

Oral Health Florida Fluoride Action Team Conference Call

October 8, 2014

Attendees: Sean Isaac-Florida Department of Health (DOH), Dr. Johnny Johnson-Co-Chair, Karen Hodge Co-Chair, Alexandra Abboud-FDA, Joe Anne Hart-Florida Dental Association (FDA), Chuck Walther-Lee County Chemist/Engineer, Christine Hom-Florida Institute for Health Innovation (FIHI), Frank Carberry-Dentist.

Introductions: Sean introduced Dr. Johnny Johnson and Karen Hodge as new co-chairs for OHF Fluoride Action Team and welcomed attendees. Johnny thanked everyone for being on the call and helping with our goal of moving Florida toward 100% Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) in 5 years. It will take a team effort to accomplish.

Johnny discussed meetings and conferences.

NOHC- in Kansas City, MO, April 27-29, 2015-many CWF seminars with national speakers and pro-active training on fluoridation.

OHF Conference July 31 and August 1st, 2014- CWF CE with Matt Jacob from the Children's Dental Health Project discussed common "kitchen table" language when framing messaging around CWF. Kristin Mizzi from PEW discussed the "doubt virus" that anti-fluoridationist's are spreading with misinformation and misquotes. Johnny Johnson, DMD, MS spoke on how to counteract the misinformation about fluoride with the truth.

Recommended that everyone check the OHF calendar of events for upcoming meetings/conferences/webinars (<http://oralhealthflorida.org/>).

Partner Reports:

PHDP-Sean Isaac, CDC, ASTDD Awards for communities with consistent optimal levels. Encouraged FDA and FDHA to help promote the awards in various communities. Stated that there is grant funding available from the Florida Department of Health available for local communities wanting to implement CWF. To date the Toho Water Authority in Kissimmee, Osceola County has requested funding of \$150,000 to help initiate CWF in their community. This will increase access to CWF for 69,000 to 80,000 residents in that community. The DOH also has smaller grants available to communities that would like to upgrade their current equipment. If anyone knows of communities in need of possible grants they should contact Sean directly at sean.isaac@flhealth.gov. or 850-245-4333. Sean also discussed the CDC training that he received in August on CWF he hopes to tailor a curriculum module from the CDC for water operators in Florida. The PHDP is also looking to help sponsor CWF training for FDA and FDHA in the coming year. PHDP sponsored a 2 hour CE with the FDHA in September. FDHA was able to offer the CE for no charge to anyone who wished to attend. The invitation was sent to all FDHA and FDA members. The PHDP is also looking to update its current database to better track which communities in Florida have CWF.

FDA-Alexandra Abboud, currently nothing going on with training on fluoride. They are still working on putting together a contact list of local dentists and hygienists that can be contacted if a fluoride event occurs in a community. The FDA's focus is on preventive measures and CWF is a top priority that they're actively working on.

FDHA-Karen Hodge, synopsis of the CE that FDHA had at the above mentioned symposium that the DOH- PHDP sponsored. There was good attendance at the seminar. The free seminar was offered to FDA

members, low attendance from FDA. It was suggested that a questionnaire with Survey Monkey may help determine what kinds of CWF trainings that members of both organizations would like to see or would be interested in attending. FDHA hopes to continue more partnerships with PHDP in the future for training.

FIHI-Christine Hom offered to be part of messaging on CWF with Facebook, blog, etc. FIHI in a transition period with Dentaquest, 3 year funding will be ending soon. FIHI is expanding consumer engagement by talking to parents about barriers to Medicaid. FIHI put together a fact sheet on pediatric Emergency Room (ER) visits- there were more pediatric Medicaid ER visits for oral health issues than any other group. They would like to incorporate CWF with their messaging. FIHI is part of an Oral Health Network of 12 states with an interactive Listserv. She asked to be contacted if anyone was interested in being on the Listserv. She can be contacted at chom@flphi.org.

Dr. Johnson mentioned the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Listserv as another source on oral health issues. Anyone that would like more information on this listserv, please contact Dr. Johnson at drjohnnyjohnson@gmail.com or 727-409-1770.

Dr. Frank Carberry stated that he would like to see and hear more information on the benefits that older adults receive from CWF when presentations are given. The focus is typically on children, but the benefit to adults is huge in the reduction of caries on root surfaces.

Oral Health Florida Roadmap- Karen Hodge reported on the HRSA grant that Dr. Catalanotto mentioned at the OHF conference. The grant will support 2 CWF statewide CE's in the next 3 years. Dr. C wants to put a team together to come up with the logistics of the CE with the help of the OHF Fluoride Action Team. Possible grant funding from the DOH -PHDP was discussed with some suggestions of ways the Action Team could promote fluoridation in the coming year. The funding needs to focus on educational programs or ideas. Some suggestions included CDC CWF training, travel reimbursement for expert testimony to educate local communities in jeopardy or to initiate CWF, education module for dental and dental hygiene students. **Any and all suggestions would be appreciated within the next week.**

Community Issues-

Lee County- Mr. Chuck Walther, chemist and professional engineer stated that he wrote a letter to the anti-fluoride lead in the county effectively dismantling their argument against CWF. He has not heard back and hopes that the issue has been laid to rest.

Hernando County-Dr. Johnson reported that Hernando County does not have anything on the Commission agenda to bring fluoridation back up again. However, local advocates there are pursuing this issue and plan to bring it before the commission again when the time is right.

Avon Park- Sean that there has been no news from Avon Park. They concerned about the cost of upgrading and the county health department wants to keep fluoride in the water system. Sean suggested finding people to contact in Avon Park and informing them the DOH has grant funding for upgrading equipment.

Wellington- There has been some reports of interest of starting CWF in small local paper, but nothing concrete at the moment. We will keep in touch with the local oral health coalition in Palm Beach County.

Focus Areas to Target our Efforts to Initiate CWF- It appears that the Toho Water Authority may install fluoridation systems this year. They have requested \$150,000 in CDC funding from the FL-DOH to help in the process. No ideas suggested thus far to help with the other communities listed; Boca Raton, Jupiter, Martin, and Winter Garden.

The next conference call will be January 14, 2015. The conference line may change. Information will be sent out at the beginning of next year. If anyone has suggestions of what they would like to see the Action Team work on please email or call either Dr. Johnson or Karen.

Contact Information:

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