

Minutes from Quarterly Meeting  
Texas Oral Health Coalition  
Thursday, January 25, 2008  
Austin, TX.

Chairman Dr. Rex Law called a meeting of the Texas Oral Health Coalition to order at 9:05 AM on Thursday, January 25, 2008 at the Courtyard by Marriott Austin Airport Hotel. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Minutes of the October 18, 2007 meeting were approved as printed.** (1/2008)

**Treasurer's Report:** Dr. Anthony Bolin reported a balance on hand of \$5,449.81. Dr. Bolin will accept payments for lunch and will pay the caterer.

**Janet Bartlett move to approve the Treasurer's Report and file it for audit. Seconded. Approved.** (2/2008)

**Summit Evaluations:** Sandy Tesch reported that member evaluations requested credit card availability for payments, longer round tables, shorter presentations and low-fat snacks. Over all evaluations showed the Summit was very successful. Cindy Hines noted that there were 89 participants and one sponsorship of \$500 from Omni.

**Conflict of Interest Forms:** Sandy Tesch asked members to read, sign and turn in Conflict of Interest statements which the Coalition Secretary will keep on file. All members present agreed to comply and turned in signed documents. Sandy reported the revised bylaws, approved at the Summit, are on the website. Dr. Johanna DeYoung noted that an item regarding workgroup chairs needed to be revised (Section 7.4). Suggested changes should be reported and formally presented to the April 2008 meeting for approval.

**Regional Coalition Reports:**

*El Paso Oral Health Commission-* Janet Bartlett reported their organization is 20 years old and is a resource for finding dental care for the indigent.

*West Texas Coalition-* Linda Stallings reported that they have developed a website and provide education for WIC and childcare facilities. They have also provided English and Spanish brochures for distribution by pediatricians.

*Houston Dental Task Force –* Dr. Johanna De Young said their group elected new officers. They plan to restructure their workgroups to mirror those of the TxOHC. They have also adopted new bylaws and changed the name to the *TxOHC-Houston Region*.

*Tarrant County Children's Oral Health Collaboration-* Shea Williford reported work on the Train the Trainer education program, which provides education to nurses, childcare workers, etc. so that they will be capable of educating parents of preschoolers on good oral health practices. New COHC resource brochures are available in English and Spanish. A strategic planning session will be held in the spring, and "Drive for a Smile"

toothbrush drive will be held during National Children's Dental Health Month in February to gather brushes for distribution to disadvantaged children.

*Dallas Coalition*-Joleen Bagwell reported the start up of a new Dallas group. New members recently visited the Tarrant County Children's Oral Health Coalition meeting, and Dr. Law visited the Dallas Children's Dental Clinic. Joleen reported that the group believed a "champion" and a sponsor were very important to a coalition's success.

Cindy Hines suggested that each regional group put their minutes on the TxOHC website. Dr. Maureen Webber said Longview has started a dental task force. Tarrant County Children's Oral Health Coalition shared information with them to help them begin.

**TxOHC Website:** Dr. Rex Law reported that Dr. Bash is willing to rework the TxOHC website. Coalition members should list an email address so that they may be easily contacted by others. Cindy Hines requested that anyone who has not filled out a membership form with contact and affiliation information, please do so today. Member's name, email and affiliation will be listed on the web. In order to keep our participant list current, one must attend at least 50% of coalition meetings to be listed as a member. Any new regional coalitions that are formed are welcome to join, as they make themselves known to the TxOHC leadership.

**New Member Packet:** Sandy Tesch requested a new member packet to be created and placed on the website. Information on requirements should be included. Cindy Hines is working with Dr. Bash on the website. Sharon Dickinson will send information to Cindy regarding her group's experience in setting up an inexpensive website. Others with information were asked to send it to Cindy as well.

**Coalition Sustainability:** Dr. Altenhoff reported that a part of Sandy's job is technical support to the coalition. Current funds allocated from CDC for TxOHC activities will end in June 2008. The funding has mainly provided for meetings and travel expenses to date. Dr. Altenhoff explained that if the state receives the CDC grant, it would be allocated to a variety of sources, including the TxOHC. A new application for funds will be submitted, but DSHS will not know until summer 2008 whether funding is approved to continue for five more years. Dr. Altenhoff suggested finding ways of ongoing support, such as sponsorships, membership dues, organization donations, etc. DSHS OHP department needs to shift ownership to the coalition. Dr. Altenhoff proposed a contract with the coalition, to provide a lump sum of money for the coalition's use if the grant is approved. It could not be used for lobbying, but could be used for meetings, travel, food, and the coalition hiring a part-time person to coordinate. Other funds from other sources, could be used for any purpose deemed appropriate by the group, including legislative advocacy or lobbying. DSHS has very strict guidelines for use of its dollars, but the coalition would have fewer restrictions. Without the new grant, dollars are not available for a summer meeting and a fall summit. In order to accept tax-deductible donations, the coalition must become a 501(C)(3).

**Status of Revisions of State Oral Health Plan:** At the last meeting, Dianna Prachyl appointed a special committee to bring a draft of the revised State Plan to the committee (Dr. Bolin, Dr. Gray, Joe Babb, and Ginny Hickman). Several items in the original plan have been accomplished. We need to update and incorporate ideas gained in the spring 2007 listening sessions. Jane Steffensen suggested it would be important to reference the document, *Collaborative Oral Health Plan in Texas* (state plan), so that this one could be dovetailed into it. Sandy will send information electronically from Prema's report on the listening sessions to the special committee.

**Partnership for a Healthy Texas:** Sandy and Rex represented the Coalition at a meeting where policy developers are writing a plan for a legislative agenda on how to attack obesity in Texas. Numerous state-health related groups were in attendance and provided input. The link between oral health and general health was discussed.

**Special Guests:** Susan Combs State Comptroller spoke on obesity and its effect on state budget. ([www.window.state.tx](http://www.window.state.tx) Click on "publications" and select "Obesity Report" for Obesity-the Cost of Calories in Healthcare). The cost to the private sector will be about \$15.8 billion per year by 2025 if nothing is changed. 42% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders are overweight or at risk. 70% of obese kids will become obese adults. Rates are increasing. The concept of community awareness and prevention are very important. Various pilot educational programs have been tried. Diet changes affect both teeth and obesity. A tax policy incentive is being considered to give employers a tax break if they provide health insurance.

Representative Bryan Hughes of northeast Texas, who serves on the Health and Human Services Committee, also addressed the group. He said 38% of State budget goes to Health and Human Services, and only 35% to education. They are having to cut all other areas of the budget to keep up with healthcare costs. Rep. Hughes took questions and suggestions for change and improvement that he might take back to the legislature.

**Lunch:** 11:45 to 12:45

**DSHS Frew Strategic Initiatives:** . From the Frew Agreement, \$150 million is set-aside for Texas Health Steps. Three initiatives will be included: (1) a mobile dental unit in Region 11 (South Texas), (2) dental home by age one, and (3) funds for dental and medical providers for application of fluoride varnish. Regarding the mobile van, San Antonio and Houston Dental Schools have put forward a proposal to operate the mobile unit. Baylor declined due to distance from the site. The purpose of the Medicaid first dental home for kids is intended to establish relationships with patients and parents, and do caries assessment and prevention measures. Routine dental visits may now be started at six months of age. Successful programs from across the nation are being used to design a program for Texas. Beginning March 2008, a new Medicaid code for anticipatory guidance will include three messages: daily home care, healthy food choices, and routine dental visits every six months at a dental home. Dentists must be trained and certified to be reimbursed for the new code. The web site [www.tmhp.com](http://www.tmhp.com) has information on finding a provider. Dr. Linda Altenhoff and Dr. Diane Forbes will conduct provider workshops

across the state. Pediatric dentists will be targeted initially, with free CEU's offered in a 1-2 hr. workshop. Hygienists and assistants may participate in the training as well. Fluoride varnish application and oral evaluation in the dental home must be in combination with Texas Health Steps criteria. Medical primary care providers currently can be trained through the THSteps online provider education website, [www.txhealthsteps.com](http://www.txhealthsteps.com), and then may attend training sessions for certification starting in August 2008. They can be reimbursed for fluoride varnish treatments up to age three.

Planning is underway to conduct a dental assessment on the Medicaid population numbers today and in the future. The plan has been submitted for the plaintiff for approval. Dr. Altenhoff reports to the court every three months on the number of enrolled Medicaid providers and the number of services provided.

A copy of an oral health burden document titled, *Oral Health in Texas 2007* was given to the coalition members. The document has also been posted to the OHP website. It is the most comprehensive surveillance available for the State. Tom Napier, Texas Fluoridation Engineer also gave the coalition members a booklet, *The Texas Fluoridation Project* along with posters and pamphlets promoting community water fluoridation.

**Workgroup Chairs:** A discussion followed, by the group, on the need for workgroup's continuous activity or work on an as needed basis. Some mentioned that they were unsure of their workgroup's purpose or what they were expected to accomplish. The need for a strategic plan to allow the Coalition to move with purpose and planning was suggested. After much discussion, Rex stated that our group needs direction to proceed. Workgroup chairs will now convene their committees as needed.

**Dr. Anthony Bolin moved that the next scheduled meeting (April 2008) be a strategic planning meeting with a paid facilitator, paid with coalition funds not to exceed \$1,500. Seconded. APPROVED (3/2008)**

**501 (C)(3) Information:** Dr. Bolin will report at the next meeting on the process to become a 501 (c)(3).

Janet Bartlett reported that the Advocacy Group had divided into three sections: "Give Your Child A Smile for Life," PR, and legislative agenda. The "Give Your Child project piloted in El Paso, providing information on a dental home by one year of age to medical and dental societies. No measurement has been performed yet to quantify success. Anecdotally, it has been widely praised. The PR committee wants to begin an electronically distributed newsletter, which could also be published to the website. D. K. Buster pins sold at the Summit made \$170.00.

Sandy asked members to please RSVP to allow for accurate planning and she distributed new reimbursement forms, due back by February 8, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

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Rex Law, DDS, Chair

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Sally Hopper, Secretary