

Coalition Overview and Public Policy Priorities 2012 - 2013

Principles

- Change perceptions regarding oral health and disease so that oral health becomes an accepted component of general health.
- Apply science effectively to improve oral health.
- Build an effective health infrastructure that meets the oral health needs of all and integrates oral health effectively into overall health.
- Remove known barriers between people and oral health services.
- Use public-private partnerships to improve the oral health of those who still suffer disproportionately from oral disease.

Objectives and Policy Priorities

- Develop a statewide oral health awareness and education campaign.
- Integrate oral health with general medical care.
- Integrate comprehensive oral health curricula in general health curricula and promote in all New Hampshire schools.
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive epidemiological oral health surveillance system to identify, investigate and monitor oral health and oral health services.
- Access and disseminate evidence-based information on oral health science.
- Maximize the benefits of fluoride in preventing and controlling dental caries.
- Implement and maintain the capacity for a statewide school-based sealant program.
- Support efforts to reduce tobacco and alcohol use among New Hampshire residents.
- Recommend the requirement of the use of face masks and mouth guards in all school and other sports programs.
- Maximize the capacity of the oral health workforce to address the needs of the population.
- Integrate, improve, expand and sustain the oral health component of the health care safety net.
- Create system level improvement to treat high risk populations such as children, the elderly, uninsured adults, individuals with developmental disabilities, mental illness, HIV/AIDS.
- Enhance the competency of the oral health workforce to treat high risk populations.
- Build a care coordination and case management system especially for those at high risk.
- Improve access to dental insurance among all sectors of the population.
- Create a statewide clearinghouse to serve as resource for information on existing oral health programs, technical support, funding consultation and successful public health models.
- Promote regional and community-based collaborative efforts among agencies, organizations and individuals to address oral health needs.
- Monitor the implementation of the New Hampshire Oral Health Plan
- Review and revise the New Hampshire Oral Health Plan as necessary.

The Coalition is a diverse group of organizations, agencies, and individuals, concerned about the impact of oral health issues facing New Hampshire. This group is broadly representative of those involved in oral health provision, planning and funding including the dental and medical communities, the legislature, educational programs, advocacy groups, insurance providers, state agency leaders, and private funders.

Established in 2002, this critical public initiative convened by the Endowment for Health and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services as the Coalition for New Hampshire Oral Health Action, following extensive research and collaboration, published the [New Hampshire Oral Health Plan: A Framework for Action](#) to provide structure and vision for oral health advancement in New Hampshire. Maintaining the spirit of the plan as a “living document” the Coalition continues to work toward its vision of *optimal oral health for the residents of New Hampshire*.

Public Policy Priorities 2012 – 2013

- Identify potential to improve oral health status; create access, and reduce health care costs through collaboration and communication with in-state and national membership, colleagues and partners.
- Monitor and advance the integration of oral health and primary care through participation in the state and private market implementation of oral health preventive services by primary care providers for children 0-3 years who are Medicaid recipients.
- Disseminate updated and evidence-based oral health scientific information to the public, legislature, policy makers and oral health community.
- Monitor, analyze and respond to proposed legislation and policy changes that impact or intersect with the provision and funding of oral health services.
- Monitor and support local and regional efforts to advance oral health access and practice.

2012 - 2013 Steering Committee

Helen Taft, NHOHC Chair
Families First Health and Support Center

Catrina Watson
NH Medical Society

James Williamson, NHOHC Vice-Chair
NH Dental Society

Suzanne Boulter, MD (temp)
NH Pediatric Society

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