

Kindergarten Dental Policy Meeting
Wednesday, November 4, 2015 | 1:00-3:00

Attendees:
Sarah Holland
Katherine Libby
Janet Wright
Tia Campbell
Myra Shook
Heidi Hertz
Marge Green
Kristen Gilliam

Vicki Brett
Frank luorno
Bridgette Brown
Julie Duregger**
Lisa Specter-Dunaway**
Susan Motley**

**Participated via conference call

Meeting Summary

The meeting opened with introductions and a reminder of the group's focus: exploring non punitive policies/strategies to increase the number of children with a dental home (by/before kindergarten).

Meeting attendees heard about two state dental screening programs/policies:

- Marge Green presented information about a dental screening protocol in South Carolina which has been piloted in certain school (attached);
- Bobbi Jo Muto and Gina Sharps from Marshall University presented information about West Virginia's recent regulation for a mandatory dental exam. As of 2015, a dental exam is included as part of the *Health Promotion through School Screenings/Examination* policy.

Nicole Pugar provided overview of VA State regulations related to school health screenings and the group discussed the potential barriers and possibilities to school health requirements related to oral health. In Virginia, health mandated screenings and exams (including immunizations, vision screenings and scoliosis checks) are included in code, which means legislation is an essential step.

Discussion resulted in consensus that there is no interest in advocacy around a dental "screening" and that focus should remain on helping children receive an exam and/or detailed assessment by a dental professional (dentist, dental hygienist). Group members shared ideas about engaging more dental providers and pediatricians in the conversation of how to address the issue, re-examining the school physical form to be more geared towards verification of a dental home and opportunities for dental providers to communicate directly with primary care providers regarding a patient's last dental visit.

Items for follow up:

- VaOHC staff will re-engage members from the VA chapter of the AAP to ensure involvement from pediatricians on the workgroup.
- Tia Campbell offered to look into the following: 1) including a question about whether a student has a dental home on the emergency contact card 2) checking with schools to find out who is currently providing school screenings, and 3) having someone from the Department of Education policy office join the groups next meeting (thank you Tia!)
- Nicole and Sarah will follow up with the West Virginia Dental Director for additional details on program creation.