Canadian Oral Health Strategy

Federal/Provincial/Territorial Dental Directors (FPTDD)
Dr. Steve Patterson, Chair

What is the FPTDD?
- Working group with terms of reference.
- Dental Director or Senior Dental Consultant for each province and territory.
- Dental Consultant for FNIHB.

Countries with National Oral Health Strategies
- Cambodia
- Finland
- Northern Ireland
- New Zealand
- Poland
- Scotland
- South Africa
- USA
- Canada appears to be one of few developed and even developing countries that does not have a national oral health strategy or plan...
What is a Canadian Oral Health Strategy?

• **A Canadian Oral Health Strategy (COHS) is a strategic planning process**
  – we look at where we are now, where we would like to be by a certain time, and strategies that can be used to get there.
  – key purpose of the COHS is to *improve the overall health of Canadians*, including identifying inequities in the system, disparities in health and barriers to achieving optimal oral health, and to address these using a strategic planning approach.

What a COHS is not!

• Everything for everybody regarding oral health.
• A textbook of oral conditions or their cures.
• Policy setting.
• A move to change the main source of oral health care or the delivery of dental services.
• A national oral health survey.

What Purpose will a COHS Serve?

• The COHS will provide governments, health regions and dental organizations with a framework for determining the degree of problems, recommendations or strategies for dealing with the problems, and a method of measuring the effect of programs that they might initiate.
The COHS Development Process

- **FPTDD initiated development**
  - Contracted review of variety of national oral health strategies from other countries.
  - Development of initial framework of strategy.
  - Zero budget, assistance from Health Canada, FNIB.

- **3 FPTDD Teams**
  - 1) Goals & Objectives
  - 2) Database & Monitoring
  - 3) Framework & Strategies

Stakeholders

- **Identify stakeholders**
  - 100+ organizations/individuals
    - All provincial/territorial governments
    - Federal government
    - Faculties of dentistry (9)
    - Dental organizations (3)
    - Provincial/territorial dental associations (9)
    - Specialty organizations (3)
    - Individuals - dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, DPH professionals, pediatric dentists
    - Others - Canadian Forces, Montreal Public Health, Capitol Health (Edmonton), Capitol Health (NS), CCCPG, CCCD, CIHI

Response from Minister

- “…I appreciate being made aware of the FPTDD’s activities…As Minister of Health, I welcome input concerning issues of prevention and health promotion...Please be assured that I note the FPTDD’s concern that oral health is underrepresented within Health Canada… I appreciate the FPTDD’s proactive efforts to embark on the development of a National Oral Health Strategy and look forward to receiving a copy of this strategy once it is completed…I assure you that it will be reviewed with proper follow-up...”
- Anne McLellan, Aug. 11, 03

Process

- Each of the following items went for review to FPTDD working group and then to all stakeholders for input:
  1. Format of COHS
  2. List of strategies
  3. Survey data
  4. Introduction
  5. Five Major Themes
  6. Whole draft
  7. Whole draft second version
Input on Strategies…

- For example, these 3 questions were asked of stakeholder organizations and individuals:
  - What can dental professionals do to improve public education and awareness?
  - What can dental organizations and/or regional health authorities do?
  - What can governments do?

Challenges…

- Funding (there is none)
- Need for increased national role by Federal government
- Varying expectations and ideas about what a COHS should be
- Ensuring that all stakeholders had opportunity for input and involvement
- Producing a document that can be accepted and used by a variety of organizations/individuals without being so generalized that it cannot be effective (i.e. how do you keep everyone happy?)

Process…

- Written reviews and comments from stakeholders were incorporated into the document.
  - Ranged from “wordsmithing” to realignment of topics to significant additions/deletions.
  - Overwhelming support for the development of a COHS and significant positive support for current draft document.
Where are we now?

- Draft of COHS now completed
  - Executive Summary
  - Section 1 - Introduction
  - Section 2 - Themes (with background, strategies, goals)
  - Section 3 - Conclusions
  - Appendices
  - References & Resources

What’s Next?

- Listening sessions (?)
- Final input & document
- Document sent to Minister
- Continued support for National Dental Director position/Canadian Public Health Agency
- Garnering official support and acceptance of the document
- Promoting/advocating
- Health Service Accreditation
- Determining/listing Best Practices

Themes

- 1) Oral Health Promotion & Awareness
- 2) Oral Health, Oral Disease & Disabilities
- 3) Improving Access & Reducing Barriers to Oral Health Care
- 4) Monitoring, Surveillance & Research
- 5) Human Resources

Contact FPTTD

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