the total eligible for EPSDT was 3,745,556. Purportedly, every child enrolled in Texas Medicaid (THSteps) has a dental home. That may seem like quite a statement, but when a child enrolls in Medicaid, the parent or caregiver chooses a dentist where they may receive comprehensive dental care. Texas provides transportation for the child and parent to and from the dentist if needed by calling 211, so why are not restorative services utilized more?

Parents may not be able to get off work multiple times to attend dental appointments with the child, so many Medicaid enrollees have stopped going to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) where they are paid based on encounters which may require patients to return multiple times before the restorative work is completed. Many FQHCs are struggling financially from the loss of patients and Medicaid reimbursement, but will try to provide adult dental care for the uninsured as long as possible. Can we afford to have FQHCs close their doors? Who will see the uninsured adults then?

School-based oral health programs play an important role in preventing and controlling dental caries in children and adolescents. TxOHC would like to investigate a legislative carve out for government employees at state and local levels to receive Medicaid reimbursement to help sustain and/or expand school-based oral health programs in Texas.

## State Oral Health Plan

TxOHC is excited to announce the State Oral Health Plan is currently under update revisions for 2017-2022. TxOHC members and the Department of State Health Services Oral Health Program manager should release in the near future. Do not miss the launch of this important document by subscribing to our monthly e-brief and Like and Follow Us to stay informed on all the latest oral health news in Texas and across the Nation.

### Communications & Oral Health Literacy

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 urge your friends and colleagues to do the same. Power comes from numbers and we need to increase our numbers to improve our advocacy efforts, so please Like and Share our posts.

| YEAR                           | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|
| <b>Facebook Likes</b>          |      |      |      |
| TxOHC                          | 159  | 238  | 295  |
| Oral Health Texas              | 10   | 10   | 14   |
| Fluoride for Texas             | n/a  | 30   | 37   |
| <b>TxOHC Twitter Followers</b> | 135  | 244  | 350  |
| <b>E-brief Active Contacts</b> | 417  | 433  | 475  |
| <b>Individual Members</b>      | 237  | 264  | 282  |
| <b>Organizational Partners</b> | 100  | 105  | 116  |

### 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 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! The drawing is scheduled during the 2016 annual meeting during the oral health summit.

Midwest Dental reported as of June 30, 2016, this stakeholder initiative achieved the thresholds in both merchandise and equipment purchases allowing for a positive contribution to the TxOHC. Summit attendees are looking forward to the award of the TPC Portable Unit to one of our lucky members. The Coalition appreciates this type of innovative thinking that will help 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. Thank You Midwest Dental!!!



Many thanks to  
our members  
and partners,  
you make all  
things possible!

Along that same vein, another organizational partner issued a matching fund challenge of \$24,000 for 2017. If TxOHC can raise \$24,000 by December 31, 2016, they will contribute \$24,000 to the Coalition to assist in our sustainability efforts. Total donations as of November 1, 2016 are \$5,975.

#### Program

The Coalition is pleased to host an annual oral health summit as part of its education efforts. This marks the sixth consecutive year TxOHC has offered continuing education credit as an approved PACE Program Provider by the Academy of General Dentistry. This year we are excited to host 12 poster presenters and 15 exhibitors.



#### Advancing the Oral Health Movement in Texas (atohmit)

The Coalition is pleased to partner with the Texas Health Institute in a collaborative initiative designed to stimulate interprofessional collaborations and mobilize stakeholders to create shared solutions to improve the oral health landscape in Texas. By focusing on early access and prevention for children, care and coverage across the lifespan, ensuring that oral health is integrated into overall healthcare, and creating a new social norm for what it means to be healthy, we are building an environment in which all individuals can thrive.

After completing a quantitative analysis of national and state oral health data and a qualitative analysis of data gathered from five recent community listening sessions where grassroots priorities, concerns, resources and strategies were identified, five workgroups were announced during the statewide launch September 29, 2016. These five workgroups are:

- Academia
- Communications
- Interprofessional
- Oral Health Equity
- Policy



Most meeting will be via video or audio conference calls and each group will decide their own meeting schedule. Workgroups are encouraged to hold a monthly or bi-monthly one-hour meeting and there is an in-person meeting tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 9, 2017 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm for all workgroup members. Workgroups will be reporting out Friday, November 4, 2016 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel Austin during the Texas Oral Health Summit.

Each Workgroup is expected to develop workgroup product/deliverables that align with its short-term and long-term goals. Workgroup deliverables may include policy briefs, communications campaign, white papers, scientific/technical comments and webinars.

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:

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*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*