



## *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 July – September 2012**

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

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#### **Regional Updates**

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

- The HSHC coordinators are continuing to work with the region for ongoing oral health promotion efforts.
- HSHC is continuing to search for a local contact for The Pas community.

##### **Western Regional Health Authority** (the former Brandon, Assiniboine & Parkland RHAs)

- The PROMISE Years Parent Child Program Coordinator in Virden has resigned from her position. The North Parent Child Coalition Coordinator in Hamiota has been covering for the South area until the position is filled.
- Healthy Baby Facilitators in Brandon requested copies of a Pregnancy and Dental Health information sheet that was produced by First Nations and Inuit Health, Manitoba Region.
- Parkland had a request from public health for a dental screening tool to use at preschool wellness fairs for 0-5 year olds in the region – they are looking at the use of the AAPD caries risk assessment tool for non-dental health care providers. HSHC provided the American Academy of Pediatrics risk assessment tool.
- The contact in Dauphin was supplied with information on how to build replicas of oral health promotion materials which were developed by the Winnipeg coordinator and students.
- The Community Health Nutritionist/Health Promotion Coordinator in Dauphin requested a French copy of the Manitoba Dental Associations (MDA) Healthy Happy Teeth program for the Francophone School in Laurier.
- HSHC is continuing to work with and provide support to the region for oral health promotion and prevention activities.

**Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority**

(the former Interlake RHA and North Eastman 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 HSHC coordinator and 3 students attended the 27th Annual Children's Festival at Selkirk Park in July. The tooth brushing puppets were brought along and toothbrushes were handed out to approximately 100 children.
- The Wellness Facilitator & French Language Services Coordinator in Pine Falls is continuing efforts to set up MBTelehealth sessions with Berens River and Poplar River.
- The region requested a French copy of the MDA's Healthy Happy Teeth program.
- HSHC continues to provide ongoing support and guidance for the regional contacts.

**Southern Regional Health**

**Authority** (the former RHA-Central Manitoba and South Eastman Health Authority)

- As part of Carmen's preschool development screening and wellness fair on June 6, dental screenings were completed by two dentists, members of HSHC, and two summer students with approximately 50 children. A report of the findings was sent to the local public health nurse in July.
- The Healthy Living Program Facilitator in Southport requested French copies of the MDA's Healthy Happy Teeth program for the regions French communities.
- The HSHC coordinators are continuing to work with the key contacts including the Healthy Living Team worker in Steinbach that was identified as a new HSHC liaison.

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

- The HSHC coordinators are continuing to work with the key contacts in Winnipeg and Churchill to incorporate early childhood oral health promotion into their work.
- The Centre de santé Saint-Boniface Community Facilitator requested a French copy of the MDA's Healthy Happy Teeth program to share with the Public Health Nurses, French School Division and Provincial Child and Family Centre.
- The Churchill region continues to promote oral health in Well child clinics

**Other Provinces**

- A dentistry professor and students from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec are using HSHC's resources in their community outreach work.
- A Dental Health Educator from Saskatoon requested HSHC's French resources for part of a tooth brushing program they are implementing in their French daycare center, which includes many new French-speaking immigrant families with oral health concerns.

## **Collaborative Activity**

### **Schools and Community Organization**

- A local dental hygienist contacted HSHC regarding the use of the *Where to Go for Dental Care in Your Community* handouts for a presentation to approximately 40 newcomers to Canada.

### **Dental and Medical Organizations**

- The HSHC coordinators continue 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.
- The Manitoba Dental Association (MDA) provided HSHC with French copies of the Healthy Happy Teeth program to distribute to the RHA contacts. The Healthy Happy Teeth program was developed by the MDA and its Oral Health Education Committee as a way for teachers/community workers to educate children on the importance of oral health. This oral health program (both English & French) has been mailed to elementary schools (preschool – grade 6), including French immersion schools, throughout Manitoba. In Spring 2011, English copies were distributed to each RHA public health manager/director and encouraged to share with other community facilitators and its use in each of their local communities

## **Provincial Coordination Activity**

- The HSHC team submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba and the Child Health Advisory Committee (CHAC) for the Health Promotion and Prevention Grant on August 16, 2012. HSHC's LOI was successfully accepted and invited to submit a full application. The HSHC team is currently preparing the full application which is titled, *Providing Early Childhood Oral Health Information to Newcomer Families*, and will be submitted on October 31, 2012. Potential 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.
- The HSHC coordinators are preparing for the fourth HSHC MBTelehealth presentation series, which is planned to take place in the last quarter of 2012. The HSHC coordinators sent out a short survey to determine interest of topics for the next presentation. Participants hold a variety of positions including dental professionals, family first home visitors, health promotion staff and public health dietitians and nurses.
- 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. A link to the HSHC's Facebook page has been added to HSHC's webpage on the WRHA website.
- HSHC is continuing to work on the *Pediatric Dental Surgery Support and Information for Families* handout. The HSHC project coordinators are currently working on integrating the recent changes to the Manitoba RHAs, strategy for dissemination and use of this resource.
- The HSHC partnership's proposal the Provincial Strategic Investment Council (PSIC) was approved to proceed with the implementation of Telehealth into the HSHC initiative located at the John Buhler Centre (JBRC). First Nation Inuit Health will be loaning a videoconferencing

Telehealth unit for a one year pilot project aimed at evaluating the potential benefits to First Nation communities, although not exclusive of other communities. The HSHC team met with members of MBTelehealth to review the Business Process Redesign, and training sessions were provided for the HSCH team with the new equipment and software. Next steps include working with communities to determine which of their needs could be met by this proposal. The purpose of this special project is to use Telehealth to promote early childhood oral health across Manitoba.

### **Feedback/Evaluation/Research**

- "A Qualitative Evaluation of a Community Developed Early Childhood Oral Health Initiative" manuscript was resubmitted to BMC Oral Health after the editor requested some further edits to the initial edits.
- The follow up manuscript 'Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Manitoba Collaborative Project for the Prevention of Early Childhood Tooth Decay' was submitted to Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology for journal publication. The journal editors requested revisions and resubmission. HSHC is working on reworking the manuscript.
- Qualitative Cultural study - A manuscript of findings is nearing completion and will be reviewed by the partnership before submission for journal publication.
- HSHC is involved in the evaluation study of the Free First Visit program. A third focus with parents and caregivers was held in August and a draft report has been received. A paper on the first 18 months of tracking data from the FFV program is ready for submission and awaiting the MDA's approval. A manuscript on the survey of Manitoba dentists on their views of the FFV program is nearing completion and ready for discussion with the grant team members.

### **Staff Development**

- A new STEP student was recently hired.
- The two current STEP students' positions, supported by MB Health, were extended over the summer months and they will continue in a part time capacity through the school year.
- Each year, the STEP students greatly enhance the capacity of HSHC. Some examples of their current work include:
  - Aiding in the resources revisions
  - Preparing a literature review on Teledentistry
  - Aiding in the creation of new resources/material such as the mouth display used at the WRHA Go4 Health Expo and the *Pediatric Dental Surgery Support and Information for Families* handout
  - Preparing for and participating at local community events
  - Assembling resource requests & mail-outs
  - Assisting with the preparation of the HSHC MBTelehealth presentation series
  - Creating the HSHC Facebook webpage
  - Helping with Ethics submissions

## Planning for Next Quarter

- Determine topic and organizer speaker for HSHC's 4<sup>th</sup> MBTelehealth presentation.
- Revisit the *Pediatric Dental Surgery Support and Information for Families* handout - integrate the recent changes to the Manitoba RHAs, and develop a strategy for dissemination.
- Continue to work with MBTelehealth into next phases of project implementation.
- Complete qualitative cultural study manuscript and submit for publication.
- Continue to develop information pack for pediatricians about how to access affordable options for dental care, useful links and dental tips.
- Continue to develop strategy for development of pictorial oral health resources for newcomer populations.
- Continue to utilize Facebook as a way to promote HSHC and early childhood oral health.
- With the amalgamation of Manitoba Regional Health Authorities, will continue to work with the new RHAs to confirm key contact staff and maintain oral health promotion capacity across the province.
- Postal code mapping – anticipating results to share with RHAs.