

Minutes
Texas Oral Health Coalition Meeting
Friday, December 5, 2008
Austin, Texas

Chairman Rex Law, D.D.S. called a meeting of the Texas Oral Health Coalition to order at 9:00 A.M. on Friday, December 5, 2008 at the House of Representatives Lounge in the Texas State Capital building. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Minutes of the June 6, 2008 meeting were approved as corrected. Page 1, DSHS Update corrected in paragraph 2 "TAGD is giving 2.0 hours CE credit." Page 2, paragraph 2 changed from "Oral Health Division," to "Oral Health *Program*." (12/2008)

Dr. Mac Lee of "Operation Stop Decay:" Dr. Lee's group believes children need to be educated on how to care for their teeth and about good nutrition as it applies to oral health in order to grow up with healthy mouths. In January 2008 they began a pilot program with third graders in a small Texas town. Agri-life helped with pre and post testing surveys and Baylor College of Dentistry pediatric program was also involved. Dental education is already mandatory in the state of Texas but is not tested on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) test; therefore it often falls through the cracks. Dr. Lee's group believes curriculum available for teachers is very dry and boring. Their group has made a teacher's guide and workbook for students, which is free to schools via the Internet. It is not just for disadvantaged children but for all children. A downloadable Power Point presentation with notes is available at www.operationstopdecay.com. Dr. Lee wants dental education to be a mandatory and living part of school curriculum. He will keep the coalition updated on advancements.

Update on Possible Legislation for a State Dental Director: The State Dental Director position was changed with all of the reorganization that took place when Texas Dept. of Health (TDH) became the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS). Previously Oral Health was a "Division" headed by the "State Dental Director." Now it is simply a "program" with a "manager" as the lead staff person. It is now in a very low position, under Texas Health Steps (Medicaid), in the hierarchy of DSHS, compared to its previous position. The Oral Health Program is mandatory, but the manager position is not. Sandy Tesch and Bill Gray volunteered to be on a committee to begin looking into the process of creating legislation.

The TxOHC also voted to have mandatory dental exams/screenings before school entry. Beth Stewart reported 17.6% of states do require screenings/exams/assessments. The requirements for specific personnel to do the examination (dentist, hygienist, school nurse, other) vary from state to state. 87.5% require parental notification and some also require that teachers be notified. It was suggested that if it were to be a screening, rather than an exam, it could be non-funded. Mandates requiring funding are much more difficult to pass. Johanna De Young moved that if the opportunity presented itself, TXOHC would move our legislative agenda from 2011 to 2009. Seconded. Among the discussion, it was noted that very precise planning must be completed and a legislator to carry the bill must be secured. None of these things happen quickly and we are currently

at almost the opening bell of the next session. After discussion Dr. De Young withdrew the motion.

Commissioner of Agriculture Todd Staples: Commissioner Staples thanked our group for “putting a smile on the face of Texas.” He noted that taxpayers are picking up the tab for poor eating choices. Texas is 6th in obesity- not a statistic to be proud of. The Legislative Appropriations Request will be for \$100 million in healthcare dollars for children. Along with all of the other needed items he believes it will be a tough sell. Some of the funding will be used as an incentive to reward schools that are innovative and creative in serving healthy meals. Additional money will be requested to educate young children on good health habits, in order to establish a template for a lifetime of good health. He also reported that consumption of all carbonated beverages would be phased out of the school day next year. It was suggested to the Commissioner that acid content be considered in the future when deciding which foods are eligible for school consumption. It was noted that it is sometimes difficult to get access to the schools. The Commissioner said that getting health into TEKS is essential and can be accomplished through TEA (Texas Education Agency). It was also suggested that an oral health position be mandated on each School Health Advisory Board in the state.

Dr. Paul Kennedy, AAPD Dental Home Initiative: Dr. Kennedy is the Texas chairperson for an initiative of the AAPD (American Academy of Pediatric Dentists) and Head Start to provide a dental home for young children, who may otherwise go without care. Texas is one of six pilot states. Eleven more states will be added in the near future. Work has been done to design a groundbreaking program. It seeks a great deal of collaboration from across the field of dentistry. The plan is to train both dental and Head Start people on optimal oral health prevention practices and assist Head Start programs in getting comprehensive oral health services for their children. A simple form is being planned for dental and Head Start staff to use in training parents. They are training the trainers to do the program. A “dental home” is a proven way to provide for optimal oral health for children. They hope to organize the dental societies across the state to develop a network of dentists to participate in the program. The ADA database will be used to store screening information and information from dentists willing to help. A letter or email will touch base with participant providers to keep them engaged. Many stated that being able to get an accurate picture of the number of Medicaid dentists in the state was important. It was noted that the Medicaid list would be “scrubbed” and updated in the near future.

Sandy Tesch, Permian Basin SOS Project: Sandy reported that 913 kids were screened, 904 received fluoride varnish during the project. Save Our Smile found 504 kids with routine dental needs, 254 who needed to see the dentist soon, and 155 with immediate needs. Dr. Forbes conducted a First Dental Home presentation during the event also.

Dr. Diane Forbes, First Dental Home Project: Dr. Forbes reported that the goal of the First Dental Home project is to provide care and repeated messages about good oral health for children 6 to 36 months of age. To date 24 trainings have certified 683 dentists. 2 hours CE credit is given by TAGD. The program serves mostly high-risk children who

may be seen every 3 to 6 months as the dentist thinks necessary. If the dentist is not a pediatric dentist, the child may be referred out to a pediatric dentist as needed. Parents have received the program well. Certification training involves what the dentist will do during an appointment with child, parent and siblings. Carries risk assessment is done at every visit with the parent. The oral evaluation and fluoride varnish in a medical home has been well received by physicians and RNs. 200 medical providers have received training to date. Drs. Forbes and Altenhoff will talk to students in the three Texas dental schools in the spring to certify them before graduation.

Nominating Slate, Johanna De Young, chair of the Nominating Committee, proposed a new at-large member, Beth Stewart, to replace Joleen Bagwell. Completing two year terms for 2009 were President Rex Law and Treasurer Anthony Bolin. Cindy Hines was named as Vice Chair and Sally Hopper as Secretary. Other members were Nancy Cline, Gene Stevenson, Sharon Dickinson, David Capelli, John Hederman, and Dorothy Calhoun.

Dr Anthony Bolin, Treasurer: TXOHC currently has a balance of \$5,139.86 in our bank account as of Dec. 4, 2008. Dr. Bolin has enabled TXOHC to become a nonprofit with a federal tax ID number, but we are not currently a 501(C)(3). We are not exempt from taxes under the current status. If we want to become a 501 (C)(3) late we can file at an additional cost.

Travel reimbursement: It was suggested that those who travel 150 miles or more can receive up to \$200. Those traveling fewer miles may receive up to \$100. Dr. Law asked for a show of hands of those whose employers would reimburse travel expenses, and if anyone had a company travel policy we could emulate? Currently the TXOHC has no revenue stream.

United Concordia proposal, Dr. Gary Delz: Discussion was held on the possibility of United Concordia's underwriting some type of TXOHC activity. Dr. Altenhoff told Dr. Law that the TXOHC could apply to be a Medicaid provider. Some of the group felt that the actual provision of dental services was outside of our goals and mission; others believed it was important to get out into the communities and actually do some type of activity for PR and to garner funds. After much discussion it was decided the avenue that best fit our mission and capacity to achieve was to continue having Annual Summit meetings. CE credit will be given and more public oral health-type topics will be presented. Participants will be charged admission and additional sponsors will be sought. Dr. Delz will discuss sponsorship with United Concordia. Sandy Tesch and Cindy Hines volunteered to be on the Summit Committee. Dr. Mickey Vaclav will help United Concordia connect with regional coalitions to facilitate charitable dentistry events held by United Concordia.

Dr. Anthony Bolin suggested putting an electronic version of the newly approved bylaws on our website. Dr. Johanna De Young will send bylaws to Dr. Bolin for that purpose.

Beth Stewart moved to proceed with the 501 (C)(3) status in the higher, more expensive bracket entitling TXOHC to all rights and responsibilities of a charitable nonprofit. Seconded. APPROVED. (13/2008)

Dr. Law will announce the next meeting at a future time, once details are in order.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05.

Rex Law, DDS, Chair

Sally Hopper, Secretary