



# Healthy Smile Happy Child

Quarterly Report  
April 1 - June 30, 2006

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

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Submitted by: Gayle Halas, Coordinator - Healthy Smile  
Happy Child

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## I. Community Involvement/Partnerships

### Phase II Evaluation:

Roseau River First Nation:

- ✓ April 2006 - Approximately 75 preschool children and their primary caregiver participated.

Norway House:

- ✓ May 2006 - Approximately 85 preschool children and their primary caregiver participated

Thompson:

- ✓ June 12 - 16/06 at Aboriginal Head Start Program (New Beginnings)
  - Excellent support from the Head Start staff and BRHA.
  - Completed 116 surveys and examinations.
  - 2 radio spots with Thompson radio as well as an article in the Thompson Citizen the following week, reporting on the phase II evaluation but also providing key oral health messages.

### Project Activity

During the start up phase of the expanded project, Dr. Schroth, the coordinator, summer students, facilitators and central office staff have also managed several important community outreach activities. These included:

- CPNP Dauphin Health Fair (approximately 80 parents/caregivers with children)
- Teddy Bear's Picnic (approximately 200 children)
- Elmwood Health Fair (approximately 40 people)
- Tooth Fairy Saturday - Manitoba Children's Festival (approximately 200 families walked through the tent.)

Also, we had the opportunity to provide a brief radio message).

- Presentations: ~Several Healthy Baby groups in the North Eastman region and Thompson (approximately 30 new mothers with infants)
  - ~Early childhood educators, nurses, community health workers and parents in programs within South Eastman (approximately 110 individuals)
- Thompson Nickel Days parade distributed toothbrushes and HSHC contact info.
- Presented key messages to Thompson dental offices.

## **II. Collaborative Activity**

The Manitoba Collaborative Project for the Prevention of Early Childhood Tooth Decay has recently partnered with Manitoba Telehealth to use this available technology to support Community Facilitators and to assist with delivering workshops to remote regions of Manitoba. This successful partnership will provide the project with an enhanced capacity to reach out to many communities at no extra cost.

## **III. Support Staff Development**

**A. New Project Coordinator hired** (start date: May 29, 2006)  
**Gayle Halas**, RDH (1987), M.A Candidate (Integrated Studies: Education and Organizational Leadership). Private practice dental hygienist, dental hygiene educator, community volunteer.

Previous Healthy Smile Happy Child Coordinator was hired in February 2006 but unfortunately left the project at the end of April 2006.

**B. Five Community Facilitators were hired** by the 5 selected host Regional

Health Authorities in accordance to the planned project roll-out strategy.

- 1) **Lynn Giesbrecht** (North Eastman Health Association/South Eastman Regional Health Authority) Dental Therapist (Wescana, 1979), Cert. Dental Technology, 1998 Previous practice experience within remote regions, private practice including restorative dentistry

- 2) **Mandy Levesque** (Burntwood Regional Health Authority/Churchill Regional Health Authority) B.Sc (Nutrition) Previous experience with Diabetes Education in the Thompson community
- 3) **Dianna Messeyton-Neufeld** (RHA - Central Manitoba Inc./Assiniboine Regional Health Authority/Brandon Regional Health Authority)
  - B. H Ec. (Family Studies - Human Development).
  - Director of the Portage Women's Shelter, Program Co-coordinator for Seniors
  - Housing with Central RHA since 1990: HIV/AIDS prevention education
  - specialist, Health Promotion Resource, Healthy Living Team member as well
  - as a member of the steering committee for the Central Regions Parent Child Coalition (Healthy Child Coalition).
- 4) **Christine Crockatt** (Winnipeg Regional Health Authority/Interlake Regional Health Authority) B.H.Ecol (Family Social Sciences) U of M, 2006
  - Practicum and experience with family support services and community
  - partnership building.
- 5) **Krystal Paskuruk** (NOR-MAN Regional Health Authority/Parkland Regional Health Authority) B.A (Psych and Native Studies) U of M, 2006 (distance learning) Experience includes Kelsey School Division -Educational Assistant, Teacher Substitute, and Assistant Coordinator of the Adult Literacy Program. In addition, served as Program Manager for the Tobacco Control Strategy Program (FNIHB).

**C. A part-time project assistant also hired as planned.**

**Mohammed Haque**, Project assistant  
 Foreign Trained Dentist (Bangladesh) ; Level 2 Dental Assistant  
 Practiced general dentistry for about 10 years in Bangladesh and in Saudi Arabia. Involved with Healthy Smile Happy Child phase II follow-up research study.

**D. Three Summer Students were also hired :-**

- 1) Pamela Shpak, STEP student - various administrative tasks
- 2) Andrea MacIntosh, STEP student - developing evaluation and tracking tools, limited administrative tasks
- 3) Tara Monkman, Access Student - various administrative tasks and assistance for outreach within the Aboriginal community. Cree language translation.

#### **IV. Documentation Development**

The Healthy Smile Happy Child Summer Students under the supervision of Dr. Robert Schroth and Gayle Halas, project coordinator, prepared community Facilitator Orientation Packages. The packages included:

- An orientation manual for desktop reference
- A Community Facilitator orientation kit
- A Community Facilitator Workshop binder

Development of a standardized train the trainer workshop materials has been completed and the printing of the new flipchart resource have been finalized.

#### **V. Orientation Workshop**

A 2-Day Facilitator Orientation workshop was held June 26-27, 2006 and included:

- Project history and direction
- Invited speakers including a past project coordinator and WRHA dental hygienist who briefly discussed her past and present roles/experiences related to the project as well as work within the Winnipeg region and the WRHA's Fluoride Varnish Pilot Project.
- Seminar addressing: 1) communication, 2) delivery of "Train the Trainer" workshop utilizing Action Plan Workbook and Toolkit, 3) introduction to Healthy Smile Happy Child flipchart (developed collaboratively with Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch) and 4) facilitator resource materials which include videos, displays, pamphlets for use in community capacity building.
- Manitoba Telehealth services were introduced to the group. The orientation session included a videoconference with key individuals in Thompson and St. Boniface.
- Cultural sensitivity training provided by Manitoba Health, Aboriginal Health Branch

- The Orientation session wrapped up with facilitators' meeting, question/comment period and discussion regarding next steps.

The community facilitators have also been actively engaged within their respective regional health authority orientations including general administrative set up, planning tasks and establishing local community contacts/connections. Their initial efforts have focused on connecting with other community facilitators and promote collaborative efforts to promote our message.

#### **VI. Feedback/Evaluation**

Since January 2006, the following suggestions were made regarding the message and resources provided by Healthy Smile Happy Child.

- ◇ Mixed reactions to the bingo game - generally not very well accepted, however few found it useful.
- ◇ The "So Sweet Bottles" are a powerful visual message about sugar content in beverages.
- ◇ Concerns regarding availability of material online. High speed internet not available in many rural areas; the whole work book takes too long to download and too onerous to print off the whole resource.
- ◇ The poster "Think about your baby's teeth?" well received and a similar type of message suggested for older children.
- ◇ Interest for manual, pamphlets and handouts to be available in other languages
- ◇ A dental program in daycare was started as a result of workshop & manual

#### **VII. Planning for next Quarter**

Most organizational meetings, conferences and functions are planned for September. During the summer, many contacts are on holidays but facilitators are present within the community and programs involved with the project's target population. This grass roots effort will be helpful in understanding community needs, programs and planning for capacity building. Increased interaction will evolve with the communities as the facilitators become more and more visible within each neighbourhood and community.

The central office staff is involved in support services. The summer students will continue to be active during the second quarter with image development and providing supporting documents. The initiatives include:

- o Logo development
- o Business cards
- o Creation of a brochure about the project as requested by community facilitators
- o Pre and Post Train the Trainer Workshop research evaluation
- o Reviewing and modifying online resources
- o Reprinting of the Action Plan Workbook and Toolkit
- o French translation of pamphlets/key messages