

**Summit County Dental Task Force
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2006**

“Mission: To assure that all people in Summit County have access to dental care”

Members in attendance: Judy Burkett, Brenda Cox, Susan Gerberich, Dr. Sylvia Kramer, Penny Riley, Darlene Theodus, and Nancy Woolverton. Excused: Mary Agnes Kendra, Lori Johnsen.

Darlene called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. There were no minutes from the September 13, 2006 meeting to approve.

Sharing around the table:

Sue discussed changes in Healthy Connections Network:

- management of the Access to Care Program has been moved to Summit County Health District offices under Project Director Marsha Schofield. Service Coordinators continue to work out of Akron General Medical Center and Summa Health Systems. SCHD will be responsible for client enlistment until the Provider Service Coordinator position is replaced by Healthy Connections. The Pharmacy Coordinator works out of ACHR and covers 1/3 of enrollees in Access to Care. Mini-grants are distributed to community organizations to help, (i.e.) EACH, ASCA, ASIA, Inc., and others. There are fewer than 700 openings for clients before reaching the 2000 cap set by provider caps; when the cap is reached, slots will be filled as clients drop out. Because there is no more federal funding, eligibility requirements have relaxed to include all of Summit County with priority still given to those zip codes reflecting highest need (central and SW Akron,) and at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Also, because of legal trademark issues, Access to Care will be re-named.

Judy reported that the Beacon Journal Charity Fund is celebrating their 60th anniversary by releasing a newsletter to 2500 community supporters, with potential future issues to be published.

Brenda reported that United Way has a commitment of \$7,000,000 toward their goal of \$11,500,000.

Darlene continues to work on expanding the SCHD Mobile Dental Van access. Dr. Nicole Greenwood is a new dentist interested in part time hours to see both children and adults. Numbers of children seen through the school program are decreasing as school funding decreases.

Nancy has provided dental health education to third grade students in 70 elementary schools. A demonstration using chocolate pudding on a child's hand to visualize how important it is to clean all surfaces of the teeth has been very effective.

Dr. Kramer has been very disturbed by the increasing incidence of “meth mouth” in clients she sees in private practice. Use of methamphetamine results in excessively dry mouth and craving of sugar, and the user drinks a lot of Mountain Dew, resulting in a corrosive acid effect on the teeth. See <http://www.ada.org/prof/resources/topics/methmouth.asp> for detailed information.

In an effort to update the Task Force Report (Oral Health 2001), it was suggested by the members that a newsletter be published instead of a report. This suggestion will be taken into consideration after all of the data has been gathered and the report updated. The format will be decided at a later date. <http://www.healthysummit.org/pdf/SCHD%20Dental%20Report.pdf>

The next meeting of the Task Force will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, **February 21st** at SCHD.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Riley