



*Healthy Smile  
Happy Child*

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The Manitoba Collaborative Project for the Prevention of Early Childhood Tooth Decay

## Healthy Smile Happy Child Activity and Highlights April - June 2013

Submitted by: **Janis Gojda (Healthy Smile Happy Child (HSHC) coordinator) & Eleonore Kliewer (HSHC Project Assistant)**

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### **Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority**

(former Interlake RHA and North Eastman Health Authority)

- The HSHC coordinator is continuing efforts to follow up on the community capacity evaluation forms for the Interlake-Eastern Families First program to help HSHC understand the capacity of the region to provide early childhood oral health support.
- The key contact in Pine Falls requested instructions on how to create/play the sugar bug game that HSHC created. The HSHC display with the sugar bug game was used for 5 Early Years events throughout the eastern part of the IERHA (1 in French) this spring.
- The HSHC coordinator will work with the Families First worker in Riverton to set up a subsequent date for a trainer session as she was unable to attend the session on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- A Families First worker in Beausejour contacted HSHC regarding a family that requires dental care for a child with severe Early Childhood Caries (SECC) but cannot afford the procedural costs. HSHC shared information about SECC and connected her with the "Where to go for dental care" handout from the WRHA's Oral Health Program that features community-based clinic options.

### **Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (continued)**

- Wellness facilitators attended early years readiness days in St-Georges (French), Springfield and Lac du Bonnet with interactive display that included a game on making healthier food choices for good oral health. Each child received a toothbrush and tooth brushing chart; parents were provided with information on preventing ECC. Information was also provided at Beausejour clinic, but without a manned display.
- Parent-tot presentation was provided to Springfield Moms & Tot group, Pre & Postnatal presentation provided for Blue Water Mobile Prenatal group. Informative emails from HSHC continue to be distributed to regional partners.

### **Northern Regional Health Authority** (former NOR-MAN and Burntwood RHAs)

- The HSHC coordinator is continuing to work with the Public Health Dietitian/Healthy Baby Coordinator in Thompson who was appointed as the new HSHC contact and liaison between the former NOR-MAN and Burntwood regions. A subsequent trainer session will be arranged as she was unable to attend the session held on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- HSHC is continuing to search for a local contact to support ongoing community engagement with The Pas community.
- Participants from Thompson (10), Gillam Lake (1), and Lynn Lake (1) connected to the HSHC Presentation Series via MBTelehealth on April 18, 2013.

**Prairie Mountain Health** (former Brandon, Assiniboine & Parkland RHAs)

- The PROMISE Years Parent Child Program Coordinator position in Virden is still vacant. The North Parent Child Coalition Coordinator in Hamiota has been covering for the South area until the position is filled.
- A Dietetic intern in Dauphin developed an article for oral health month which included a list of “Fang-Friendly” dental healthy snacks for their April Health Promotion E-News.
- Families First Home Visitors (8) and Public Health Nurses (2) attended the HSHC trainer/refresher session via MBTelehealth from the Brandon Town Centre on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Participants from Dauphin (3), Roblin (1), and Swan River (2) joined the HSHC Presentation Series on April 18, 2013 via MBTelehealth.
- Brandon’s annual Westman Dreams for Kids Country Fair was held on Sunday June 2nd. The BRHA staff set up the DASH tent (an educational and promotional event) for kids to bring their favorite stuffed animals for care by health care staff, including oral health.
- An article was submitted to the Communications Coordinator for the Roblin Review for Oral Health Month in April with tips on prevention of early childhood Tooth decay – this was in response to the town removing fluoride from the water supply – unfortunately the article did not appear in the paper.
- The key contact in Dauphin acted as lead for the dental telehealth session in Dauphin – 3 staff attended– review of use of motivational interviewing in the Baby Teeth Talk study which seeks to improve the dental health of aboriginal children by working with their mothers during pregnancy
- Upon request by the Community LPN in Camperville, dental resources for kindergarten age children were provided, a copy of school curriculum from Manitoba Dental Association, preschool dental bingo and other handouts directed at the parents on the topic of prevention of early childhood tooth decay. He used some of these in his presentation at Philomene Chartrand School.
- The key contact in Dauphin assisted in the development of a case study question and participated in the final interview for the permanently funded provincial Healthy Smile, Happy Child coordinator position with the other panel members from our working group.
- Upon request from our Public Health Manager from PMH, we sent information on which communities in the region have fluoride added to the water – both Roblin and Hartney have recently discontinued water fluoridation.
- Upon request by PHN in Ethelbert, sent info out on communities in the Parkland area that have naturally high levels of fluoride in the water (and therefore do not add fluoride to the community water supplies).
- New dentist has taken up practice in Ste. Rose, which will provide services 5 days a week until the end of September.
- A dentist will also be working out of the Ebb and Flow First Nation Health Center to provide family dentistry services. They will serve both treaty and social assistance clients, both on and off First Nations communities..

**Southern Health / Santé Sud** (former RHA-Central Manitoba and South Eastman Health)

- Participants from Winkler (5), Altona (1), and Steinbach (8), connected to the HSHC Presentation Series on April 18, 2013 via MBTelehealth.
- The key contact in Steinbach attended the HSHC trainer session in person at the Winnipeg MBTelehealth site location on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The key contact in Southport requested the current list of dentists in the Central Region who are participating in the MDAs Free First Visit (FFV) program to promote at upcoming preschool wellness fairs. She also requested extra FFV magnets to handout. HSHC connected her with the Manitoba Dental Association on this request.
- Southern Health-Santé Sud staff continues to incorporate an oral health message into their ongoing work like Preschool Wellness Fairs, Healthy Baby sessions, and Families First Home Visits.
- The key contact in Southport has been working on a pilot plan to work with parents in a focus group with the hopes of recommending some policy changes.

**Winnipeg Regional Health Authority** (Churchill and Winnipeg RHAs have been merged)

- The HSHC coordinator is continuing to work with the key contacts in Winnipeg and Churchill to incorporate early childhood oral health promotion into their work.
- The HSHC coordinator connected with the Winnipeg Community Facilitator in the Point Douglas area to determine if there is opportunity to connect with FNIHB evacuated communities who are currently residing in Winnipeg. The HSHC coordinator is continuing to locate and connect with these communities.
- Three participants (Manitoba Health, Mount Carmel Clinic & Baby Teeth Talk study) from Winnipeg joined the HSHC Presentation Series on April 18, 2013 at the host site at the John Buhler Research Centre.
- The HSHC coordinator met with the WRHA Community Facilitator in the Point Douglas area to touch base and discuss oral health education/information for service providers in Point Douglas. An in-person HSHC trainer session was provided on May 16, 2013. Three community workers attended.
- The HSHC coordinator is continuing efforts to set up a trainer/refresher session for community workers in the River Heights/Fort Garry characterization area.
- A staff person from the Rehabilitation Centre for Children in Winnipeg contacted HSHC and inquired about low cost dentistry for a 3 year old child with special needs. We were able to provide a number of options that she can pass on to the parents who don't have any dental insurance.
- Churchill provides education and HSHC resources during well child Clinics. The HSHC posters are hanging in the Churchill Health Centre facility and there is also a bulletin board display with resources for people to take.

### **Other Provinces/North America**

- A Dental Hygienist from the Haldimand-Nolkfork Health Unit in Ontario showed interest in using and slightly modifying the HSHC Newborn – 6 years pamphlet and the Flipchart to post on their dental site. Modifications would be made to target their population of Low German Mennonites. The HSHC coordinator connected her with the designer and photographer of the Flipchart to negotiate changes. To date, no changes have been made; the program decided to keep content as is and just add their contact information. They have been handing out hard copies to the community.
- A Dental Therapist from the Oral Health Promotional Unit of Dental Health Services of Western Australia contacted HSHC enquiring about current and comprehensive DVD's on Oral Health and Diet to either buy or to download to disc. Their program has resources for the general public and our staff to borrow to assist them in a variety of Oral Care methods for all age groups and health issues. HSHC provided web links to the videos that HSHC currently uses to promote Oral Health, such as Brushing Baby Teeth Daily (University of Washington) and Baby Oral Health: Pregnancy Through Childhood (University of Toronto). HSHC also offered to provide copies of the Circle of Smiles DVDs.

### **Collaborative Activity**

#### **Schools and Community Organizations**

- A 3<sup>rd</sup> year dentistry student from the University of Manitoba used HSHC resources and activities, such as the tooth brushing puppet & sugar bug game for presentations he provided to three elementary classes on April 9<sup>th</sup>. He heard about HSHC through word of mouth by his classmates.

#### **Dental and Medical Organizations**

- The HSHC coordinator is continuing to work in collaboration with the Manitoba Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA) to connect local dental hygienists with community schools and prenatal and parents of young children groups who would like oral health information sessions. Two requests were sent from HSHC to the MDHA to help connect volunteer hygienists for a community wellness fair in the Prairie Mountain Health region and for the Go4Health Expo held in June.
- Funding to support the 0.5 EFT provincial coordination functions for the current fiscal period has been received from MB Health via the WRHA. This will be ongoing. As a result, longer term support commitments will be made to all RHAs.

### **Provincial HSHC Activity**

- The HSHC coordinator is continuing to work with the region for ongoing oral health promotion efforts. Key contacts were asked to complete a short questionnaire to help HSHC determine regional needs/support and to emphasize HSHC's key role of being

supportive to the RHAs. Feedback was compiled and shared with the partnership. 45% of people surveyed have attended an HSHC education presentation in the past 12 months. 91% of people surveyed (or others in their community) are currently using HSHC resources. Some of the priorities that were highlighted as a result of the survey are:

- Continue to send out research articles on dental health issues and updates on ongoing research projects
  - Provide postal code mapping and/or dental surgery stats to target high risk communities
  - Network with coordinators from all RHA's to share how oral health resources are being used
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- The HSHC partnership is updating the project's logic model that includes the three pillars; community development, knowledge exchange, and evaluation. HSHC will collaborate with all regions to renew the HSHC's key role of supporting and enabling RHAs to include oral health as a key component of overall health and well-being.
  - The HSHC team did not receive funding for the application titled, *Providing Early Childhood Oral Health Information to Newcomer Families*, which was submitted to the William J. Spence ICD Memorial Foundation, the humanitarian arm of the Canadian Section of the International College of Dentists in February 2013. Alternate potential funding sources are being explored. Funding would be used to develop and distribute pictorial oral health resources specifically for newcomers to Canada. These resources would promote good oral health during the early childhood period, provide messages on how to prevent ECC and provide information on accessing dental care.
  - A HSHC trainer/refresher session took place on April 4, 2013 from 10:00am – 11:30am via MBTelehealth. Participates from Brandon (8 Families First Home Visitors and 2 Public Health Nurses) and the HSHC key contact from Steinbach were in attendance.
  - The 5<sup>th</sup> HSHC MBTelehealth presentation series titled "*The Role of Motivational Interviewing in the Baby Teeth Talk Study*" took place on April 18, 2013. This presentation was provided by Shauna McGregor, a Registered Dental Hygienist who is a part of the *Baby Teeth Talk Study*. A total of 10 sites (including host site) and approximately 35 individuals participated via MBTelehealth. Topics for the next presentation are being sought and will take place sometime in fall 2013. Past presentations will be posted on the HSHC webpage on the WRHA website in the future.
  - The HSHC coordinator sent out a link to all key contacts directing them to a list of all MBTelehealth sites in each RHA, including a list specifically for First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) locations (<http://www.mbtelehealth.ca/locations.html>). Key contacts were encouraged to keep FNIHB locations in mind when extending future HSHC MBTelehealth educational presentation invitations and sharing of information in their respective RHAs.

- HSHC team members participated at the following community events during this quarter:



- Teddy Bears Picnic - Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>
- Tooth Fairy Saturday - Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>
- Red River Ex GO4Health Expo - HSHC participated at the event from Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> - Monday June 17<sup>th</sup>
- Wolseley Family Place – Friday June 21
- Teddy Bears Picnic in Neepawa – Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>



- The Pearly Whites project submitted for inclusion to the Canadian Best Practices Portal Oral Health section, which was reviewed by the committee in January 2013. The project coordinator is awaiting feedback.
- HSHC members made contact with Alberta Health Services regarding their “Lift the Lip” brochure. HSHC has been granted permission to revise, reproduce, and add the HSHC logo to this resource. This resource is generally found to be helpful in promoting oral health to families with young children.
- HSHC created a Facebook webpage as a way to connect with the public and a means to promote early childhood oral health through social media. HSHC STEP students are continuing to work on enhancing and building the Facebook page to better promote HSHC and connect with the public. Pictures of HSHC display boards and community events are being posted as well as updates and information on upcoming activities, such as MBTelehealth sessions and participation at community events. A link to the HSHC’s Facebook page is available on HSHC’s webpage on the WRHA website.
- HSHC is working to finalize the *Pediatric Dental Surgery Support and Information for Families* handout. Since the recent changes and integration of to the Manitoba RHAs, the HSHC project coordinator is reassessing key contacts, changes in contact information, and consent. Following will be strategy for dissemination and use of this resource.

- HSHC, in collaboration with FNIHB, will be meeting for an interim evaluation of the Telehealth equipment pilot project which was implemented in the fall of 2012. Discussion will center on enhancing communication and sharing of information relating to teledentistry in order to promote participation of FN communities in the development of upcoming education events relating to ECC.
- HSHC is continuing to work with the WRHA Research & Evaluation Unit to complete the postal code mapping data of pediatric surgeries for Severe Early Childhood Caries in Manitoba; Manitoba Health transferred data over to WRHA to begin this process. A sample of current data was sent to RHA contacts to determine how this postal code mapping information could be utilized in their regions, what form of information is most meaningful, and how they would like to receive updates or reports as new data become available. We asked our contacts in the different regions to provide initial feedback on preliminary graphs and maps to determine which are most meaningful and useful and feedback was very good. This feedback will be incorporated into future reports to RHAs.

#### **Staff Development:**

- The two current STEP students' positions, supported by MB Health, are continuing to work with HSHC throughout the summer months. They will be job sharing one position in a part time capacity. HSHC has also hired a third STEP student in May; she will be working in a full time capacity throughout the summer. These positions are active until September 3, 2013. Some of their current work and activities include:
  - Aiding in the organisation and preparation for all community events including the Teddy Bears Picnic, Tooth Fairy Saturday, and the Go4Health Expo. A new display board themed "Wheel of Smiles" was created by the students specifically for the Go4Health event.
  - Distributing of HSHC Posters to Access centres, quick care clinics, and primary care clinics.
  - Continuing to promote our Facebook page; daily messages and updates are being posted to our page.
  - Continuing to work on the Teledentistry literature review and incorporating HSHC use of MBTelehealth.
  - Assisting with manuscripts on focus groups from the evaluation of the MDAs Free First Visit program.

### Feedback/Evaluation/Research:

- The following 2 papers were submitted for peer review to the International Journal of Dentistry for a special issue on infant and preschool oral health promotion:  
Prowse S, **Schroth RJ**, Wilson A, Edwards JM, Sarson J, Moffatt MEK. Diversity considerations for early childhood oral health: a pilot study. International Journal of Dentistry.  
**Schroth RJ**, Wilson A, Prowse S, Edwards JM, Sarson J, Harms L, K Hai-Santiago K, Moffatt MEK. A qualitative exploration of early childhood oral health promotion in Manitoba, Canada. International Journal of Dentistry.
- One manuscript was accepted for publication May 16, 2013 in the Journal of the Canadian Dental Association:  
**Schroth RJ**, Yaffe AB, Edwards JM, Hai-Santiago K, Ellis M, Manitoba Dental Association, Moffatt MEK. Dentists' views on a province-wide campaign promoting early dental visits for young children. J Can Dent Assoc.
- The follow up manuscript 'Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Manitoba Collaborative Project for the Prevention of Early Childhood Tooth Decay' is being revised for resubmission.
- HSHC is involved in the evaluation study of the Free First Visit program. A manuscript on the survey of Manitoba dentists on their views of the FFV program was submitted and is under peer review. Two other papers are being prepared (one focusing on the tracking form data and the other on the focus groups. One of the STEP students is also working on a one-pager "*Did You Know*" that highlights the Free First Visit Survey and focus groups findings.

### Planning for Next Quarter (July – September 2013):

- Continue to seek potential funding opportunities for the development of pictorial oral health resources for newcomer populations to Canada.
- Continue to work with MBTelehealth into next phases of project implementation.
- Continue to utilize Facebook as a way to promote HSHC and early childhood oral health.
- Revise and resubmit follow-up study manuscript.
- Continue to work on papers based on focus groups with dentists and parents about the FFV program.
- Review complied feedback from RHAs to rebuild individual needs and to determine how HSHC can be of further support to maintain oral health promotion capacity across the province.
- Determine topic and start preparation for 6<sup>th</sup> HSHC Presentation Series.
- Provide HSHC trainer/refresher sessions to RHA key contacts and continue to seek out other groups and organization in need of training.
- Continue to plan and prepare for upcoming community events.
- Determine final changes to key contacts/contact information for the Pediatric Dental Surgery Support and Information for Families handout and develop a strategy for dissemination.