

Summit County Dental Task Force
Minutes of the Meeting
May 18, 2009

PRESENT: Susan Johnson-Black, Judy Burkett, Peg DiMarco, Pam Eaton, Brenda Cox, Erin Dodds, Daren Fitzgerald, Lois Foster, Susan Gerberich, Susan Howard, Dr. Kramer, Deborah Marino, Gene Nixon, Penny Riley, Gill Solem, Evelyn Taylor, Dar Theodus, Dr. Wilhelm

Gene Nixon called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Gene Nixon asked everyone to introduce themselves. Gene gave a brief history of the Dental Task Force and noted that it has been in existence for 9 years.

MINUTES:

Dar Theodus made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Sylvia Kramer and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

ACHR:

Susie Howard, office manager for ACHR gave an update on the clinic. They are looking for a new location for the dental clinic. The current lease is up August 1, 2009, but they will not have a gap in services and they can stay at current location until they find a new home.

ACHR has received money from both the first and second federal government stimulus packages.

The ACHR Portage County dental clinic is seeing patients on a monthly basis.

DENTAL OPTIONS:

Erin Dodd's discussed the need for more dentists. Stark County has more participating dentists than the other surrounding counties. Summit County has a 1-2 year wait for treatment. Stark County has a 4-6 month wait and Portage County is a "disaster".

"PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT":

The project was held at The Chapel. Fifteen patients were examined by a dentist and sixty-three teeth were extracted.

Eighty-three immunizations were given and the homeless people were given clothing, haircuts, food and other necessities.

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There was discussion about the current access to dental care. Susie Howard, ACHR office manager, said patients are telling them that they are not getting antibiotics and pain medication in the emergency rooms. There is a need for follow up and better communication is needed between the ACHR Dental Clinic and the Summa Center for Dental Health.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dar Theodus opened discussion re: fluoride varnish. June 4 there will be a training session at Children's Services.

The University of Akron has applied for grants from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Kellogg in order to train dieticians to be able to apply fluoride varnish and also have funds to pay for the varnish.

Kent State University nurses are receiving training from ACHR at the WIC clinic.

Dr. Paul Casamassimo:

Dr. Casamassimo is a pediatric dental professor at Ohio State University and a practicing pedodontist.

He is very active in promoting fluoride varnish. He discussed the importance of prenatal dental care. If the mother's oral health is under control, bacteria are reduced to the offspring.

Emergency Room problems are common throughout the state. There is a huge need. He mentioned that nationalized health care would create a "wall of unintended consequences".

Tooth decay is not just an oral disease. There are many contributing factors.

Dr. Casamassimo distributed a "Reality Checklist for Safety Nets" and discussed the twenty-one points on the list.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Dental Task Force will be in early November. If you have a keynote speaker that you would like to hear, and you think they will stop by our meeting, please let Dar know.

Thank you Dr. Drummond for making the initial contact with Dr. Casamassimo to be our esteemed guest speaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Burkett, Executive Director
Beacon Journal Charity Fund, Inc.