

**Summit County Dental Task Force
Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2007**

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

Members in attendance: Sandy Brado, Chris Coenen, Brenda Cox, Susan Gerberich, Dr. John Gerstenmaier, Dr. Kenneth Knot, Lois Foster, Lori Johnsen, Mary Agnes Kendra, Paulette Kline, Darlene Theodus.

Darlene Theodus called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m. The minutes of the April 11, 2007 meeting were approved.

After introductions and welcome, Paulette Kline provided an update from the meeting held in Barberton on May 18th with Dr. Jim Lalumandier, Mr. Roderick, President/CEO of Barberton Citizens Hospital, Tom Harmon, Executive Director of the Barberton Community Foundation and other interested parties to discuss the dental needs for their community. They have decided to conduct an assessment of the dental needs for the Barberton/ Norton area to determine the next steps in developing a plan. Through their brainstorming, several ideas were generated:

- Possible dental residency program/satellite from the Summa clinic,
- Barberton Citizens Grant to have dentists work within the community on contract,
- Barberton Community clinic to contract with Summit County HD, Gene Nixon for the van
- Case management model of care

She also shared that the hospital administration met with her to discuss the possibility of Barberton City Health Department taking over the Community Clinic. This is only in the planning stages at this time as they would need a 501(3)c, not the health district. They currently bill the dentists for referral from the clinic.

ACHR – Discussed the closing of the dental clinic and its impact on the community. Ideally services will be provided to the community at a future date. They are in the midst of a master Strategic Plan for the clinic. It was suggested that someone from the Board come to the next meeting to report on the status of the clinic. Chris will contact them for this.

Dental Residency – Several members attended the Open House on June 11th for the Center for Dental Health at Summa, Akron City Hospital campus Professional Center North. The Center will begin scheduling appointments on July 9th. The opening of the new dental residency program will help eliminate some of the access to care issues, but will definitely not solve the problem.

Small Smiles Clinic – Dr. Knot shared his background information and provided information on the Small Smiles Clinic that is located at 883 E. Exchange Street in Akron. They have six - eight chairs, 12 – 14 dental assistants and 6 hygienists with 4 – 5 staff at the front desk. The clinics usually have a 50% show rate, with the 8 am – 1 pm time frame being the highest No Show slot. The hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. They would like to be considered for loan repayment for hiring the younger dentists, they do treat exclusively Medicaid. They are just starting to use a SFS. How are clients recruited for the Small Smiles Clinic? Since it is a for profit business, in the bigger cities it is much harder. They do have grass roots marketing programs in place. Their statistics showed that only 28% of those eligible for Medicaid sought care. The marketing budget is only 3% due to the culture seeking care at the clinics. (low literacy level, etc.)

OTHER ROUND TABLE SHARING:

- OPTIONS program has experienced loss of the older dentists signed up for the program, no longer helping out with the uninsured. There are approximately 320 members of the Akron Dental Society.
- Chris reported that they are looking into having a summer intern as well as the possibility of the Dentist reserve corps to assist with seeing adults on the van; will need to look into credentialing. Three to four volunteers to staff the clinic. Dr. Pressler retired.
- Paulette asked how the group can interface with the AHEC? (Dr. Mosher President of Portage AHEC)
- Dr. Gerstanmaier – the ODA provides scholarships, as well as the Akron Dental Foundation – Jim Claypool and Al Barlow scholarships; as well as DDS and RDH scholarships. Three recipients have moved back to the area to practice.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 22nd, 2007 at the SCHED.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Brado, RDH