



## Wow, Look What We Did Together in 2009!

Whatcom Oral Health Coalition (OHC) continued to have broad community support in 2009 as evidenced by 24 partner organizations and approximately 185 members. Four general meetings were held with an average of 30 participants at each. Various OHC workgroups, along with OHC partners & members, had many accomplishments during the year including:

### Access

- Smiles for Life program provided dental education, preventive services, & treatment referrals for *low-income seniors*.
- “Donated Adult Dental (DAD)” program at *Interfaith Community Health Center* served *low-income adults*:  
Patients=191; Total procedures completed=330; Services provided: ADA value= \$42,273, ICHC value=\$52,051
- Access to Baby & Child Dentistry (ABCD) program helped families access dental care for *Medicaid-eligible kids, 0–5*.
- Lummi Nation *expanded their dental clinic* and received a WDS Foundation grant for *new equipment*;
- Lummi Nation hosted several week-long SmileMobile Dental Clinics at the *Tribal School & HeadStart Program*;
- ICHC Mobile Dental Program provided 1277 total encounters for *children at select County sites*:  
62% were seen at school, 27% at Head Start, and 11% at other sites (day care centers, Boys & Girls club, etc);  
73% had Medicaid, 8% had private insurance, 19% did not have dental insurance.
- Volunteer RDH Project @ Bellingham Sea Mar CHC culminated in *the hiring of a part-time Dental Hygienist*, with priority given to *pregnant women & elderly clients*;
- Sea Mar CHC B’ham dental clinic hired a part-time *endodontist*;
- Mt. Baker District Dental Society (MBDDS) held an annual festive *Wine-tasting fundraiser* in support dental access programs throughout Whatcom, Skagit, Island & San Juan Counties- MBDDS *donated \$1500 to Whatcom ABCD*;
- Bellingham Technical College implemented a new *Dental Hygiene Clinic* ;
- Preventive Dental Services were provided by a RDH independent practice serving *low-income families* at Whatcom County Health Department WIC Program, with priority given to *children & pregnant women*;
- Interfaith CHC *increased dental capacity* for both children and adults in Bellingham and Ferndale.

### Education

- Oral health news updates were disseminated via email updates, HappyTeeth.org postings, newsletter, & fax;
- A new oral health education pamphlet for children K-6<sup>th</sup> and their parents, *10 Simple Ways to A Super Smile*, was printing and distributed (with funding support from an ADA Samuel Harris grant);
- New tools were created including a *Tooth Trail Brushing Calendar*;
- Local oral health resources were translated and printed in *Spanish and Russian*;
- ABCD Provider Certification Training was *in planning stage* for 3/8/10 ;
- Bellingham Technical College implemented the new *Dental Hygiene program* for ten students.
- Pre-school Project supported the establishment & implementation of *tooth-brushing programs* in local pre-schools.

### Special Projects

- Project Homeless Connect 2009 provided direct dental services to adults via OHC partners and volunteers;
- 2010 Annual Free Sealant Day, coordinated by Mt Baker Dental Hygienists’ Society, served *low-income children*;
- OHC HappyTeeth Station, staffed by OHC volunteers, was a big hit with kids & families at community events including: *FoodSense Family Events, Get Movin’ Kick-off Health Fair, Kids’ Festival, Ferndale School District Family Event*;
- Pre-Dental Student Club @ WWU continued to *strengthen their connection* with OHC community efforts.

### Steering

- Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access (WAHA) was awarded an *ABCD Growth Grant* by WDS Foundation, in collaboration with *Whatcom County Health Department*;
- Washington Dental Service Foundation staff were *honored by the Coalition* at the April OHC Quarterly Meeting;
- Office support to ABCD dental offices (plus others) was provided in order to maximize opportunities for *successful transition to the new DSHS payment system, ProviderOne*.
- The ’09-’10 SMILE Survey began coordinating screenings of kindergarten & 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in 13 elementary schools- screenings were completed in seven schools, with the remainder to be done *in early 2010*;
- An Oral Health Program Logic Model (draft) was developed Whatcom County Health Department ;
- A Medical-dental Prenatal OH Workgroup was initiated in order to reduce dental disease in local families.

## 2009 Whatcom County Oral Health Coalition Happenings (continued)

Additionally:

- Mother Baby Center closed due to lack of funding ☹ ;
- Bellingham DSHS Community Service Office (CSO) outreach staff and services were greatly reduced ☹ ;
- Interfaith CHC hired a new Executive Director with interest and knowledge of oral health issues 😊 .

### Whatcom Oral Health Coalition (OHC)

**Mission:** The OHC is a broad-based coalition working to improve oral health among community members of all ages through prevention, education, & increased access to dental care.

#### 2009 OHC Partner Organizations:

Smiles for Life  
Interfaith Coalition  
St. Joseph Hospital  
Mother Baby Center  
Opportunity Council  
Local community members  
Lummi Tribal Health Center  
Sea Mar Community Health Center  
Coalition for Healthy Communities  
Bellingham Technical College (BTC)  
Northwest Regional Council (NWRC)  
Readiness-to-Learn Consortium (RTL)  
Mt. Baker District Dental Society (MBDDS)  
Interfaith Community Health Center (IHC)  
PeaceHealth Medical Group (Pediatrics Dep't)  
Dental Office Manager's Association (DOMA)  
Mt. Baker Dental Hygienist's Society (MBDHS)  
Whatcom County Health Department (WCHD)  
Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access (WAHA)  
Bellingham DSHS Community Service Office (CSO)  
Access to Baby and Child Dentistry Program (ABCD)  
Washington Dental Service Foundation (WDS Foundation)  
WWU Pre-Dental Club & Pre-Healthcare Advising (WWU)

*"The beauty of the coalition is that  
each OHC member gets to share in the successes  
and accomplishments of all Coalition partners."*

*Shelly Zylstra, OHC Steering Committee*