



Healthy Smile Happy Child

John Buhler Research Centre
501B - 715 McDermot Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3E 3P4
Tel: (204) 789-3500
Fax: (204) 977-5691

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

Healthy Smile Happy Child Activity and Highlights January – March 2012

Submitted by: Janis Gojda & Sarah Prowse, Healthy Smile Happy Child (HSHC) coordinators

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Regional Updates

Assiniboine Regional Health Authority (ARHA):

- The ARHA Healthy Baby program has used a dental kit, which contains many resources developed by the Healthy Smiles initiative that circulates around the region. The kit has gone out to five different sites since January 2012.
- The Assiniboine health promotion coordinator and North Parent Child Coalition coordinator participated in the HSHC Presentation Series via MBTelehealth on March 8, 2012.

Brandon Regional Health Authority:

- The Brandon Regional Health Authority is preparing for their annual Dudley's Ambulatory Surgical Hospital (D.A.S.H. tent), as a part of the Westman Dreams for Kids Country Fair on June 3rd. They have a dentistry table at this event and will use HSHC resources to promote oral health.

Burntwood Regional Health Authority

- The Public Health and Clinical Nutrition Services program manager participated in the HSHC presentation series via MBTelehealth on March 8, 2012.

Central Regional Health Authority (CRHA)

- The Central region had three preschool wellness fairs with oral health displays during this quarter.
- The Healthy Living program facilitator and others have been planning for the Annual Regional Public Health-Healthy Living meeting in May, which will be for all PHNs, Health Promotion, Chronic Disease and Public Health Inspector staff. The meeting will have an oral health focus, including topics on water fluoridation and the link between oral health and chronic disease.
- CRHA's public health, healthy baby, families first, dietitians and healthy living staff continue to include an oral health message wherever possible such as providing xylitol gum with an oral health message attached as part of their Healthy Living program. The HSHC key contact recently handed out the gum with messaging to a group during flood recovery work.
- The administrative secretary at the Rosenort Community Health Centre is continually getting requests from local Public Health offices in the Central Region for colour printed Healthy Smiles Happy Child Brochures.

Churchill Regional Health Authority

- Churchill provided two oral health sessions at local school for preschoolers to grade 6. They used the monkey tooth brushing puppet to show how and when to brush teeth in conjunction with the Manitoba Dental Association's "Happy Healthy Teeth" power point presentation. Both reported to be a big hit with the children. They also provided toothbrushes.
- Churchill's public health nurse is continuing to promote early childhood oral health in the region in the following ways:
 - Creating a bulletin board display for Oral Health Month.
 - Hanging up HSHC posters in her Treatment Room & in the hall way.
 - Handing out HSHC pamphlets at Well Child Clinics and to prenatal & postnatal clients.
 - Handing out CDC Brush UP on Healthy teeth, coloring & activity sheets (if the children coloring and hand in the activity sheets, they get a free toothbrush).
- The PHN is meeting with the Healthy Baby group to discuss early childhood oral health. She will be providing oral health supplies (toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss) and incorporating HSHC resources/activities into the discussions, including the Dental BINGO, True & False, & "How Sweet it is" sugar cups.
- The HSHC Newborn to 6 years pamphlet was placed in Churchill's Hudson Bay Health Newsletter, which is distributed to residents of Churchill and the Nunavut Region.
- A Healthy Baby and a Families First Home Visitor in Churchill participated in the HSHC presentation series via MBTelehealth on March 8, 2012.

Interlake Regional Health Authority

- The HSHC coordinators are continuing to work with the Families First Home Visitor in Riverton, MB, who was recently identified as the new HSHC contact and liaison for the Interlake region. The HSHC coordinators are also working with the key contact to follow up on the community capacity evaluation forms for the Interlake Families First program to help HSHC understand the capacity of the region to provide early childhood oral health support.
- The Interlake community wellness facilitator was asked to do a presentation for the Teulon Elementary School. She will be using the tooth brushing puppet, Allie "Z", as an interactive activity as well as some of the other HSHC resources/activities.

NOR-MAN Regional Health Authority

- HSHC is continuing to search for a local contact for The Pas community.
- Two MBTelehealth sites from the NOR-MAN region, Flin Flon and The Pas, participated in the HSHC Presentation Series via MBTelehealth on March 8, 2012.

North Eastman Health Authority

- The North Eastman contact is continuing efforts to set up MBTelehealth sessions with Berens River and Poplar River, as well as in person training for Nurse practitioners.
- Pine Falls connected to the HSHC Presentation Series via MBTelehealth on March 8, 2012.

Parkland Regional Health Authority

- As a result of the HSHC's 1st Presentation Series on November 30, 2011, the Community Health Nutritionist in Dauphin received a request to hold an early childhood tooth decay training session for the new PRHA public health staff, as well as the Family Medicine residency program. These presentations are scheduled to take place throughout the months of April & May 2012.
- Parkland's key contact disseminated the revised prenatal oral health pamphlet to all public health staff, including PHN/CHN, home visitors, health promotion staff and the Healthy Baby coordinator.
- An array of dental professionals and public health staff from the Parkland region participated in the HSHC Presentation Series on March 8, 2012. Four local sites connected via MBTelehealth including Dauphin (8), Roblin (5), and Swan River (9).
- Following the HSHC presentation series, Parkland's Community Health Nutritionist contacted the drinking water officer for the region to find out which communities have high groundwater fluoride levels.
- Parkland's key contact, upon request, forwarded the information to the Dauphin dental office on how the public can access well water testing packages to test for fluoride levels and information on FN communities in area with fluoride rinse and tooth brushing programs.
- A dietetic intern has written four ads for the month of April for Oral Health Month on topics related to early childhood tooth decay. These ads are to be included in the South Parkland Healthy Child Coalition section of the local Dauphin newspaper.

South Eastman Health Authority (SEHA)

- A Healthy Living Team worker has been identified as the new HSHC contact and liaison for the South Eastman region. Part of her role is to reach out to community groups and agencies, including their regional parent/child coalition and Healthy Child Coalition-Southeast. These community resources/agencies provide services to families with young children in both English and French, and partner with Eastman Immigrant Services and South East English Language Services (SEELS) for some programming in German to our newcomers.
- The HSHC coordinators have been in contact with the new SEHA contact and will be setting up a date to discuss the role of the HSHC partnership and to go over the recent revisions to the HSHC resources. The HSHC Oral Health kit was located and updated.
- The key contact requested some of HSHC resources for an Oral Health display board she will be setting up at a Steinbach mall early in April.
- A dental hygienist from St. Anne is using the HSHC webpage to download and print off resources, including the Elementary Dental Bingo game. She has used the webpage at least 3 times in the past year for elementary class presentations and table clinics. She also requested to borrow the "Timmy the Tooth" video.
- A dental clinic in Steinbach requested some of HSHC's oral health resources and borrowed the SEHA's HSHC Oral Health kit.

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

- Individuals from the HSHC team, Centre for Community Oral Health CCOH (U of M), and the MDA attended the HSHC Presentation Series at the host MBTelehealth on March 8, 2012.
- The Healthy Child Coalition in the River Heights/Fort Rouge area set up an account to purchase wholesale toothbrushes on a more frequent basis. Approximately 70 toothbrushes were provided to one of the daycares in one of the lower income community areas.
- The HSHC team is preparing a display for an upcoming Family Wellness Fair, hosted by various community partners in the Winnipeg St. James area. This fair promotes healthy living and resources for families with children from birth – 6 years of age.
- Presented to BridgeCare Clinic primary care team (see more detail below).

Other Provinces

- An oral health program in the Saskatoon Health region requested some of HSHC's French resources for a French health promotion seminar held in March for their increasing French population in Saskatoon & surrounding communities.
- The Children's Oral Health Initiative Coordinator in British Columbia provided an oral health information session for individuals from BC's Early Childhood Development programs. "Dustin's Story" from the Circle of Smiles DVD was played for the group and generated interest. The manager of the Aboriginal Head-Start on Reserve (AHSOR) program, as well as the Community Health Associates of BC requested additional copies (English).
- A Technical Dental Consultant/Dental Health Educator at the Population Health Unit in Saskatchewan requested a few of the large sized "Think About Your Baby's Teeth" posters.

Collaborative Activity

Public Health

- HSHC is working with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, MDA and MDHA to provide an oral health display at the WRHA's Go4Health Expo at the Red River Ex from June 15-24, 2012. Oral health has not been included in the past years that the expo has run. Last year the expo had an estimated 58,000 participants with a large number including families with young children.

Schools and Community Organizations

- University of Manitoba Dental Hygiene students requested to borrow the HSHC prenatal/postnatal oral health kit for a presentation in February. They also provided the group with lists of the Winnipeg dentists participating in the Free First Visit program. The Dental Hygiene students previewed HSHC's oral health kits at the MDA's Annual Conventions.

Dental/Medical Offices

- A dental clinic in Steinbach requested some of HSHC's oral health resources and borrowed the SEHA's HSHC Oral Health kit.
- Dental staff from the Parkland region (Swan River and Dauphin) participated in the HSHC Presentation Series on Community Water Fluoridation on March 8, 2012 via MBTelehealth. Participants included dentists, dental therapists, dental assistants, and hygienists.
- 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 hygienists have volunteered to help at the Preschool Screening Fair in Carmen, MB on June 4, 2012. The HSHC coordinators also connected the MDA's Membership Services Director and the MDHA'S Community Outreach chairperson to discuss the MDA's Oral Health Education Program for Manitoba elementary schools called "Happy Healthy Teeth." This may be a great resource for dental hygienists to use when providing presentations to groups and schools.
- HSHC team members are continuing to participate in the Oral Health Working Group committee at Children's Hospital. This committee is a multi-disciplinary group looking to promote oral health within the hospital setting.
- Connected with a pediatrician who works with a large newcomer population to provide information about where to send patients with limited income as well as early childhood oral health resources for the medical clinic.
- Attended primary care clinic team meeting at BridgeCare Clinic (a specialized primary care clinic serving government sponsored refugees immediately upon arrival) in Winnipeg.. Presented on early childhood caries and discussed with the team some ways they could educate parents and

provide some simple oral health screening to identify early signs of caries. Traditional pamphlets are not always useful with all newcomer populations due to language barriers and this clinic suggested it may be useful to have resources with simple pictures to demonstrate the oral health messages.

Provincial Coordination Activity

- The HSHC partnership submitted a full grant application, titled “*Healthy Smile Happy Child: promoting early childhood oral health and reducing oral health inequities for young children in Manitoba*” on December 16, 2011 to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Unfortunately, HSHC’s application was unsuccessful. However, the HSHC team is continuing to explore additional grant opportunities to evaluate whether the Community Activators and the Manitoba Dental Association’s Free First Visit Program improve young children’s oral health in Manitoba.
- The second HSHC MBTelehealth presentation series took place on Thursday March 8, 2012. Dr. Khalida Hai-Santiago (Manitoba Health Oral Health Consultant) presented on the topic of *Community Water Fluoridation*. Approximately 11 sites and 30 individuals across the province joined via MBTelehealth. The presentation was well received, especially noting the effectiveness of reaching those in northern communities who have limited access to continuing education options. The next presentation is planned to take place in June 2012. The HSHC presentation series was initiated as a result of the success and cost-effectiveness of past MBTelehealth presentations, and the feedback provided from MB RHAs. Participants hold a variety of positions including dental professionals, family first home visitors, health promotion staff and public health dietitians and nurses.
- The revised HSHC resources are now available in French. All HSHC contacts were informed and electronic copies were provided. These resources are also available on the HSHC webpage.
- The HSHC team is also working on updating the Workbook & Toolkit, as requested by the key contact in Parkland who is doing a training session and would like to use this resource with the group. The HSHC STEP students are creating a document that outlines which items in the workbook require updating, and including copies of the most current resources. This support is available to all other RHAs who wish to use this resource.
- HSHC is continuing to work on the *Pediatric Dental Surgery Support and Information for Families* handout. A draft was sent to the HSHC regional contacts, as well as the Program Director of Child Health at the Winnipeg Children’s Hospital and a local Winnipeg Pediatric Dentist for feedback. The HSHC project coordinators are currently working on a strategy for dissemination and use of this resource.
- The HSHC partnership participated at the Manitoba Dental Association’s Annual Convention on January 27, 2012 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. The HSHC team created a display on the topic of “*Early Childhood Caries across all cultural and ethnic borders*”, to reflect the convention’s World Tour Passport theme.
- The HSHC partnership prepared a proposal for the use of a videoconferencing Telehealth unit for a one year pilot project for review by the First Nation advisory committee and received a favourable reply. HSHC has also discussed the potential incoming MBTelehealth equipment

with the Manitoba Institute of Child Health (MICH) and developed an extended proposal, including details of operational costs for the telehealth unit, timelines for implementation, scope and deliverables etc. which is being forwarded to the Provincial Strategic Investment Council (PSIC) for their consideration. HSHC anticipates feedback from the PSIC mid-May.

Feedback/Evaluation/Research

- "A Qualitative Evaluation of a Community Developed Early Childhood Oral Health Initiative" manuscript was submitted to BMC Oral Health for consideration for journal publication.
- Follow-up Study is complete and waiting for feedback from communities before submitting for journal publication.
- Qualitative Cultural study
A manuscript of findings is expected to be complete by end of May 2012 for review by the partnership before submission for journal publication.
- HSHC is involved in the evaluation study of the Free First Visit program. Dentists completed a survey and there have been focus groups with dentists.

Staff Development

- The two current STEP students' positions, supported by MB Health, end on April 27, 2012. Both students have shown interest in continuing their work at HSHC over the summer months. As a result, rehire applications were submitted to MBHealth. These positions will run from April 23, 2012 to September 7, 2012.

Planning for Next Quarter

- Deliver HSHC's Oral Health Presentation in June (topic Nutrition and ECC) via MBTelehealth.
- Complete qualitative cultural study manuscript and submit for publication
- Finalize the follow-up study manuscript and submit for publication.
- Develop information pack for pediatricians about how to access affordable options for dental care, useful links and dental tips.
- Look at other organization's oral health resources to see if some exist with simple pictures to demonstrate the oral health messages for newcomer populations.
- Collect data on common languages spoken by those accessing BridgeCare clinic to explore the need for further translation of HSHC resources.
- Continue dialogue with Manitoba Health regarding the request for funding to continue the provincial coordination work on an ongoing basis.

Highlights 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

- Delivery of MbTelehealth presentation series. These were well received across the province and increased our reach to and collaboration with many dental clinics and staff.
- Strengthened relationship with dental professional community. This was demonstrated through their uptake of the Telehealth learning sessions as well as the collaboration with hygienists to deliver community oral health presentations.
- Improving relationships with primary care/family medicine as demonstrated by the work done with BridgeCare clinic, Winnipeg pediatrician and training session with Family Medicine residency program in Parkland.
- Submission of "A Qualitative Evaluation of a Community Developed Early Childhood Oral Health Initiative" manuscript BMC Oral Health.
- Continued commitment to early childhood oral health promotion and prevention of caries by regional health authorities. There are now key contacts identified in each RHA who are independently initiating work in this area. This has been demonstrated by providing oral health displays at wellness fairs, local malls, providing articles for newspapers, training new staff with oral health messages, and incorporating messages into other health programs.
- Received funding for evaluating the impact of the Free First Visit program on young children's oral health in Manitoba. The Manitoba Institute of Child Health. \$40,000 (2011 Principal Investigator (PI))
- A member of HSHC was co-author on the AAP and CPS position statements on ECC in Indigenous communities as listed.
 - Irvine JD, Holve S, Krol D, **Schroth RJ**; American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Native American Child Health, Canadian Paediatric Society, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Committee. Policy Statement – Early Childhood Caries in Indigenous Populations. Pediatrics 2011; 127(6): 1-9.
 - Irvine JD, Holve S, Krol D, **Schroth RJ**; Canadian Paediatric Society, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Committee and American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Native American Child Health,. Policy Statement – Early Childhood Caries in Indigenous Populations. Paediatr Child Health 2011; 16(6): 351-57.