Monterey County Oral Health Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Zoom Conference Call

2:00pm – 3:00pm

**Present:**

Patricia Garcia- Roosevelt Elementary School Parent Coordinator, Elizabeth Navarro- Smile California Representative, Catherine Arguelles – Smile California Representative, Lindsey Mauldin – CHDP Program Nurse, Alejandra Lopez - CHDP, Jacquelin Quintero – Monterey County Intern, Lizbeth Gomez – Early Learning Program, Maria Lopez – community member, Jairo Hernandez – Monterey County Health Department.

**Welcome & Introductions**

Jairo Hernandez convened the meeting at 2:00pm. Attendees were welcomed and introduced.

**Children’s Oral Health Month**

Last fall, Maria Lopez worked with the Monterey County Oral Health workgroup to develop and adapt a rack card from Los Angeles County’s oral health campaign. Los Angeles County’s tag line and artwork was incorporated into the rack card and the oral health messages was developed by the Monterey County Oral Health workgroup. The rack card targets families with babies and preschoolers to promote practicing good oral hygiene since birth, visiting the dentist by first birthday, and limiting sweets and sugar sweetened beverages. Printing and distribution of the rack card is expected to take place this spring.

Jairo mentioned that on February 6th, he did a live interview at La Buena radio station for two programs, La Voz and La Luna. Jairo provided information on Medi-Cal Dental, contact information on resources as well as information on practicing good oral hygiene, nutrition, and the connection of children’s oral health with overall health and school achievement. Both interviews were conducted in Spanish.

**Kinder Oral Health Assessment (KOHA)**

Jairo collaborated in February with Sherwood, Natividad and Rosevelt Elementary Schools to celebrate children’s oral health month and raise awareness of KOHA. Jairo dropped off oral hygiene kits along with KOHA packets that included a flyer, letter to parents and the KOHA form with information on how to find a dentist and on Medi-Cal Dental Services. Materials were distributed along with kinder registration packets.

**Partner Updates**

Alejandra Garcia shared with the group the update Medi-Cal Dental provider lists, CHDP medical provider list as well as an optometrist list that accepts CHDP. The list is intended to be circulated in the community to help families connect to care.

**Health Education & Outreach**

Jairo shared that a three parts series parent workshops were conducted virtually at Natividad and Sherwood Elementary. Workshops at Natividad were held on March 2nd, 9th and 16th. Workshops at Sherwood were held on March 1st, 8th and 15th. In addition the oral health program concluded the third workshop series on March 10th for parents from the Early Learning Program. Participants were eligible to receive incentives in form of gift cards for their participation in the workshops.

The oral health program intern conducted a series of in-person student presentations on March 8th and 14th at Natividad Elementary. Presentations consisted of providing students with information on tooth decay, plaque control, nutrition to promote healthy teeth and practicing good oral hygiene. Ensuring the presentation, students received an oral hygiene kit and stickers to promote brushing at home.

**Program Updates**

Jairo shared that the current oral health grant will be wrapping up in June and the new grant will begin in July until June 2027. Jairo mentioned that new grant will be more clinical based and will focus more on conducting dental screening at school campuses and creating community linkages in effort to connect children to dental care. The Oral Health Program is currently in the planning process in identifying target school districts, clinical partners and district contacts to develop MOUs. Jairo will continue to provide the group with more updates of the new grant in the incoming months.

**Meeting Adjourn**