

Pinellas County Oral Health Coalition

Friday, March 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Held at:

Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber of Commerce
5851 Park Blvd.,
Pinellas Park, Florida
12:40pm – 2:10pm

Attendees:

Karen Pesce, Felecia Brantley, Dr. Terry Buckenheimer, Mileidy Tavarez, Julie Ulibarri, Ronda Russick, Joe Santini, Massiel Garcia-Turner, Claudia Rosas, Becky Foy, Eileen Hodges, Rachel Sabo, John Thoe, Cheryl Small, Dr. Rob Ettleman, Christina Vangsyprasom, Dr. Johnny Johnson, Dr. Nolan Allen, Cindy McNulty, Denise Groesbeck, Michelle Schaefer, Carrie Hepburn, Jodi Shingledecker, Dr. Bill Layman, Dr. Amy Anderson, Commissioner Karen Seel, and two additional attendees.

Dr. Terry Buckenheimer – 1st Vice President, Florida Dental Association, called the meeting to order.

Welcome & Introductions, Dr. Terry Buckenheimer

I. Welcome

Dr. Terry Buckenheimer welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Pinellas County Oral Health Coalition. He spoke of the importance of collaboration among all attendees especially because Pinellas County most recently experienced the removal of fluoride in the water systems. All those attending the meeting introduced themselves and spoke of their organizations and commitment to the coalition and improving oral health for all citizens in Pinellas County.

He encouraged everyone to utilize the Florida Dental Association website and smileflorida.org as a resource for information on oral health and education. An overview of the Hillsborough County Oral Health Coalition was provided. Dr. Buckenheimer presented information recently released and highlighted in the New York Times on Florida Emergency Room Data regarding dental visits to the emergency room. Dental visits are extremely costly and not in the best interest of the patient. Education and prevention was emphasized, as well as providing information to the community on resources currently available in Pinellas County. The data is available on the Florida Oral health website (floridaoralhealth.com).

II. Building a Pinellas County Oral Health Coalition, Karen Pesce, Executive Director, MORE HEALTH, Inc.

a. Oral Health Florida Coalition

Karen provided an overview of MORE HEALTH, Inc. and shared the benefits of forming a coalition. Karen provided a status update on the Plant City fluoridation project, one of the accomplishments by the Hillsborough County Oral Health Coalition. The project is on schedule to have the water fluoridated by September 2012.

An overview of the Oral Health Florida website, floridaoralhealth.com and its amenities was given to the collaborative. Karen recommended all members join the Florida coalition and subcommittees as well as attend the annual meeting in August.

b. Hillsborough County Oral Health Coalition, Karen Pesce

Karen provided details about the Hillsborough Oral Health Coalition and shared its current task groups. It was decided that the Pinellas County Oral Health Coalition would follow the same model.

- 1) Promotion & Education
- 2) Prevention
- 3) Access to Care

**Descriptions of each task group are attached.

Members were asked to sign-up for a task group that most reflected their personal or organizational mission by contacting Felecia Brantley at fbrantley@morehealthinc.org

c. Pinellas County Oral Health Coalition, Karen Pesce

Karen discussed highlights from the North Pinellas County Human Services Needs Assessment final report prepared by the Salvation Army to provide insight on the need to form an oral health coalition in Pinellas County.

Karen informed members that All Children's Hospital & Pinellas County School administrators are both in support of the formation of the coalition and see the need to increase oral health education, emphasize prevention including water fluoridation, and improve access to care for all of Pinellas County.

Dr. Bill Layman inquired about the parameters of the coalition. Discussion among the attendees followed. It was suggested that the coalition task groups would develop action steps and therefore drive the direction of the coalition. It was shared that the Hillsborough County coalition requested and then approved a standalone website in their quarterly meeting that could serve as a resource of information for the oral health community. A question was put on the meeting floor as to what would be the most effective way to share information on oral health for Pinellas County. A recommendation was made to expand the Hillsborough County Coalition website to include Pinellas County. This would help residents on both sides of the bay, especially since several providers offer dental services in both Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. A domain name to reflect the partnership was not selected; this action item will be a follow-up under the education and promotion task group.

III. Identifying Community Needs

a. Dental Community

Dr. Nolan Allen & Dr. Bob Ettleman have partnered together to provide registered dental hygienists with educational courses to better enhance recognition of oral lessons in the elderly population.

Amy Anderson, President of Upper Pinellas County Dental Association stated that the main concern in Pinellas County is the removal of fluoride from the water and the concerns and efforts being made to increase the number of children being seen on Give Kids A Smile event day. Dr. Anderson is chairing the Access to Care Task Group and the first meeting has already occurred. Each member is asked to submit an overview of their organization's mission and scope of practice.

Dr. Layman provided a highlight of the February 3rd GKAS (Give Kids A Smile) event and emphasized that the primary focus was on providing care for uninsured children at the poverty level between 100-200%. He spoke of certain barriers to care such as the timing of the event, transportation to the event, obtaining parental permission, and advertising for the event. The event occurs shortly after the schools return from winter break thus making it a challenge for nurses and social workers to do all the necessary steps to schedule appointments.

Joe Santini, Executive Director of Johnnie Ruth Clarke Health Center shared that the focus must be on informing families of resources available and establishing continual dental care. Joe emphasized that focusing on preventing cavities in children was especially important.

Cheryl Small, Gulf Coast Community Outreach shared that education should also be provided to local Pediatricians.

Dr. Allen provided an overview of the development of the Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) through the American Dental Association's Council of Access, Prevention, and Interprofessional Relations (CAPIR). This program was based on the Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist program. The program is currently being piloted and will continue until fall 2012. At this time, the evaluation process will begin. The coordinator assists the public with identifying dental insurance and finding a provider. The curriculum established by Dr. Ishmael will have a duration of two years.

Dr. Johnny Johnson reported that services and educational presentations have been provided to preschoolers in Pinellas County to prevent dental decay and improve oral health over their lifespan.

b. Medical Community

Dr. Ettleman recommended that one of the coalition's goals should be to increase awareness of oral health within the medical community. He also shared the website www.keeppinellasfluoridated.org which provides information regarding fluoride and its removal in Pinellas County.

Karen Pesce shared that Dentaquest's national oral health goal is establishing and strengthening the medical and dental relationship.

Commissioner Karen Seel voiced her support and commitment to the Pinellas County Oral Health Coalition. She is in support of water fluoridation and will continue to work hard to educate other commissioners about the importance of fluoridation.

Dental Community

Jodi Shingledecker, Pinellas County School District, reported that the biggest frustration on GKAS day has been transportation and obtaining permission slips from parents. She also reported that nurses in the schools are realizing the need for better oral health and are willing to help obtain permission slips next year. The coalition agreed that school nurses are a key to educating families on dental care. Karen informed the coalition about the future formation of a resource guide being developed to share with school nurses and social workers as well as provide at community events to list dental resources in Pinellas County.

She encouraged all members to send Felecia Brantley information regarding the organization they represent and services provided.

IV. A Call to Action- areas of focus

Felecia encouraged members to sign up for task groups. An email outlining the task groups will be sent after the meeting.

V. Closing Remarks, Karen Pesce

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm and pictures were taken.

Minutes respectively submitted by Mileidy Zacarkim and edited by Felecia Brantley