



## *Healthy Smile Happy Child*

John Buhler Research Centre  
501C - 715 McDermot Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3E 3P4  
Tel: (204) 789-3500  
Fax: (204) 977-5691

### **Quarterly Report July - September 2011**

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

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

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### **Community Feedback**

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

#### **Public Health**

- Public health nurses in Brandon requested oral health assessment tools to use with families. HSHC will follow up to determine the usefulness of the screening tools and whether this is influencing an increase in the early dental visits.
- After sharing the above point during a MBTelehealth training session, public health staff and parent child program staff in Assiniboine, Churchill and Burntwood RHAs have also requested the assessment tools.
- The manager of Albert Health Services Oral Health requested posters and other HSHC resources for a display on the topic of One Year Old Dental Visits. The goal was to raise awareness of the dental professionals' role in these early visits.

#### **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.

#### **Schools and Community Organizations**

- The Preschool Coordinator at the Interlake School Division requested oral health resources to include in their 'Healthy Kits' which they will be distributing to children entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2011. These kits will include some of HSHC's resources as well as toothbrushes.

#### **Dental/Medical Offices**

- No activity reported in this quarter.

#### **Website Links**

- No current updates.

## **Challenges**

- Continuing to field requests for distribution of resources, specifically toothbrushes and other oral health supplies, from various groups as much as possible. There are limited funds available to fill the requests. HSHC has encouraged groups to connect with local dental offices and dental suppliers for donations.
- There has been some inconsistency of messages with some resources related to the use of fluoride toothpaste for children. This is in part due to the ongoing changes in best practice guidelines. HSHC resources are currently being revised. The Partnership will be directing any requests or inquiries about water fluoridation to Manitoba Health.

## **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. Awaiting community (those involved in the Phase II evaluation process) approval before submitting for journal publication.

#### 2) HSHC Updates

- HSHC has arranged to ensure that all MB RHA's have access to one or more oral health resources kit, including a tooth brushing puppet, to promote early childhood oral health in their given communities. As some RHAs cover a large geographical area, it is not realistic for the entire region to share one resource kit. HSHC worked with key contacts in each RHA to determine the number of kits required and has distributed these. HSHC has received positive feedback on the puppets, and they have been reported to generate interest and motivate children to get involved in oral health.
- HSHC is currently reviewing resources as the group has recognized that there is conflicting information with regards to the use and amounts of fluoride toothpaste for children. This was highlighted by a few HSHC contacts in different RHAs. HSHC is in process of revising these resources to ensure that all messages are consistent with the most recent Canadian Dental Association position on use of fluorides in caries prevention.
- HSHC is currently working on developing a contact/information sheet for families with children undergoing pediatric dental surgery. The aim of this handout is to provide parents with key oral health messages and a local contact for additional oral health information 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 analyzed by Liping Zhang of the WRHA Research & Evaluation Unit, has been shared with regional contacts and Winnipeg community facilitators and public health management. It is hoped that this knowledge exchange activity will increase awareness of ECC and target strategies to reach high risk communities. HSHC hopes to map patient oral surgeries at all Manitoba facilities in future.

- HSHC partnership Terms of Reference was finalized and approved by the group on July 28, 2011. The final document has been provided to the partnership.
- Members of the HSHC partnership have started to evaluate the impact of the Free First Visit (FFV) program on young children's oral health in Manitoba with the grant funding successfully approved by the Manitoba Institute of Child Health (MICH). The members are analyzing data from Year 1 of the program (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011) to determine the number seen and characteristics of the children and the dentists. In addition, they are presently pilot testing a survey tool to administer to dentists about the FFV and their knowledge and views on early childhood oral health. Finally, they have focus groups planned to further explore the program. This Operating Grant was approved for funding for the period of June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012.
- As a result of the success and cost-effectiveness of past MBTelehealth presentations, and the feedback provided from MB RHAs, the HSHC coordinators have initiated a working group to start preliminary planning of HSHC's Oral Health Presentation Series via MBTelehealth. The HSHC coordinators are currently organizing the first presentation, which will take place in November 2011.
- The HSHC coordinator provided a training workshop, via MBTelehealth on September 19, 2011. Public health staff (nurses and dietitians) and a parent child program coordinator from the RHAs of Assiniboine, Burntwood and Churchill attended for a total of 7 participants. None had attended a training session previously.
- 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 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 new resource kit was sent to the regional contact in September. HSHC staff will follow up to see if and how these resources are being used.

- The regional contact participated in the HSHC trainer/workshop on September 19, 2011.

#### NOR-MAN Regional Health Authority

- The HSHC coordinators have been able to reconnect with the NOR-MAN RHA through a public health nurse in Flin Flon who is willing to be a liaison for the region. The public health nurse was provided with an HSHC oral health kit, including a tooth brushing puppet. The contact had previously attended a Healthy Smile training session.
- HSHC is actively searching for a local contact for The Pas community.

#### 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.
- Parkland was provided with additional oral health resource kits to cover all four districts in their RHA.

#### 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.
- North Eastman's Wellness Facilitator provided an oral health presentation to a parent group in Pinawa in September (7 parents attended). She is also planning a presentation for preschoolers in Oakbank later this winter.
- The North Eastman region includes Wellness tips in the regional "What's Up in Wellness" newsletter.
- North Eastman's Wellness Facilitator prepared a series of Oral Health tips/information, based on the HSHC materials. These are forwarded to local newspapers and are used at their discretion.

#### 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 Rosenort Community Health Centre is using the Lift the Lip brochures for their Public Health Office. HSHC provided ordering information for this resource.
- Public Health in CRHA has developed a list of children's oral health links for their staff intranet Clinical Library site. Dr. Schroth provided recommendations for this list.
- A Public Health Nurse from the Community Health Resource Centre in Altona is using the "Snacks & Dental Health, Hints for Parents & Kids" brochure (developed by the Manitoba Dental Association and the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba).
- The Healthy Living Program Facilitator created a display on oral health for the Long Plains First Nation's preschool fair as well as the adult/community health fair.

#### 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 Healthy Baby coordinator to connect key oral health messages across the programs.

- A federal program manned a dental health display booth at the Health Career Fair in Canupawakpa (Pipestone, MB) on August 24, 2011.
- A new contact has assumed the position as the Assiniboine North Parent Child Coalition. The HSHC coordinators have been in contact with this individual and she was invited to attend the HSHC trainer session on September 19, 2011.
- A tooth brushing puppet was provided to the Assiniboine region, as they were identified as one of the two regions who were not provided with one.

Brandon Regional Health Authority:

- The HSHC coordinator is continuing to work with and provide support to Brandon's Healthy Living Facilitator.
- The Brandon Healthy Living Facilitator has developed an information sheet with key teaching points on children's oral health for local Public Health Nurses to use with their clients. The information sheet includes the most current CDA's recommendations in regards to the use of toothpaste for young children.
- Oral health assessment tools were sent to public health nurses in Brandon at their request. HSHC will follow up to see if to see how useful the screening tools are and whether this is increasing early dental visits.

Interlake Regional Health Authority (IRHA):

- The HSHC coordinator attended the Families First annual park day event in Stonewall on September 15, 2011. HSHC resources and toothbrushes were distributed to the families.
- A tooth brushing puppet was provided to the Interlake region, as they were identified as one of the two regions who were not provided with one.

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 provided information on local low-cost dental service facilities at an information fair for parents at the Dufferin School in the Centennial Neighbourhood. HSHC recommended the "Where to go for Dental Care in your Community" booklet or quick reference guide as a handout for the event.
- The Winnipeg River Heights/Fort Garry Community Facilitator distributed approximately 100 toothbrushes for a local community event late August.

## **Collaborative Activity**

- 1) 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 is currently preparing a proposal for review by the First Nation advisory committee.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.

- 4) 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.
- 5) HSHC team members are continuing to connect with First Nations and Inuit Health and ongoing mutual sharing of information.
- 6) HSHC is 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.
- 7) 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 early stages of preparing a manuscript of findings for journal publication.
  - Final report is available online.
- Free First Visit Evaluation study
  - Approved funding from MICH will be used to evaluate the impact of the Free First Visit (FFV) program on young children's oral health in Manitoba.
  - 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.

### **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 Intents submitted to CIHR & AAPD Foundation to undertake further evaluation activities.

### **Planning for Next Quarter**

- Continue to work with FNIH and the proposal for the potential opportunity of a videoconferencing Telehealth unit and one year pilot project.
- Organize and implement first HSHC's Oral Health Presentation series via MBTelehealth
- Continue 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 follow up with the groups and further analyze the trends of the feedback from the community capacity evaluation forms.
- 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.
- Continue to work on qualitative study paper of cultural focus groups.