



Board Report

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PROGRAM REPORT MARCH 2019

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Working with the Grey Bruce communities to protect and promote health

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Oral Health

The following highlights some accomplishments of the Oral Health Program in 2018 and provides a look at the directions we're heading in 2019.

Oral Health staff also participated in the Vision Screening Pilot project. That report is included here.

Reprocessing

We purchased upgraded reprocessing equipment in 2018 with plans to bring the new reprocessing room into service this year. New equipment includes two M11 sterilizers, a Hydrim washer, stainless steel counters and new cabinetry. The sterilizers will improve efficiency and help ensure staff spend the majority of time with clients, not cleaning equipment.

Screening

School oral screening is in full swing. This data identifies communities and schools with higher rates of decay, enabling us to prioritize our interventions. These may include focussing efforts in a specific community, Parent Mutual Aid site or expand our screening to higher grades, daycares or other community sites.

To ensure more time is spent with clients, we have switched to single-use screening mirrors. This saves multiple days of staff time spent reprocessing reusable mirrors. The mirrors go home with the children, so that they have a tool to peek inside their mouth. This, along with their dental health report card, enhances the likelihood of proper oral hygiene. The initial feedback from this change has been overwhelmingly positive.

Children's Oral Health Initiative

A survey is currently underway to assess client engagement in the Children's Oral Health Initiative within the First Nation Communities. The goal is to improve parental involvement in the program. This will be addressed in our 2019 work plan as we strive to have both communities provide greater input into program development.

Almost all Oral Health staff have completed Cultural Competency training; those still outstanding are scheduled to complete it this year. Staff participated in “Weaving Paths Forward: Truth and Reconciliation” last year and one staff attended “Traditions and Change; Cultural Competency”.

Vision Screening

The Vision Screening Pilot is being administered in conjunction with the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program, building on the experience and existing relationships the Oral Health program has developed with local schools. We are currently gathering feedback from parents and schools on their experience with the pilot.

Partnerships and Connections

In partnership with the South East Grey Community Health Centre in Dundalk, a dental /Healthy Smiles Ontario program information session for Mennonite women and their preschoolers resulted in a new clinic in a large local Mennonite school this April.

Children’s fluoride varnish is now available for healthcare providers. We supply the fluoride varnish with the nurse practitioner or physician actually applying it in their office to children. To date, four Family Health Teams and Community Health Centres are enrolled with the nurse practitioners typically administering this program. Meetings are ongoing with Family Health Teams to enhance oral health knowledge and awareness.

Relationships with Parent Mutual Aid sites continue to improve with robust connections in Port Elgin, Owen Sound, Hanover/Chesley/Walkerton and Meaford.

Looking Ahead

There is potential that the province may fund senior dental screening and oral health care in the near future. The Oral Health Program Manager has volunteered to sit on the provincial working group to develop this program – if it does take off.

Georgian College goes smoke-free

Georgian College is going completely smoke-free starting May 6, 2019, the first day of the summer semester. This applies to all properties including the Owen Sound campus.

Smoke-free policies are a positive move to support the health of staff and students and will reduce smoking and vaping rates as well as the use of other products.

The Tobacco Team is working with the Owen Sound campus to support individuals to quit. Working in partnership with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, STOP on the Road workshops will be offered on campus in April and again in the fall. Participants attend a 2-hour education workshop and receive a free 5-week kit of nicotine replacement therapy patches to support their quit attempt.

Information on local cessation services and provincial quit campaigns will be highlighted at a campus display booth in March. Resources will include information on the Smokers’ Helpline programs and quit challenges. Using trained quit coaches, Smokers’ Helpline

provides telephone support to individuals planning or working on a quit attempt. Additionally, the Smokers' Helpline First Week Challenge, WouldURather contest and Leave the Pack Behind offer age-tailored cessation programs that include cash prizes, free nicotine replacement products and proactive support calls, emails or texts.

Public Health worked with the Georgian College Student Association to explore strategies to assist students during this transition. Programs will be promoted through the Association's social media and on campus leading up to the May 6 kick off.