

**The 2014 Ohio Director of Health's Task Force on
Oral Health and Access to Dental Care
Meeting Summary
October 29, 2014**

Introduction

The ODH DTF met on October 29, 2014 at the State Library of Ohio. The agenda included:

- Welcome/Overview
 - Review principles of dialogue
 - Review DTF core values & principles
 - Review past work
 - Review agenda for the day
- Review of draft recommendations
 - Special Populations
 - Social Determinants (cultural competence and oral health literacy)
 - Financing Dental Care
- Summarize the day
 - Next steps related to today's work
 - Next steps for future meetings

Overview

ChangeWorks of the Heartland (CW) facilitator, Chris Kloth, provided a brief review of the principles of dialogue and the core values and principles agreed to in previous meetings. Kloth reminded the group of the "Crosscheck of Proposed Strategies Against Core Values and Principles" worksheet previously used to help frame the dialogue. He indicated that he would continue using a more directive style of facilitation to help the group focus on the large number of topics to be addressed in this meeting and that he would be assisted with charting by his colleague, Blaine Franz.

Kloth provided an overview of the agenda.

He also explained that when the draft plan is sent to DTF members it may be organized differently than the original "buckets" that were used to organize the dialogues. He reminded the group that there were frequent references to the interdependence of some strategies across multiple buckets, as well as the idea that some topics might fit in more than one bucket. All DTF recommendations will be included in the final plan, but some may be placed in different buckets (topic areas).

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Special Populations

The DTF began exploring the Special Populations bucket with a focus on the ability and willingness of dentists to work with special populations, especially those of any age with developmental disabilities. All dental students do a rotation working with people with developmental disabilities. However there remains a gap between the need and the availability of dentists to serve the DD population. There is a perception among many dentists that most DD patients are more difficult to treat. Additionally there is no compensation for the additional time and effort required.

It was noted that families with members with developmental disabilities tend to be actively involved in peer support networks, which may be valuable in identifying need, concerns and solutions. Another challenge is that some potentially valuable data that might help establish a baseline, a gap and any progress is difficult to access in a useful way.

Issues were raised with respect to seniors in long term care facilities, especially with respect to daily oral hygiene practices. Information on standards was provided and there were concerns about limited and vague language. The way reimbursement for this care is bundled suggests that facilities are being paid to provide the care but not being held accountable for doing so. There is overlap or interdependence of some of these strategies with those already identified in previous meetings and with those that will likely be discussed in the next meeting.

Social Determinants

Reina Sims, from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, provided an overview of the Commission's approach to cultural competence and inclusion, as well as the barriers to access that are associated with social determinants. She noted that the DTF has done a good job of embedding these issues throughout the plan, as well as including a separate focus area. Her review of the last plan indicated a multicultural workgroup was to be established to focus on increasing the cultural competence and diversity of the oral health workforce and it didn't happen. She would like to include that recommendation and help make it happen. Reina also referred to some data sources, sources of standards and training resources.

Financing Oral Health Care

While some new ideas were added to the mix, the general feeling of the group was that the financial issues had been addressed sufficiently in other buckets. No new objectives were added.

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Feedback and Future Deliberations

DTF members who would like to provide written feedback on any of the objectives and strategies are welcome to provide feedback by e-mail to Carrie.Farquhar@odh.ohio.gov. All DTF members are encouraged to attend the November 19 meeting to provide comments on the draft language.

Next Steps

1. Chris will prepare a summary of this meeting;
2. ODH staff will draft objective and strategy language for all three buckets discussed (Special Needs, Social Determinants and Financing Dental Care);
3. ODH will send the draft objectives and strategies for all six focus areas for DTF member to review prior to the next meeting.
4. DTF members are invited to send feedback on draft objectives and strategies as soon as possible;
5. Chris and ODH staff will prepare an agenda for the next meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at The State Library of Ohio.