

**Summit County Dental Task Force
Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2007**

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

Members in attendance: Dr. Ronald Hawes, Chris Coenen, Brenda Cox, Susan Gerberich, Dr. Trish Nichlas, Dr. Sylvia Kramer, Mary Agnes Kendra, Judy Burkett, Mark Batson, Marjorie Poda, Tracy Carter, Darlene Theodus.

Darlene Theodus called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m. The minutes of the June 20, 2007 meeting were approved.

After introductions and welcome, the first order of business was a discussion on the Dental Task Force Report. To date, the total contributions for printing are \$2,000. These contributions come from Healthy Connections Network (\$1,000), Akron health Department (\$500.00), and SCHD (\$500). It was the consensus of the members that we work within this budget for distribution, as no other funding has been generated. The group has concurred that we can curtail printing costs by reducing the print job to 500, print in black and white, or a reduced color palate, and by primarily distributing the report by linking it to major web-sites. Dr. Hawes offered to get an additional quote from a friend in the printing business, and Sue Gerberich suggested Litho Print for a reduced print rate. Chris Coenen found a way to transform the document into PDF format. It was suggested that a core group of individuals (Chris Coenen, Sue Gerberich, Mary Agnes Kendra, Gene Nixon and Dar Theodus) meet in September to finalize the project. A kick off for the release and distribution of the DTF Report was discussed. Through free ads in the paper and via e-mail, the word will get around that we have a report to distribute that can be picked up at several locations. Through our brainstorming, several ideas were generated:

- The DTF members were asked to think about and compile an e-mail distribution list for the report.
- Web-sites need to be identified for the distribution of the DTFR link.
- Additional print quotes need to be obtained.
- A kick off event to let the masses know about the new DTFR.

ACHR – Dr. Hawes, which sits on the ACHR Board, stated that 3 things need to happen to successfully run the dental clinic.

1. Triage approach: procedures to focus on immediate care, not reconstructive dentistry.
2. Ration procedures per patient per visit and do only basic and emergency care.
3. Co-Pay required for all treatment.

Dr. Kramer mentioned the “no show” rate which tends to run 50% in many clinics, but to offset that Dr. Hawes suggested a “walk-in” piece for the equation, with mandatory co-pay.

Mark Batson, Interim CEO of ACHR talked about the medical piece of the clinic which needs to be situated first, and then the dental clinic will be the focus to get it up and running once again. One of the main downfalls with the clinic was hand billing, which was more prone for mistakes and slows reimbursement. No back billing is currently being done. Mark stated that even with billing, Medicaid, and state funds, the clinic still ran short \$100,000. The other problem was that ACHR is located in an area where the population does not fit the criteria for a successful clinic.

Dental Residency –Tracy Carter stated that the new dental residency program is now taking emergency patients, but primarily those emergency patients within the hospital setting. 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. Nichlas mentioned that the clinic is now using a sliding fee for those patients without Medicaid and is taking emergencies.

OTHER ROUND TABLE SHARING:

- ✚ Dr. Hawes had some input on attracting and retaining dentists in the Safety Net Clinics. As we are aware, the salary is low, but the incentives can offset that. For example if the dentist has 20 patients scheduled as a quota, but sees 30 patients, there would be a monetary increase.
- ✚ Tracy Carter suggested having the DTF meetings at other locations and offered Summa to host the January meeting. Dr. Nichlas offered to host a meeting at Small Smiles as well.
- ✚ As a Task Force, we need to strengthen our membership, connections and resources. We also need to focus on the goals that lay ahead to ensure access to dental care.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October24th, 2007 at SCHED.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dar Theodus, RDH