



**Whatcom County Oral Health
Coalition Steering Committee:**

Mark Brooks, DDS
Sea Mar Community Health Center

Janet Davis, RN
Whatcom County Health Department

Grant Deger, MD
Bellingham City Council

Mary Jo Durborow & Carole Kornelis
Readiness to Learn Coordinators

Ken Gass, MD
Madrona Medical Pediatrics

Beverly Jacobs
Community Member

Monica King, DDS
Interfaith Community Health Center

Maggi Kriger
Access to Baby & Child Dentistry

Wilanne Ollila-Perry
Opportunity Council

Chris Phillips
St. Joseph Hospital

Lesley Rigg
NW Regional Council

Marian Russell, RDH
Toothfairy Dental Hygiene Care

Jenny Shuler, CDA (Chair)
Bellingham Technical College

Curt Smith, DDS
Washington Dental Service

Anita Stolpe & Felicia Caldwell
Dept. Social and Health Services

Colleen White, RDH
Lummi Dental Clinic

Fredrick Wicknick, DMD
Oral Surgeon

Oral Health Matters

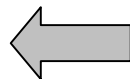
For Whatcom County

A publication of the Whatcom County Oral Health Coalition



Steering Committee Takes First Bite!

April 8th marked the first meeting of the oral health coalition steering committee. Passion for solving oral health problems in this community was an obvious unifying force among steering committee members. We are off to a great start!



Committee members represent a broad range of groups and organizations; yet hold a common vision for our community:

- ❖ Primary prevention of dental decay and disease

AND

- ❖ Expansion of access to dental care

The committee is currently reviewing the recommendations from the oral health summit and other possible oral health interventions in order to develop working groups for action.

The next meeting is the first week of May. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate in a working group. Please go to page 2 for a diagram of the coalition structure.

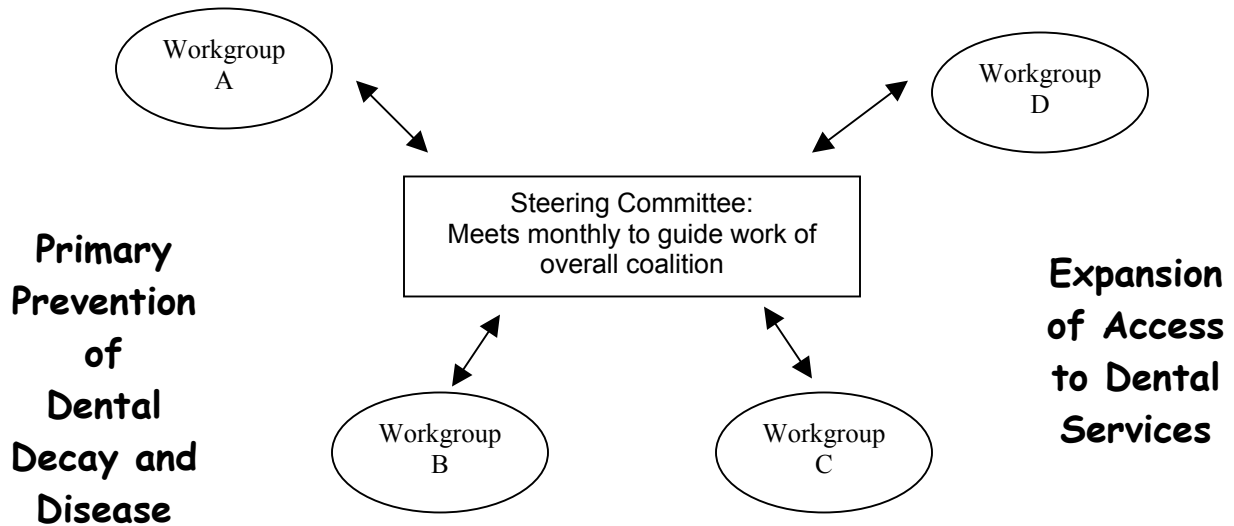
What You Can Do...

Please spread the word - if you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter, or be informed of working group opportunities have them contact Diane at 676-4593 or dlowry@co.whatcom.wa.us

We Welcome Your Feedback and Ideas...

If you have any comments, ideas, or questions about this newsletter or the Whatcom Oral Health Coalition, please contact Diane at 676-4593 or dlowry@co.whatcom.wa.us

Whatcom County Oral Health Coalition



Workgroups will consist of coalition members (like you!) who are committed to completing projects selected by the steering committee.

Coalition Members: Who You Are, What You Bring...

Diverse Membership

Dentists
 Dental Hygienists
 Dental Assistants
 Physicians
 Public Health Nurses
 Oral Surgeon
 Pediatrician
 City Council Member
 Readiness to Learn Coordinators
 Dental Access Program Coordinators
 School Board Member
 Dental Assistant Instructor
 Director of Childcare Referral
 DSHS Supervisor
 Manager of Dental Clinic
 Mobile Clinic Managers
 Washington Dental Service Trustees
 Community Health Manager
 Newcomer to Bellingham
 Mobile Dental Clinic Manager
 School Nurses
 Chemical dependency professional

Strong Linkages

Bellingham Technical College
 Bellingham and Whatcom County Schools
 Dep't of Social and Health Services/MAA
 Interfaith Coalition
 Interfaith Community Health Center
 Lummi Tribal Health
 Madrona Medical Group
 Mobile Dental Care Practices
 Mt Baker Dental Hygiene Society
 Mt. Baker District Dental Society
 Nooksack Tribal Clinic
 Northwest Regional Council
 Opportunity Council
 Private Practice Dental Offices
 Sea Mar Community Health Center
 St. Joseph Hospital
 Washington Dental Service Foundation
 Whatcom County Health Department

Many Assets

Frequent contact with community with dental needs
 Experience serving high-risk populations
 Linkage to statewide dental efforts
 Strong dedication to improving oral health
 Abundance of experience serving the community

Coalition Member Spotlight

Leading our coalition efforts as steering committee chairperson, is Jenny Shuler, a dental assistant instructor at Bellingham Technical College (BTC). Jenny has been instructing for 17 years and has a passion for promoting oral health because, "Oral health impacts how we feel about ourselves and our overall health." She feels especially committed to prevention and finding solutions for the pediatric population. Jenny also oversees the dental clinic at BTC, which is open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays. One of the assets she brings to the coalition is a strong linkage to dental professionals in the community that have supported and volunteered their time this dental clinic. Her hopes for oral health coalition accomplishments are: improved access to dental care for everyone, looking into water fluoridation, and Whatcom County becoming a model for other communities.



Jenny Shuler, CDA, BS

"As a child, I remember the dental assistant in my dentist's office drawing pictures for me. After that, I loved going to the dentist"

ABCD



CORNER

Did you know...?

The majority of children under age 6 in Whatcom County receive DSHS Medicaid insurance.

The Good News

Thanks to the hard work of private and public dental providers, every year since 2000 **the number of children who receive dental services has steadily increased.**

The Bad News

Even with these increases, **over 60% of these Medicaid-eligible children still didn't receive any dental services in 2003.**

The Vision

Every child in our community receives their first oral health risk assessment by 6 months of age; **all children at-risk for dental caries have a "dental home" by 1st birthday.**

If you know of an oral health program or service that you would like highlighted in a future issue of Oral Health Matters, contact Diane at 676-4593 or dlowry@co.whatcom.wa.us

Newsletter Goals

- ❖ Unite those interested in promoting oral health
- ❖ Educate about oral health issues
- ❖ Highlight what is working
- ❖ Promote opportunities for involvement

Never doubt a small group of committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

For information on oral health resources in Whatcom County go to www.happyteeth.org

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