



Whatcom County Oral Health Coalition Partners:

- Bellingham Technical College
- Dental Office Managers' Association
- Dept. Social & Health Services
- Interfaith Coalition
- Interfaith Community Health Center
- Lummi Tribal Health Center
- Madrona Medical Group
- Mt. Baker Dental Hygienists' Society
- Mt. Baker District Dental Society
- NW Regional Council
- Opportunity Council
- Readiness to Learn Consortium
- St. Joseph Hospital
- SeaMar Community Health Center
- Tooth Fairy Dental Hygiene Care
- Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access (WAHA)
- Whatcom County Health Department

Whatcom County Oral Health Coalition is a broad-based coalition working to improve oral health among community members of all ages through prevention, education, and increased access to dental care.

Oral Health Matters

For Whatcom County



Donated Dentistry Project: A Resounding Success

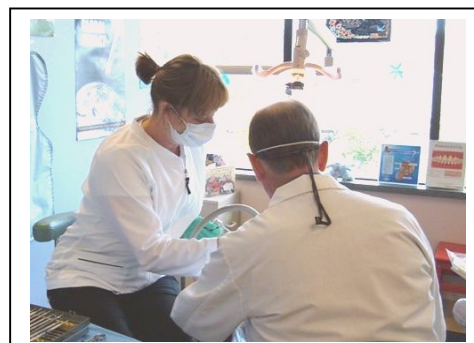
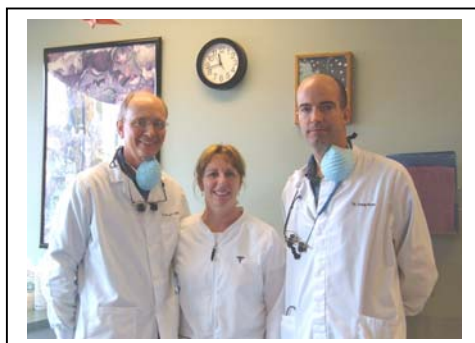
Ralph Peterson, DDP Coordinator

Since its inception on May 19th, the "Donated Dentistry Project," has held twelve clinical sessions through September, (numbers thirteen and fourteen will be held on November 17th & 18th.) It has enjoyed popularity with the volunteering dentists.

The adult population that the clinic serves has responded favorably too. For the clinical sessions, twenty-four patients are scheduled each month, eight on Friday & sixteen on Saturday. The need for the provided services is evident in the no-show ratio, which is 2 no-shows per 24 appointments. This ratio is very good, and is exceptional for a public clinical program!

In the first five months, we have had twenty-six different dentists volunteer their time to participate in this project. In the following three sessions, ten more will be participating, bringing the total to thirty-six dentists. Of course, many have volunteered several times. Scheduling the dentists is still ongoing, and the first quarter of 2007 is almost complete. Additionally, six dental assistants, and a hygienist have volunteered.

Even better news, is that the dentists have donated over \$25,000 in dental services. All of those involved: Washington State Dental Association; Mt Baker District Dental Society; Interfaith Coalition; Interfaith Health Center; the Oral Health Coalition; and the concerned dental assistants and hygienists, can be proud of the success that the project is achieving. This is a wonderful example of the private and public sector models complimenting each other to gain leverage to address needs of the community.



Dr. Dan Barrett, Dr. Doug Ross, and Sue Wortley DA

"We are really pleased to see this program working so well."

Letter from a DDP Adult Clinic patient:

GOOD NEWS!

I had four of the worst teeth extracted this morning (Sat. June 16) at the Interfaith Clinic. Of course the process was painful as expected, but I can already tell I will be feeling much better overall soon. I'm glad I did it and I'm very thankful for the help I received.

I'd like to thank all those who went out of their way to make sure I figured something out ASAP. I never would have known that Interfaith could help me out today if it weren't for their advice. Thank you.

This experience with public services was different for me. Usually I feel like people with situations similar to mine get dropped through the cracks of our society. There's assistance available for women, children, legally disabled, and low/no-income families. Yet males without insurance who are trying just as hard to make it are expected to pay more without help. It's no wonder many men my age turn to drinking & drugs to cope with physical pain that isn't being prevented or treated proactively.

I had to wait for hours on standby early Friday morning to get evaluated and scheduled for the extractions, but after that everything went very smoothly and efficiently. I am very pleased with Interfaith Clinic, and the dentists that volunteered their time to help me. If you guys come across someone else in a similar situation to mine, Interfaith is a great option if they are really in need of urgent care.

Thanks again for all of the replies I received with advice. I am sure that getting this taken care of now will dramatically change my life for the better.

Andrew

How do you access DDP Clinical services?

This clinic operates on the third Friday and Saturday of each month from 9:00a.m-12:00p.m. To access the DDP adult clinic, patients must first be examined as a walk-in urgent care standby patient at Interfaith Dental Clinic. Following an exam, they may be scheduled for an appointment with a DDP dentist based on need and availability. Patients pay for services with DSHS Medicaid coverage or based on Interfaith's standard sliding fee scale (with affordable payment plan). Interfaith Community Health Center houses the DDP and provides staffing and supplies, while community dentists volunteer their time. Interfaith is located at 220 Unity St.; phone is 676-6177.

Tooth Fairy is a hit at Halloween Carnival

Once again this year, dental hygienists and friends provided a fun alternative for young children on Halloween. Coordinated by Cecily Fosso and the Mt. Baker Dental Hygienists' Society, the Tooth Fairy & her helpers provided "tooth-friendly" instruction, games, and treats at the "Boo at Bloedel" Halloween Fair, sponsored by Bellingham Parks and Recreation.

**And what are the treats you might ask?
Toothbrushes, of course!**



Deborah RDH, "Tooth Fairy" Angie DA & Nevada encourage a young tricker-treater

!!Change in OHC meeting date!!

**Mark you calendars for the
Next Oral Health Coalition meeting:**

Wednesday, January 24, 2007 (not 12/6/06)

5:30-7:30 pm. at

St. Luke's Health Education Center (3333 Squalicum Pkwy)

OH Coalition Staffing Changes

At the end of August, the Health Department contract with Crossroads Consulting for Coalition coordination ended. We wish Mardi of Crossroads a rewarding adventure with her family during the coming year on the east coast. The Health Department continues to provide part-time staffing for the Coalition, with Maggi Kriger assuming the role of Oral Health Coalition Coordinator (in addition to her continued role as ABCD Program Coordinator). Jenny Shuler continues in her role as OHC Chair.

Executive Steering Committee Members are:

- Jenny Shuler, CDA; Bellingham College; OHC Chair:
- Maggi Kriger, WCHD; Access to Baby and Child Dentistry Program (ABCD)
- Chris Phillips; St. Joseph Hospital; Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access
- Fred Wicknick, DMD; Mt. Baker District Dental Society
- Nona Groesbeck, RDH; Mt. Baker Dental Hygienists' Society
- Shelly Zylstra, RD; Northwest Regional Council
- Kelly Molaski, RD; Whatcom County Health Department; WIC Program

**We Welcome Your
Feedback and Ideas...**

If you have any suggestions, ideas, or questions about this newsletter or the Whatcom Oral Health Coalition...

Please contact Maggi at:
676-6762 x32022 or
mkriger@co.whatcom.wa.us

Spread the Word...

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter, or become involved in Coalition activities...

Dr. Robert Knudson Receives Award for “Giving Back Smiles” to Domestic Violence Survivor

Lesley Rigg, Senior Information and Assistance, NWRC

At the opening event for Domestic Violence Awareness Month on October 5th, Dr Knudson was recognized for his contributions to the well-being and recovery of victims of domestic violence.

As a provider in the *Give Back A Smile™* (GBAS) program, Dr. Knudson is one of a few dentists statewide who offers free restorative and cosmetic dentistry to battered women who have suffered damage to their teeth due to an abusive attack, and who have left the abusive relationship.

Director of Whatcom County Health Department, Regina Delahunt, presented the Domestic Violence Commission's Outstanding Achievement Award to Dr Knudson at a packed meeting in the County Chambers.

We heard moving extracts from thank-you letters of women whose lives had been changed by "getting their smile back" after making the difficult, and sometimes dangerous, move away from their abusive partners.

For further information about the *Give Back A Smile™* program, contact the Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence mail@dvcommission.org



Photo by Matt Gagne

75% of females in a physically abusive relationship receive battering to the head & face area.

Source: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Quotes from *Give Back A Smile™* Clients

“Slowly but surely, my smile isn’t a constant reminder to my children of days past.”

“I went to visit my daughter recently and she got tears in her eyes when she saw me for the first time in four months. She said at the end of the weekend that she had not seen me smile and laugh so much in her whole life”

WSDA Dental Outreach Program for Seniors

Several local dentists participate in this program organized by the Washington State Dental Association. Seniors (65+) & people w/ disabilities qualify if their incomes fall below \$2041(single)/ \$2750 (couple) and they have no dental insurance. Participating dentists offer 25% discount on their customary charges.

If you wish to refer a senior to the program, please contact Senior Information & Assistance at 738-2500. Younger disabled people can contact the WSDA at 800-448-3368 and ask for Renee. Dentists wanting more information can contact also contact Renee @ 800-448-3368.

ABCD



CORNER



ABCD Certification Training Friday, February 2, 2007 1pm-4pm Bellingham

Who should attend?

- ◆ **Dentists** wanting to be certified to see children and to receive ABCD reimbursement.
- ◆ **Clinical support staff and office staff.**
- ◆ **Anyone interested** in a pediatric update, or refresher.
- ◆ **New staff** in an existing ABCD office.

This training is a great opportunity to learn with Dr. Joel Berg, UW Chair of Pediatric Dentistry Department and Dr. Mary Elizabeth Bisese, Pediatric Dentist. Certificates of attendance are provided for all, and CDE credits are provided for dentists and hygienists. There is no cost for training.

For more information, or to let us know of your training interests,

Please contact: Maggi, ABCD Coordinator, at 676-6762 x32022/ mkrigger@co.whatcom.wa.us



Kruger Elected to Represent Fellow ABCD Program Coordinators at State Level

Kathy O'Meara-Wyman, ABCD Program Managing Director, WDS Foundation

Whatcom County Health Department's Maggi Kriger, has been elected by her peers as one of two local "Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD)" program representatives to serve on the newly formed statewide ABCD Steering Committee.

Maggi and fellow ABCD Program leader, Ida Ovnicek (Spokane Regional Health District), were elected by the ABCD Coordinators group at their October 2 meeting in Ellensburg. Criteria for ABCD Steering Committee nominees included: knowledge of the program at both the local and state levels; skill in soliciting and conveying input from others; and ability to represent the views of the coordinators from 18 ABCD Programs in the state. The Steering Committee meets quarterly to guide implementation of the ABCD program in key areas including: clinical practice, coordination of ABCD and other oral health initiatives, evaluation, timing of program expansion, financial sustainability, & program promotion.

The Access to Baby and Child Dentistry Program is a collaborative approach to increasing access to preventive and restorative care for Medicaid-eligible children, from infancy through age five, with emphasis on enrollment by age one. Local health departments and dental societies, state agencies, Washington State Dental Association, University of Washington, and Washington Dental Service Foundation work together in program development and implementation. ABCD is based upon the premise that starting dental visits early will prevent early childhood caries and reduce the need for costly future restorative work.



Member Spotlight:

“When I had my son, I promised myself that I’d do all I could to build healthy habits with him...”
- Rachel Garcia & Dominic



Rachel Garcia is one of the Oral Health Coalition’s newest members, and proud mom of two year-old Dominic. Employed as a cook at a childcare center, Rachel decided she wanted to do oral health lessons with the center’s preschool class. Here Rachel answers a few questions about how she became an oral health activist.

Rachel, what got you interested in oral health issues?

When I was growing up I wasn’t very educated about my teeth and my parents didn’t enforce healthy brushing, so I had lots of anxiety and didn’t go to the dentist very much. I had lots of problems with my teeth. I got to go to the dentist when I was pregnant because I had a DSHS medical coupon. I found out that I had 11 cavities! When I had my son, I promised myself that I’d do all that I could to build healthy habits with him that weren’t enforced with me.

Some parents repeat what happened to them; how did you come to do it differently with Dominic?

I just didn’t want him to feel the way I felt with my teeth. And I found people to help me and educate me- like at WIC and ABCD, and Interfaith. When I was pregnant I read that brochure (10 Simple Ways to Protect Your Baby’s Smile) while I was waiting for my appointment at Interfaith. After I did the checklist I said, ‘That’s it! I will not let him go through what I’m going through- the pain of the cavities, and the embarrassment. The first thing people see is your smile. I’m going to teach him differently.’

What got you active in children’s oral health?

I felt like since I got educated about it, there are a lot of parents and kids that need information like I did. Being around kids, you get to see what their teeth look like; chipped rotten, and broken, and they tell me it hurts when they eat. Since I’m the cook, since I’m the one giving them food, I felt compelled to help- I want to do something.

What did you do with the preschool class?

I asked them questions like “ What should I do if I want my teeth to be healthy & strong?” What should I do if my tooth hurts?” And I showed them the model with the teeth. The preschool teacher also had them take turns brushing the Froggy puppet’s teeth. Dr. Tarver was great and gave me an extracted tooth, and toothbrushes for all the children. We did an experiment – I showed them the extracted tooth and the black cavities, and then we put it in sugar water- it started to smell bad pretty fast. Now we’ll watch it to see what happens. We also had a dental screening and referral information given out the next day.

Anything else you’d like to share?

Just that I’m so grateful for all the help that I’ve gotten. If there is anything I can ever do to help out, please let me know. Really.

“Being around kids, you get to see what their teeth look like; chipped rotten, and broken, and they tell me it hurts when they eat.”



Oral Health; a Huge Success at Sea Mar's 2nd Annual Health Fair

Sid Williams, DDS, Sea Mar Community Health Center

Oral Health Coalition members participated in a large health fair held at Sea Mar Community Health Center on October 9th from 5 to 8 PM. The fair was well attended with over 100 visitors receiving a variety of medical screenings and health information.

- Approximately 1/3 of the visitors were seen in the Dental Department for free oral health screenings (adults and children).
- Free fluoride varnish treatment was provided for 33 children.
- Oral health care instructions were given along with complimentary toothbrushes, floss, and toothpaste.
- Additionally, printed information was provided in English and Spanish regarding preventive dental care for infants and children, and the oral health complications of diabetes.

The Health Fair was a big success and was coordinated by Sea Mar Health Educator and Oral Health Coalition member Priscilla Sharrow. Providing dental services were Coalition members Dr. Sidney Williams and Luisa Hicks, dental clinic supervisor. Also assisting were staff members Teresa Cruz, Darcy Madera, Lupe Cervantes, and Elizabeth Diaz.

Sea Mar would like to extend many thanks to everyone who participated in this event and to OH Coalition members who were so helpful with logistical and material support.

Hygienist and Health Department Nurse Team-Up this Fall for Dental Screening & Fluoride Varnish Clinics at Child Care Centers

This autumn, a dental hygienist & nurse team are offering dental screenings & fluoride varnish application to children at five childcare centers, with parental consent. Dee Simmons RDH is volunteering her time and skills, in coordination with Sylvia Fragner PHN from Whatcom County Health Department. To-date 70 children have been screened at three centers, with a number presenting untreated cavities and/or rampant decay. Happily, there were also many healthy teeth that now have an extra dose of protection. All participating families were given dental referral information. (Note: Interfaith CHC offers these services to a number of other childcare & HeadStart centers.)



Young admirers of their freshly painted teeth.



Dee checks for cavities with Sylvia providing light & a lap.

Third Annual

Whatcom County Sealant Day Saturday, February 10, 2007

**This free event targets low-income children and provides
a dental screening, fluoride, and sealants.**

How You Can Help!

Dentists:

_____ Visual exams (event day) 8a.m. – 1p.m. or 11:30a.m. – 4p.m.

_____ Follow-up restorative care (your office) for _____ child(ren)

_____ Pro bono _____ with DSHS medical coupons

_____ Donate money for supplies, phone, postage, etc.*

*Make checks payable to: Mt. Baker Dental Hygiene Society

Clinical and Non-clinical Volunteers:

8a.m. – 1p.m. or 11:30 – 4p.m. (choose one)

_____ Place or assist in sealant placement

_____ Sterilization or x-rays

_____ Reception/check out

_____ Other

Name: _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Please return this to: **Dee Simmons**
Fax: 384-3847
4157 Saltspring Dr.
Ferndale WA 98248
Questions? Call 384-3847

Did you know???

Dental-related illnesses annually result in:

- 20.5 million lost work days
- 6.1 million days of bed disability
- 12.7 million days of restricted activity
- 117,000 missed hours of class time per 100,000 students

(Source – Delta Dental)

Whatcom County Health Department
1500 North State Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

