

# ORAL HEALTH FLORIDA



## *Oral Health Florida*

### *Sealant Action Team Follow up call Minutes*

*Thursday, January 30, 2014 12-1 pm*

#### **Agenda and Action Items:**

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Elizabeth Orr welcomed all members to the call.

Members: Elizabeth Orr, Kim McCarren, Kelli Johnson, Elizabeth Lense, Betty Kabel, Christina Vracar

- II. **Evidence Based School Based Sealant Programs (SBSP) versus School Based Preventive Programs (SBPP)**

Elizabeth Orr states that 2 of the previous calls (Dr. Siegal and Dr. Fontana) spoke about the evidence based approaches to caries prevention and the difference between the various school programs in existence. School Based Sealant Programs offer sealants only whereas School Based Preventive Programs offer other services such as prophys and fluroride varnish. The evidence shows that sealants are effective along with community water fluoridation. Fluoride varnish is effective in multiple applications. Most school based sealant programs offer fluoride varnish; however this is usually applied once a year. Elizabeth Orr also stated that some programs see the children for multiple visits to try to maximize reimbursement from Medicaid.

Kim McCarren states that it is hard to track data to determine the effectiveness of fluoride varnish because in sealant programs the children participating in the programs change from year to year. Kim also states that the main focus of seeing the children in the SBSP is the sealants. She thinks that the teachers would be upset if the children were taken out of class 3 or more times to be seen by the SBSP.

Elizabeth Lense states thought that there was a study by Weinstein and Ramos that showed that one application of fluoride varnish has a benefit. Elizabeth Orr asked for a copy of that article to distribute to members.

Kelli Johnson said that she has seen where studies have not supported fluoride varnish in SBSP and the program in Wisconsin removed fluoride varnish from their SBSP.

## ORAL HEALTH FLORIDA



There are programs that have been providing services in schools for many years that may not be evidence based applications. There may be a reluctance to change existing programs to align with the evidence based approaches. If new programs are to start fresh, then it would be wise to follow the guidelines established by long standing programs such as Ohio and Wisconsin who have embraced evidence based SBSP.

III.

### **Strategies for Action Plan 2014**

Elizabeth Orr and Kim Herremans compiled a list of the strategies that have been discussed on previous calls. There will be a Survey Monkey sent out to all members to rank the strategies.

Elizabeth Orr opened up the following for discussion:

1. Adopt the SEALS data collection tool  
Member feedback:
  - Allow for continuity among programs.
  - Provide relevant data at the state level.
  - Provide consistent criteria.
  - Give programs a resource for grant writing.
2. Create 1 page 'white paper' on sealants for Florida (using current data)  
Member feedback:
  - Good idea for education tool
3. Standardize the definition of 'School Based Sealant Program' vs 'School Based Preventive Programs'  
Member feedback:
  - Reluctant
  - Agency wide definitions are hard to adopt
  - Would provide continuity with data collection
4. Standardize parental/legal guardian consent forms  
Member feedback:
  - Template with basic information would be helpful
5. Adopt the Ohio Sealant program manual

## ORAL HEALTH FLORIDA



Member feedback:

- Ohio has great track record and great learning modules
- Ohio laws are different and the manual would need to reflect the laws in Florida

These items were not discussed at length however are included in the survey:

6. Advocate for Medicaid sealant reimbursement for primary teeth
7. Advocate for direct reimbursement from Medicaid for sealants
8. Develop links to OH Florida's webpage from the DOH dental public health website to include sealants and water fluoridation
9. Obtain CDC funding for the state of Florida to support Florida's DOH oral disease prevention program.
10. Advocate to improve the autonomy of dental hygienists to apply sealants
11. Advocate for dental therapists in the workforce to improve dental workforce shortages.

**IV.**

Next Call:

March 20, 2014 12-1pm

**V.**

Adjournment: Elizabeth Orr adjourned the call at 1:00pm.