



Central Massachusetts Oral Health Initiative

Past Accomplishments

Through generous support from the Health Foundation from Central Massachusetts (HFCM), The Oral Health Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and St. Vincent Hospital/Tenet, CMOHI implemented the following initiatives since 2001. Several of these activities are still ongoing, while some are no longer in operation, as noted below:

- ♦ Establishment of the **Quinsigamond Community College Dental Clinic**, a clinical site of the Great Brook Valley Health Center (GBVHC), utilizing health center staff and over 50 volunteer dentists and hygienists to deliver services to MassHealth recipients and the uninsured. These volunteer dentists are now participating through the Partnering Program, allowing for greater points of service and the QCC Dental Clinic is now open on Saturdays only, administered by Commonwealth Adolescent Mobile Oral health Services.
- ♦ **Expansion of school-based programs** to serve the Worcester Public Schools through the UMASS Memorial Ronald McDonald Care Mobile and the Quinsigamond Community College Dental Hygiene Program, Great Brook Valley School Based Health Program and Family Health Center School Based health Program. Over 20 Worcester Public Schools are now served by these four providers. Family Health Center also serves the elementary schools of Webster, in southern Worcester County. These programs provide screenings, fluoride, cleanings, sealants and referrals for restorative services. (All programs are still in operation)
- ♦ **Introduction of fluoride varnishes** as an alternative to fluoride rinses in a school setting as a means for increasing the number of children who can receive preventive treatment.
- ♦ Oral health **outreach and education** for clients of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC), particularly those with children under age 5. (This activity is no longer in operation)
- ♦ **Education of primary care physicians** on screening, assessment, education and referrals for children who require oral health services.
- ♦ **Establishment of a dental residency program** at UMMS to increase the supply of dentists to Worcester and the surrounding communities. The first two residents started in July 2005. This is the fourth medical school in the country to develop a dental residency program without a dental school.

- ♦ **Introduction and passage of several state legislative Initiatives:**
- Passage of caseload capacity law which allows dentists to limit their massHealth case loads in order to make it more attractive for dentists to become MassHealth providers.
 - Examination of the use of a third party administrator (TPA) to administer the Medicaid dental program with a report on the costs and benefits of outsourcing due to the legislature in January 2006
 - Reinstatement of dental benefits for Medicaid pregnant members and mothers with children age 3 and under.
- Currently advocating for reinstatement of full adult dental benefits.

