

**Commission to Study Pathways to Oral Health Care in New Hampshire (SB 193)**  
**February 13, 2015**

**Members Present:** Senator Bradley (Chair), Representative Susan Emerson (House), Charles Saia (Governor's Commission on Disability), Dr. Arthur McKibbin (Board of Dental Examiners), Senator Donna Soucy (Senate), Dr. Puneet Kochhar (NH Dental Society), Erika Argersinger (NH Kids Count), Robert Ritchie (State Committee on Aging), Jane Goodman (NH Oral Health Coalition), Pamela Delahanty (NH Dental Hygienists Association), Mary Ann Aldrich (Public), Dr. Roger Achong (NH Academy of Pediatric Dentistry), Dr. Margaret Snow (NH Medicaid Dental Director)

**First Order of Business: Presentation made by Nancy Martin RDH MS, NH Division of Public Health Services, Oral Health Program Manager (See Attached summary and slides)**

? Kochhar – so kids are being treated?

A. Yes, there are pockets though - like Newport. HNH funded restorative care.

? Saia - Dentists not treating disabilities. Why? Don't want to? Need education?

A. Need education. More difficult population. Mainly it is lack of comfort in treating significant disabilities. Some programs set up to teach re: physical barriers to dental offices.

? Argersinger - How many WIC sites?

A. We have 7 sites around the state. Funded by HNH. Also collected data in iPads. That project has 3 sites - Concord, Pittsfield, Keene. Also working in Avis Goodwin, Coos, Lebanon, and others.

? Argersinger - how is it funded?

A. Trying to show we can do this without grant funding through reimbursements for prophies, sealants. School-based clinic costs approximately \$80K/yr to run – the state provides \$28K.

? Argersinger - school based and community are based on prevention.

A. Some school-based do preventive and restorative care, ie Molar Express does 1 day weekly for restorative care. Had a couple of dentists working on mobile vans in Manchester. If we can do restorative in schools, takes away the problem of transportation, etc. Dental clinics do restorative and preventive. Limited amount of restorative in school. Some areas have dentists who do a lot of care - Ex. Derry area. 45 area dentists donate time.

? Who pays for care?

A. It is donated by the dentists.

Pamela Delahanty - Works in school base program in New Ipswich. Only one dentist in town who can only do so much. Transportation is an issue. Mobile units are great as they are convenient, but there are challenges with mobile equipment.

? Ritchie - Lives in Cheshire County and serves on State Committee on Aging. Can you do more clinics?

A. There is a wonderful clinic in Keene. The problem is financing. No coverage for adults. Most of the dental centers try to finance adult care by keeping 60 percent of caseload children that they

can get paid for. Can only take so many adults with no payment. Try to use grants, but only so many. Constantly working for grants.

? Bradley - You said Newport needed a schools program. Any others?

A. Upper valley (Canaan, Enfield). There is a school program. Very few dentists up there to help. Alice Peck Day program director gets grants to send adults to treatment. There is also a Red Logan dental facility. Two dentists there, but only treat adults and have a 6-month waiting list.

Dr. Snow - Many volunteer hours, grants, hospitals, etc. Our funding doesn't go very far. This is all done by passions and goodwill of people.

Second Order of Business : Presentation by Margaret Snow, DMD, Office of Medicaid Business and Policy Dental Director (See attached summary and handout)

? Delahanty - Minnesota did a study on safety of mid levels. We should look at study.

A. The collaborative agreement in Minnesota is within a system that has an emergency backup. Minnesota has good safety protocols because dentist supervision. Immediately available. Telemedicine might be used in Alaska.

? Bradley. How does it work?

A. Delahanty – Commission on Dental Accreditation just adopted national training standards for dental therapy programs.

? Dr Kochhar - So you are looking for what kind of further impact from specialists?

A. Dr. Snow: My wish list is surgical treatment and pediatric. General dentists are not doing as many extractions as they used to. We need an oral surgeon. Have a good one in Littleton, there is a developing problem w/oral surgeons in So. NH Rates have not kept up. Culturally people want to be put to sleep. More costs for sedation.

? Argersinger - What percentage of Medicaid kids does 54,000 receiving treatment represent?

A. 57 percent. That is a good number - much better than before. Believe even insured population is about 70 percent access.

Third Order of Business: Administrative Issue.

- Next Meeting: March 27<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.
- Presenters to be invited: NH Board of Dental Examiners; NH Technical Institute
- Future Meeting – May 8<sup>th</sup>. Presenters to include Carsey Institute and NH Oral Health Coalition.
- Motions to approve minutes. All in favor
- Clerk. Senator Bradley asked that Jodi Grimbilas and Erika Argersinger continue to assist in clerk duties for the Commission.

Adjourn