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**Quarterly Report**  
**October – December 2010**

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

Submitted by: Janis Gojda, Healthy Smile Happy Child (HSHC) coordinator

Date submitted: **January 27, 2011**

**Community Feedback**

Follow-up by HSHC coordinator with regional contacts has noted the following ways the spreading of Healthy Smile Happy Child (HSHC) message is being sustained:

**Public Health**

- A representative from ACCESS Transcona requested information on how to order the Lift the Lip pamphlets.
- The Children's Oral Health Initiative (COHI) Coordinator from BC Region Health Canada - First Nations and Inuit Health has been using the Circle of Smiles DVD's and inquired about ordering more copies. HSHC sent out these DVD's to this program and were well received.

**Community Support Programs**

- The HSHC coordinator distributed an updated list of Manitoba (MB) dentists participating in the Manitoba Dental Association's (MDA) Free First Visit program to all HSHC key contacts. Very positive feedback has been received from providing this information and is reportedly being circulated throughout regional communities and used within group programs.
- The Lift the Lip and HSHC pamphlets are being used in Churchill at Well Child Clinics and Healthy Baby sessions to promote oral health. HSHC's posters have also been displayed around town.

**Schools and Community Organizations**

- A Winnipeg daycare requested various HSHC resources to be used at their facility.

**Dental/Medical Offices**

- HSHC posters and resources were requested by a nurse at Children's Emergency at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. The nurse is looking for ways to communicate oral health education to families as they wait in the waiting area. HSHC posters are now displayed in the children's emergency ward.

## Website Links

- Central RHA has incorporated a link to the HSHC webpage under the *Healthy Living* section of their website. It highlights the self-learning module for health care providers.

## Challenges

- Continuing to field requests for resources (tooth brushes, brochures, DVDs, resource kits) from various groups despite having limited funding available to fill the requests.
- Many requests for new brochures and resources around oral health and related topics are received. Capacity is limited in meeting all requests due to limited resources remaining

## Community Involvement/Partnerships

### Project Activity:

#### 1) Phase II (Follow-up Study) Evaluation:

- Writing of manuscript of findings for journal publication in progress. Submission is expected in January 2011.

#### 2) HSHC Updates

- The HSHC partnership submitted a full application to the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR). Potential funding would be used to evaluate the impact of the Free First Visit (FFV) program and the establishment of Community Activators in Manitoba RHAs and their integration of early childhood oral health and reducing the inequity of access to early dental care and prevention in their work. The anticipated notice of decision is late February 2011.
- The Oral Health and Chronic Disease presentation, via Mb TeleHealth, took place on November 23, 2010. This was presented by Mary Bertone from the Centre of Community Oral Health (CCOH), University of Manitoba. Up to 22 sites across Manitoba joined, which included approximately 40-50 participants. HSHC has truly benefited from this partnership with the CCOH and has shown gratitude to their continuous contribution.
- The HSHC coordinator has invited all Winnipeg and MB regional contacts to participate in an upcoming trainer/refresher session, which will take place on Monday January 24, 2011 from 10:00am-12:00pm.
- HSHC coordinator is continuing to work in collaboration with the Manitoba Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA) to connect local dental hygienists with community schools and groups who would like oral health information sessions. HSHC has created two oral hygiene kits that will be lent out to local dental hygienists to aid in the delivery of their presentations. Currently there is one dental hygienist interested in using these kits.
- Results of qualitative studies, conducted by HSHC partners, indicated that service providers would like more practical tools and resources when working with families. In response to this request, HSHC sent out a short questionnaire to Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) and Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) community workers to explore what other community workers have found to be most useful and effective when working with communities and groups. Minimal feedback was received. The HSHC coordinator will compile results and develop short summary to distribute to key contacts.

- The HSHC coordinator is continuing to follow up with an evaluation of some groups that HSHC has worked with in the past. A community capacity evaluation form was sent to all groups that had an initial and, in some cases, an interim evaluation. This evaluation will help determine if and how community development approaches have supported groups in identifying ways to consider the determinants of health as they relate to early childhood oral health. These forms also help determine the capacity of these groups to disseminate key oral health messages. By continuing to explore the capacity of these groups, HSHC will have a general understanding on how the groups have progressed since the HSHC community facilitator positions were implemented and if the group capacity has been sustained. This will provide an understanding of the impact the work done to date and will help guide future activities.

### 3) Community and Regional Contacts:

#### Burntwood/Churchill Regional Health Authorities:

Funding for Healthy Smile Happy Child Community Facilitator position ended on July 10, 2009.

- The Burntwood health promoter position is still vacant. The HSHC coordinator is working with the public health and clinical nutrition services manager in the meantime to incorporate the Healthy Smile messages into the work of this position.
- Two schools in the Burntwood region have shown interest in partaking in the Oral Health Curriculum Pilot Study. The HSHC coordinator has shared this with the Oral Health Curriculum committee.
- The HSHC coordinator has been following up with a request for a Northern Oral Health TeleHealth conference which was one of the needs highlighted in the follow up study. The HSHC coordinator is continuing to develop a short survey that will be distributed to all key regional contacts for their feedback. This survey will help generate ideas and determine topics of interest for future events.
- The HSHC coordinator is awaiting reply from the Medical Education Coordinator in Burntwood RHA in regards to organizing an education session for physicians. The education coordinator is working with the university to set up continuing medical education credits; at which point we will be able to provide an education session.
- Three sites from the Burntwood region joined the Chronic Disease and Oral Health presentation via Mb TeleHealth on November 23, 2010. These sites included Gillam, God's Lake Narrows, and Thompson.
- The HSHC coordinator is continuing to work with the public health nurse in the Churchill region to incorporate the Healthy Smile messages into the work of this position. She reports using the Lift the Lip and HSHC pamphlets at Well Child Clinics and Healthy Baby sessions to promote oral health. She has also posted HSHC's poster series around town.
- The public health nurse from Churchill attended the Chronic Disease and Oral Health presentation via Mb TeleHealth on November 23, 2010.
- Mary Bertone, from the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Dentistry, travelled to Churchill in late October and offered to meet with HSHC's key contact to review the HSHC resources and early childhood oral health promotion strategies. However, the meeting did not take place as the public health nurse was out of town during Mary's visit. HSHC coordinator has invited the public health nurse to the upcoming HSHC trainer session on January 24, 2011.
- The Churchill region has shown interest in receiving in-person trainer from HSHC. The HSHC coordinator has contacted the director of clinical services to determine the needs of the region and potential dates for training.

#### NOR-MAN/Parkland Regional Health Authorities

- Funding for HSHC Community Facilitator position ended on July 1, 2009.
- The HSHC coordinator has been unable to connect with NOR-MAN's regional key contact, however, will continue efforts in connecting with this region.
- HSHC coordinator is continuing to work with the key contacts in the Parkland region. The community health nutritionist is continuing to integrate oral health promotion and disease prevention strategies within their Healthy Baby groups.
- Parkland's regional contact was unable to attend the Chronic Disease and Oral Health tele-health presentation on November 23, 2010, as she was facilitating a Healthy Baby session. However, a total of five sites from the Parkland region joined including, Dauphin, Swan River, Ste Rose du Lac, Roblin, and Grandview. Participants included members of the Diabetes and Chronic Disease team, Family First home visitors, public health nurses, community health nurses and nurse practitioners.
- Parkland's community health nutritionist is providing two training sessions on Early Childhood Tooth Decay for new staff including, public health nurses, Family First home visitors, community health facilitators, and nurse practitioners. She is planning on using a PowerPoint presentation created by previous HSHC members, which identifies ways to utilize the Action Plan Workbook and Toolkit resource. These sessions are scheduled to take place on January 28<sup>th</sup> in Dauphin and January 31<sup>st</sup> in Swan River.
- Parkland's contact purchased a Nutrition and Dental Health Learning Kit called "*You and Your Baby*" from Sherry Saunderson. She informed that this kit is similar to the information provided by HSHC and includes many of the same DVD's (Lift the Lip, Dustin's Story) and other information. The kit notes the HSHC website as a resource.
- Parkland's contact has also created anticipatory guidance goody bags for the prenatal moms at their Healthy Baby sessions on dental health. She has been including HSHC's prenatal pamphlet in these kits, along with other items.
- Parkland's contact has reserved a TeleHealth site in Dauphin to participate in the upcoming HSHC trainer session on January 24, 2011.

#### North Eastman/South Eastman Regional Health Authorities (NEHA and SEHA):

- Funding for HSHC Community Facilitator position ended on November 6, 2009.
- HSHC coordinator is continuing to work with the North Eastman wellness facilitator.
- North Eastman's key contact, along with other community health workers, attended the Chronic Disease and Oral Health TeleHealth presentation on November 23, 2010.
- The North Eastman contact distributed the "*Snacks & Dental Health: Hints for Parents & Kids*" brochures to parent groups and Readiness Clinics. These brochures were kindly provided by the MDA.
- North Eastman's wellness facilitator has postponed the training session for nurse practitioners, as they have been transferred to another group, and will likely take additional coordinating. However, North Eastman's contact encouraged the nurse practitioners to participate in Drs. Moffatt and Schroth's Pediatric Grand Rounds and Mary Bertone's Chronic Disease and Oral health presentation. Due to time constraints, and many of them having to go offsite to access TeleHealth, she does not believe any of them were able to participate.
- The North Eastman contact is planning to provide a brief TeleHealth presentation to Berens River early February, and is waiting for a date to be set for a similar presentation with Poplar River.
- North Eastman's contact has sent the HSHC trainer/refreshers session invitation to contacts throughout the region, including the two remote communities previously mentioned.
- The key contact for the South Eastman region has recently left her position as health promotion coordinator. The HSHC coordinator has been in contact with the public health program manager, and will be advised when the position is filled.

- The South East Parent Child Coalition is looking for information on where to order infadents. HSHC is helping to find suppliers offering this product.
- Two TeleHealth sites from the South Eastman region, Steinbach and St. Pierre-Joys, participated in the Chronic Disease and Oral Health presentation on November 23, 2010.

#### Central/Assiniboine/Brandon Regional Health Authorities:

- Funding for HSHC Community Facilitator position ended on May 31, 2009.
- Six TeleHealth sites from the Central region participated in the Chronic Disease and Oral Health TeleHealth presentation on November 23, 2010. These sites included Gladstone, Winkler, Notre Dame de Lourdes, St. Jean-Baptiste, Portage la Prairie, and St. Claude.
- Two TeleHealth site locations in the Central region have been reserved to participate in the upcoming HSHC trainer session on January 24, 2011.
- ARHA's key contact attended a preliminary meeting with the region's Healthy Child Coalition coordinators (north and south), Family First coordinators and Healthy Baby coordinator in February 2010. They began discussion around how each program could integrate with one another. Oral health discussion is anticipated at a subsequent meeting, which has been cancelled and yet to be rescheduled. HSHC coordinator will connect with key contacts to discuss possibilities for better connecting the healthy smile messages across programs.
- HSHC coordinator was invited to attend the Teddy Bears Picnic in Neepawa. The coordinator suggested contacting local dental professionals, and provided contact information for two local dental offices. The north Parent Child Coalition coordinator was unable to find a local dentist to participate in Neepawa's Teddy Bear's. However, a Families First home visitor volunteered to man the station.
- The north Parent Child Coalition coordinator in the Assiniboine region has reserved a TeleHealth site in Hamiota to participate in the upcoming HSHC trainer session on January 24, 2011.
- The healthy living facilitator in Brandon received pediatric dental surgery wait list information through MB Health and reported that the wait time for September 2010 was 17 weeks and 47 weeks in August 2010. The pediatric dentist who once travelled from Winnipeg to provide treatment to these patients will no longer be doing so as of January 2011. However, Brandon currently has two general practise dentists who perform pediatric surgery for their own patients with a minimal number of referrals.
- The Brandon region participated in the Chronic Disease and Oral Health presentation, via Mb TeleHealth on November 23, 2010, and has also signed up for the trainer session on January 24, 2011.

#### Winnipeg/Interlake Regions (WRHA and IRHA):

- Funding for HSHC community facilitator ended March 31, 2010.
- HSHC coordinator has invited all Winnipeg facilitators to the upcoming trainer/refresher session on January 24, 2011.
- The HSHC coordinator has received an updated list of the current Winnipeg facilitators and is continuing to determine needs and status of each characterization area.
- The clinical team supervisor of the Community Wellness Team in the Interlake region is in process of changing positions and will no longer be the key contact for HSHC. The HSHC coordinator has been provided with the name and contact information for the new regional contact (community wellness facilitator) as well as an alternate contact (chronic disease dietitian educator). The HSHC coordinator has been in contact with both and has encouraged them to attend the trainer session on January 24, 2011.
- The new Interlake regional contact has reserved a TeleHealth site in Selkirk to participate in the upcoming HSHC trainer session on January 24, 2011. She has also passed on the invitation to the Families First program coordinator and Family First home visitors.

- Drs. Schroth and Moffatt presented at Pediatric & Child Health Grand Rounds on October 28, 2010 which was attended by many local pediatricians and child health service providers.

### **Collaborative Activity**

- 1) Of note has been the increasing use of TeleHealth.
- 2) HSHC's poster abstract titled, "*A Balanced and Inclusive Approach to Addressing Early Childhood Caries*" was accepted to the CAPHC 2010 Annual Conference. The poster presentation session was held on Monday October 18, 2010 from 3:30pm – 5:30pm. Authors of poster: Prowse S, Gojda J, Schroth RJ, Edwards J, Hai-Santiago K, Moffatt ME.
- 3) Drs. Schroth and Moffatt presented at the University of Manitoba Pediatric Grand Rounds on October 28, 2010. The topic was "Early Childhood Oral Health in Manitoba - impact, partnerships and prevention." This session was broadcast via TeleHealth.
- 4) A dental program in British Columbia has shown interest in using and modifying a poster created by HSHC. The HSHC coordinator has put them in contact with the graphic designer of the poster and has been following up with both parties. The graphic designer has recently provided a draft copy of the revised HSHC poster. HSHC members are pleased with the modifications thus far. There may be potential to access translated posters back from British Columbia in the future.
- 5) 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. One of the pediatric residents on this committee was involved in an oral health advocacy project, along with other residents, which initiated this working group. She was invited and attended HSHC's Intersectoral Dental Health Promotion Group meeting on November 30, 2010 where she provided a summary of this advocacy project. Her presentation was well-received by all members present and generated interesting discussions within the group.
- 6) HSHC is exploring the expanding use of MB TeleHealth as a cost effective way to routinely engage with communities throughout MB and strengthen the sustainability of oral health promotion. The success of the Oral Health and Chronic Disease TeleHealth presentation that took place on November 24, 2010 suggests the use of TeleHealth is a practical way of exchanging knowledge and reaching remote communities across the province. Dr. Schroth is willing to do a presentation and update on ECC and prevention.
- 7) The HSHC project coordinator and the membership services director for the Manitoba Dental Association (MDA) will be meeting late January to explore ways to connect with pediatricians and family practitioners and combine efforts of both programs.
- 8) HSHC STEP students are currently working on two display boards for the upcoming Manitoba Dental Association Convention held on January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2011. The display boards will cover information on community water fluoridation and caries-risk assessment tools.
- 9) HSHC and the MDA are planning to create a joint display board on early childhood oral health and the Free First Visit program for the Manitoba College of Family Physicians Annual Scientific Assembly which takes place from April 7-9, 2011.

- 10) HSHC is working in collaboration with members of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Healthy Start for Mom & Me (HSMM) on an oral health project. PHAC is hoping to sponsor funds to HSMM to assemble and mail out over 900 oral health kits, which will include an array of HSHC resources. These kits would be distributed Canada wide to the following three programs: Community Action Program for Children (CAPC), Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP), and the Aboriginal Head Start program. HSHC's role in this project would be to provide consultation and support to HSMM throughout the process of compiling the oral health kits. However, this project is in its preliminary stages of work and awaiting complete finalization of funding.
- 11) HSHC project coordinator is continuing to connect with health/wellness positions in the regions to share ideas and offer support for oral health promotion.
- 12) HSHC team members are continuing to connect with First Nations and Inuit Health and ongoing mutual sharing of information.
- 13) HSHC is involved in evaluating the MDAs Free First Visit program to identify the number of children benefiting from this important initiative and where in Manitoba they reside.

### Next Steps

- Explore additional grant opportunities to support project activities.
- Explore potential options and expanding use of TeleHealth.
- Continue to work in collaboration with the MDHA to connect dental hygienists with local community schools and groups.
- Continue to explore ways to connect with pediatricians and family practitioners.
- Further connect with the MDA to discuss ideas for creating a joint display board for the Manitoba College of Family Physicians Annual Scientific Assembly.
- Continue to work with members of PHAC and HSMM on oral health project.

### Feedback/Evaluation/Research

- New publication on HSHC evaluation activities was published in a supplemental issue of the International Journal of Circumpolar Health.

*Schroth RJ, Edwards JM, Moffatt ME, Mellon B, Ellis M, Lavonne Harms, Members of the Manitoba Collaborative Project for the Prevention of Early Childhood Tooth Decay. Healthy Smile Happy Child: evaluation of a capacity building early childhood oral health promotion initiative. Int J Circumpolar Health Circumpolar Health Supplements 2010; 7: 61-66.*

- Dr. Schroth also published another peer reviewed paper on ECC in Manitoba.

*Schroth RJ, Dahl PR, Haque M, Kliwer E. Early childhood caries among Hutterite preschool children in Manitoba, Canada. Rural Remote Health 2010; 10(4): 1535. Epub 2010 Oct. 5.*

- Qualitative Evaluation study
  - Currently in the stages of preparing a manuscript of findings for journal publication.
  - Final report is available online.
- Qualitative Cultural study

- Currently in the early stages of preparing a manuscript of findings for journal publication.
- Final report is available online.
- Future Evaluation study
  - Potential funding from CIHR would be used to evaluate the impact of the Free First Visit (FFV) program and the establishment of Community Activators in Manitoba RHAs on early childhood oral health and reducing the inequity of access to early dental care and prevention.

### **Staff Development**

- Manitoba Health will again support 2 STEP students working part-time during the year.
- Support and management of STEP student activities includes: resource mailings, database entry, development of displays, and other projects and administrative tasks.

### **Administrative/Research Activity**

- All database entry is up to date.

### **Planning for Next Quarter**

- Continue to work with each RHA to adapt work plan and make region-specific goals.
- Explore additional funding opportunities to sustain the provincial coordination role and future potential evaluation activities.
- Continue to follow up on community capacity evaluation forms for different groups HSHC has worked with to determine what capacity building has occurred as a result of HSHC activities. Analyze trends of results.
- Summarize findings from results of survey sent to Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) and Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) community workers. Distribute findings to all regional key contacts.
- Continue to plan and prepare for the HSHC trainer/refresher session for all regional key contacts and new staff on January 24, 2011, via MB TeleHealth.
- Continue to work with the MDHA to have dental hygienists provide early childhood oral health education sessions to the community groups and schools.
- Continue to identify ways to engage pediatricians in early childhood oral health promotion.
- Attend the MDA convention on January 29-30 2011.
- Partake in community wellness fair and events.
- Continue to work on qualitative study paper.
- Plan TeleHealth session or workshop on ECC, its impact on health and well-being, and prevention. Dr. Schroth could present this update.