



Healthy Smile Happy Child

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Quarterly Report October - December 2011

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

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Community Feedback

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

Public Health

- Public health nurses in Brandon are continuing to use HSHC resources and have reviewed the updated HSHC resources to ensure they are providing relevant and timely information.
- As part of a requirement for a public health course, a fourth year University of Alberta student is developing a community oral health program, focused on infants and the "lift the lip" initiative. To help formulate this oral health program, she requested permission to use HSHC resources to provide information about early childhood caries and the risks associated with it.
- 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. As a result, HSHC sent additional copies (English) to the manager of Aboriginal Head-Start on Reserve (AHSOR) program.
- Participants from Manitoba Health and First Nation Inuit Health participated in the HSHC Telehealth Learning Presentation on November 30, 2011 via MBTelehealth from two Winnipeg sites.

Community Support Programs

- A bilingual prenatal instructor from Gentle Path Birthing Services in Ontario is preparing for French prenatal classes for the military families in the City of Kingston, and requested HSHC pamphlets for distribution. HSHC mailed a package of resources.
- The Centre de la petite enfance et de la famille is putting together French kits for all 13 of their Early Years Centres and requested some of HSHC's French resources as well as the Circle of Smiles DVDs for inclusion. The North Eastman Wellness Facilitator also supplied this individual with workbook manuals, Circle of Smiles DVDs and brochures.

Schools and Community Organizations

- The Child Care Resource Coordinator at the Family Centre in Winnipeg requested HSHC resources to distribute to a group of childcare providers in community EAL programs.

Dental/Medical Offices

- A University of Manitoba Dental student borrowed a HSHC oral health kit to present on oral health to grade one and two students (total 80 students) at a local Winnipeg elementary school. The children enjoyed the hands-on activities and the teacher borrowed the "Timmy the Tooth" video for the children to watch.
- Two dental offices in the Parkland region participated in the HSHC telehealth Learning Presentation on November 30, 2011 via MBTelehealth. Participants included dentists, dental therapists, dental assistants, and hygienists. Both dental clinics expressed interest in further telehealth sessions and their contact details were passed on to the Parkland contact for updates.
- A University of Manitoba Dental Hygiene student requested information on the Manitoba Dental Association's Free First Visit program for a display board they are creating for their community health school project.

Website Links

- No new updates during this quarter.

Challenges

- Regional contacts have reported hearing from their communities about inconsistencies between dental professionals recommended age of first visit. This information will be passed onto the MDA for follow up.
- There is currently no HSHC regional contact for South Eastman Health Authority due to a vacant position. HSHC project coordinators have continued to stay in contact with the Public Health Manager for this region to connect when this position has been filled.
- HSHC coordinators continue to field questions about determining caries risk in children and recommended prevention strategies determined by risk level. The coordinators continue to provide information and this subject was covered at the telehealth session in November. While this area is a challenge, it is also positive to see non-dental health professionals engaging in increasing their awareness of caries risk factors and appropriate advice.

Community Involvement/Partnerships

Project Activity:

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

- The manuscript "A Qualitative Evaluation of a Community Developed Early Childhood Oral Health Initiative" is complete. We are waiting for community approval from the two First Nations before submitting for journal publication.

2) HSHC Updates

- The HSHC partnership is exploring future grant funding opportunities through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The Letter of Intent (LOI), titled "*Healthy Smile Happy Child: promoting early childhood oral health and reducing oral health*

inequities for young children in Manitoba” was approved and a full grant application was submitted on December 16, 2011. Letters of Support were provided by the collaborators of the HSHC partnership, including nine of the RHAs. Potential funding would be 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 anticipated notice of decision is spring 2012.

- The first HSHC MBTelehealth presentation series took place on Wednesday November 30, 2011. Dr. Robert Schroth and Sarah Prowse presented on the topic of *Early Childhood Caries in Manitoba: Statistics and Strategies*. Approximately 15 sites across the province joined via MBTelehealth, including participants from a wide variety of health professionals. The presentation was well received, especially noting the effectiveness of reaching those in northern communities who have limited access to continuing education options. The HSHC coordinators are planning for subsequent presentations in February and April 2012. The HSHC presentation series has been 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.
- HSHC has recognized there is conflicting information in some of the HSHC resources concerning the use and amounts of fluoride toothpaste for children. This was highlighted by a few HSHC regional contacts. As a result, the following resources have been revised to ensure that all messages are consistent with the most recent Canadian Dental Association Position on Use of Fluorides in Caries Prevention. In addition, the Vitamin D messages in the prenatal pamphlet were modified (200UI to 600UI) to reflect current recommendations.
 - Prenatal pamphlet
 - Newborn to 6 Years pamphlet
 - Newborn pamphlet
 - 2 Months pamphlet
 - 6 Months pamphlet
 - 1 Year pamphlet
 - Tooth brushing Tips for Parents
 - True & False: Children's Dental Quiz

HSHC is working with a translator to revise the French versions. All HSHC contacts were made aware of the changes and were provided with electronic copies of the modified resources. Revised resources are also available on the HSHC webpage.

- HSHC is continuing to work on developing a support and information sheet for families with children undergoing pediatric dental surgery. A draft was sent to the HSHC regional contacts for feedback. The aim of this handout is to provide parents/caregivers with key oral health messages and a local contact for additional oral health information before or following their child’s dental treatment. The development of this resource was initiated from a Winnipeg home visitor’s experience with a mother and a child during one of their visits after the child had recently undergone dental surgery.
- Postal code mapping data for pediatric surgeries at Winnipeg facilities, as developed by Liping Zhang of the WRHA Research & Evaluation Unit, has been shared with regional contacts and Winnipeg community facilitators and public health. It is foreseen that this

will continue on a quarterly basis. This knowledge exchange activity has resulted in increased engagement with community facilitator staff in the Winnipeg health region. Direct outcomes included requests for early childhood oral health articles and resource information for three community areas. It also led to the beginning of discussions about further strategies for reaching newcomer populations. HSHC hopes to map patient oral surgeries at all Manitoba facilities in future. Initial discussions with HSHC members and Manitoba Health took place on December 28, 2011.

- Update on geo-mapping data for the MDA Free First Visit (FFV) program were presented to the MDA Board on 29 October 2011. The HSHC partnership is also midway through a survey (funded by the Manitoba Institute of Child Health) of dentists about the FFV program with a response rate of 47%. Two mailings of surveys have been completed with a final third mailing scheduled for January to non-responders. Focus groups with dentists have been planned with an experienced qualitative researcher for late January.
- The HSHC coordinator is continuing to follow up with a community capacity evaluation of some groups that HSHC has worked with in the past. An evaluation form was sent to groups that previously had an initial and, in some cases, an interim evaluation. This evaluation will help determine if and how community development approaches have supported groups to address the determinants of health as they relate to early childhood oral health. These forms also help determine the group's capacity to disseminate key oral health messages. By continuing to explore these issues, HSHC will gain a further understanding of how the groups have progressed and if changes have been sustained. The HSHC coordinator is continuing to follow up with the groups and further analyze the trends from the feedback provided.

3) Community and Regional Contacts:

Burntwood Regional Health Authority (BRHA):

- HSHC coordinators are continuing to work with the Public Health and Clinical Nutrition Services manager and the Health Promotion Coordinator.
- The HSHC coordinator has been unable to connect with the Medical Education Coordinator in Burntwood RHA in regards to organizing an education session for physicians. This will be revisited at a later date.

Churchill Regional Health Authority

- The HSHC coordinators are continuing to work with the identified regional contact - a public health nurse in the Churchill region to incorporate early childhood oral health promotion into her work.
- A review of the oral health resource kit in the region identified some missing resources; a full new kit was requested and was sent to the regional contact in September. HSHC staff will follow up to see if and how these resources are being used.

NOR-MAN Regional Health Authority

- HSHC coordinators are continuing to work with the Public Health Nurse in Flin Flon to incorporate early childhood oral health promotion into her work.
- HSHC is actively searching for a local contact for The Pas community.
- Two MBTelehealth sites from the NOR-MAN region, Grand Rapids and The Pas, participated in the HSHC Presentation Series on November 30, 2011.

Parkland Regional Health Authority (PRHA)

- HSHC coordinators are continuing to work with Parkland's key regional contact.
- Parkland's key contact is continuing to use the pre and post questionnaire, which was illustrated in a recent HSHC publication, to determine the impact on new staff who attended an Early Childhood Tooth Decay workshop.
- An array of health professionals and community health workers from the Parkland region participated in the HSHC Presentation Series on November 30, 2011. Four local sites connected via MBTelehealth including Dauphin (9), Ste. Rose du Lac (1), and Swan River (13).
- As a result of the HSHC Presentation, 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 a request to provide a presentation to the Family Practice residency program.
- The Community Health Nutritionist posted the PowerPoint handouts from the presentation on November 30, 2011 on their PRHA shared drive for all public health staff to view.

North Eastman Health Authority (NEHA)

- HSHC coordinators are continuing to work with North Eastman's Wellness Facilitator.
- 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.

South Eastman Health Authority (SEHA)

- The Health Promotion Coordinator position in the South Eastman region is currently vacant. The HSHC coordinator has been in contact with the public health program manager, and will be advised when the position is filled.

Central Regional Health Authority (CRHA):

- The Healthy Living Program Facilitator provided an oral health presentation to grade nine students at the Fairholme Colony in the Central region.
- An array of health professionals and community health workers participated in the HSHC Presentation Series on November 30, 2011, via MBTelehealth. Seven CRHA sites connected including: Gladstone, Notre Dame de Lourdes, Portage la Prairie, St. Claude, St. Jean Baptiste, Swan Lake, and Winkler.

Assiniboine Regional Health Authority (ARHA):

- HSHC coordinators are continuing to work with the region's Healthy Child Coalition coordinators (north and south), Family First coordinators and the Healthy Baby coordinator to connect key oral health messages across the programs.
- The Healthy Baby group in the Assiniboine region is continuing to incorporate oral health education into their program by creating and providing prenatal packages and 'Tooth & False' kits to caregivers and families.
- The Assiniboine North Parent Child Coalition Coordinator forwarded the updated HSHC resources to the local public health nurses.
- One of the regional contacts attended the MBTelehealth session on November 30.

Brandon Regional Health Authority:

- The HSHC coordinator is continuing to work with and provide support to Brandon's Healthy Living Facilitator.

Interlake Regional Health Authority (IRHA):

- A Families First Home Visitor in Riverton, MB was recently identified as the new HSHC contact and liaison for the Interlake region. She is familiar with the HSHC resources and uses them within her work. The HSHC coordinators are planning to set up a trainer workshop in the New Year.
- The Interlake region participated in the HSHC Presentation Series on November 30, 2011 via MBTelehealth from the St. Laurent site.

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA):

- The HSHC coordinator is continuing to determine needs and status of each community area in collaboration with the WRHA community facilitators.
- The Winnipeg Downtown Community Facilitator participated in the HSHC presentation series at the host site on November 30, 2011.
- The Winnipeg River Heights/Fort Garry Community Facilitator is continuing to distribute toothbrushes at local community events as a way to promote oral health.
- The St. Vital Parent Child Coalition Administrative Coordinator has updated the True and False Game in their HSHC Resource Kit to incorporate the most recent revisions.
- Three WRHA community facilitators requested early childhood oral health articles to be published in their respective community newspapers.
- The Downtown community facilitator has identified some ideas for further engagement of newcomer populations. The HSHC coordinator will work with the community facilitator to advance these ideas.

Collaborative Activity

- 1) The HSHC partnership is planning for the Manitoba Dental Association's Annual Convention. This year the convention takes place January 27 – 28, 2012 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre and the theme is World Tour passport. HSHC is planning to create a display on the topic of "Early Childhood Caries across all cultural and ethnic borders", to reflect the convention's theme.
- 2) A representative of First Nations & Inuit Health (FNIH) has tentatively offered HSHC the use of a videoconferencing Telehealth unit for a one year pilot project aimed at evaluating the potential benefits of First Nations communities, although not exclusive of other communities. The HSHC partnership prepared a proposal for review by the First Nation advisory committee and received a favourable reply. However, HSHC needs to discuss the potential incoming MBTelehealth equipment with the Manitoba Institute of Child Health (MICH) and develop a proposed timeline.
- 3) The HSHC project coordinator is continuing to connect with health/wellness positions in the regions to share ideas and offer support for oral health promotion.
- 4) 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.

- 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.
- 6) HSHC team members are continuing to connect with First Nations and Inuit Health and ongoing mutual sharing of information.
- 7) HSHC team members are leading the evaluation of the MDA's Free First Visit program to identify the number of children benefiting from this important initiative and where in Manitoba they reside. This evaluation will also identify regions of Manitoba where there are low participation rates. This information is useful not only to the MDA but also to the partnership as the evaluation will explore the impact of this program on addressing the community identified oral health inequity and access to timely dental care and assess both dentist and parental views of the benefit of this initiative. This information can help to direct future work of the partnership.
- 8) HSHC is working with members of the WRHA on a postal code mapping project to provide an illustration of pediatric dental surgery for ECC carried out at Winnipeg facilities. HSHC is continuing to share current stats with the regional contacts. They are also geo-mapping Free First Visit program data.

Feedback/Evaluation/Research

- Qualitative Evaluation study
 - The manuscript "A Qualitative Evaluation of a Community Developed Early Childhood Oral Health Initiative" is complete and waiting for feedback from partners before submitting for journal publication.
- Qualitative Cultural study
 - Currently in the final stages of preparing a manuscript of findings for review by the partnership before journal publication.
 - Final report is available online.
- Free First Visit Evaluation study
 - Approved funding from the Manitoba Institute of Child Health (MICH) is being used to evaluate the impact of the Free First Visit (FFV) program on young children's oral health in Manitoba following year 1 of the program.
 - Ethics approval has been received.
 - Analysis of FFV data for the first year (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011) underway and report to be submitted to MDA.
 - Survey of dentists is also underway. To date, over 46% have responded.
 - Focus groups with dentists and participants will be held in 2012.

Staff Development

- The two current STEP students' positions, supported by MB Health, have been approved to continue their positions on a part-time basis during their 2011/2012 university studies. Part-time positions commenced on September 12, 2011 and continue until April 27, 2012.

- 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.
- Letter received from the WRHA that MB Health provided some financial support. These funds will enable the continuation of the provincial coordination function for the 2011/2012 fiscal period.
- Letter of Intent submitted to AAPD Foundation to undertake further evaluation activities.
- Letter of Intent was accepted by CIHR and a full grant application was submitted December 16, 2011. A response is anticipated in spring of 2012.

Planning for Next Quarter

- Continue to work with FNIH and MICH for the potential opportunity of a videoconferencing Telehealth unit.
- Continue to deliver and develop HSHC's Oral Health Presentation series via MBTelehealth.
- Continue dialogue with Manitoba Health to share postal code mapping stats with RHA community facilitators/health promotion staff and work with them to determine best way of sharing this data.
- Continue to collaborate with each RHA and provide support to sustain early childhood oral health promotion across the province.
- Continue to explore additional grant opportunities to sustain the provincial coordination role and future potential evaluation activities.
- Continue to organize and prepare for various wellness fairs and events.
- Continue to work in partnership to fulfill community oral health educational session requests.
- Submit "A Qualitative Evaluation of a Community Developed Early Childhood Oral Health Initiative" for journal publication.
- Complete the qualitative cultural study and provide to partnership for feedback.
- Continue dialogue with Manitoba Health regarding the request for funding to continue the provincial coordination work on an ongoing basis.