

**-Governor's Advisory Council on Aging - Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee  
Oral Health Sub-Committee**

WORK PLAN 2009-2011

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**Approved September 10, 2009**

**Governor's Advisory Council on Aging - Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee  
Oral Health Sub-Committee - Work Plan 2009 - 2011**

<b>Goal: #1 Improve the oral health of older adults.</b>	
<b>Objective: 1.1 Promote free-to-affordable dental care.</b>	
Team Leader:	
Team Members:	
<b>ACTION STEPS</b>	<b>STATUS REPORT</b>
A-1. <u>HIGH PRIORITY</u> . Work with the Arizona Dental Foundation to determine how the association and foundations recruit dentists and dental hygienists to donate their services.	YR1. GACA staff will make contact with AZ Dental Foundation as part of Goal #1.
A-2. Determine how we can encourage and promote the donation of time by dentists and hygienists to provide care for older adults.	YR1. GACA staff will explore with Arizona Dental Association & Foundation how outreach is being done to determine ways Committee might support those efforts. Note: SB 1400, signed by Governor, authorizes Affiliated Practice Dental Hygienists to serve seniors as part of expansion of ages served under this arrangement effective September 2010.
A-3. Invite the associations and foundations to partner with us in achieving mutual goals.	YR2. Informal discussions on-going with the Arizona Dental Association and the Dental Hygienists Association. Next step is to seek GACA approval in conducting formal outreach to these and other organizations as part of work plan.
B-1. <u>HIGH PRIORITY</u> . Identify free-to-low-cost oral hygiene services and products and services for dental repairs and maintenance.	YR1. 3 lists have been identified. Need to verify and identify what fees will be responsibility of patient. Committee will work with students at A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health to carry out this task.
B-2. Compile a publishable list of these services and products for distribution through free channels.	YR1. Committee members will work with students at A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health to create a single resource list.
C. Research ways to encourage/promote sliding scale services or payment plans for older adults.	YR2. Sliding scale used primarily by clinics. Research in B-1 above will help identify several.

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<b>Goal: #1 Improve the oral health of older adults.</b>	
<b>Objective 1.2: Foster early intervention and treatment of problems associated with oral hygiene.</b>	
Team Leader:	
Team Members:	
<b>ACTION STEPS</b>	<b>STATUS REPORT</b>
A-1. <u>HIGH PRIORITY</u> . Establish a work group to recommend a strategy to: 1) Develop a cost-effective awareness program on the use of fluoride varnish by older adults; 2) Develop a cost-effective awareness program on the use of daily flossing by older adults; and 3) Organize a “Free Toothbrush” campaign.	YR2. Group will propose ideas on program to Sub-Committee/SHAC. The work group will do some brainstorming and research on ways to get free or low-cost toothbrushes.

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<b>Goal: #2 Increase access to educational opportunities on oral health for target populations, service providers, and the community.</b>	
<b>Objective 2.1: Promote seminars, workshops, and conferences on oral health.</b>	
Team Leader:	
Team Members:	
<b>ACTION STEPS</b>	<b>STATUS REPORT</b>
A. HIGH PRIORITY. Identify the populations, service providers and communities who can help promote seminars, workshops, and conferences on oral health.	YR2. The team has identified organizations, educational institutions and associations that are involved with education, training and promotion of oral health. These include: Arizona Dental Foundation; Arizona Dental Association; Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health; Midwestern University, School of Dentistry; Delta Dental of Arizona; Arizona Association of Community Health Centers; Arizona Department Economic Security, Division of Aging & Adult Services; St. Luke’s Health Initiatives.
B. HIGH PRIORITY. Enlist dental schools, dental association, community health centers, product distributors, etc. to expand educational expertise/opportunities related to oral health.	YR2. The Team has relationships with the 3 key organizations that can be approached to help promote seminars, workshops, and conferences on oral health: The Arizona Dental Association, the Dental Hygienists Association, and the Dental School. Committee member who heads up the “Dentistry in the Community” project to send students out into the community to events.

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<b>Goal: #2 Increase access to educational opportunities on oral health for target populations, service providers, and the community.</b>	
<b>Objective 2.2 Facilitate oral health education opportunities for caregivers of older adults.</b>	
Team Leader:	
Team Members:	
<b>ACTION STEPS</b>	<b>STATUS REPORT</b>
A. <u>HIGH PRIORITY</u> . Research available oral health education materials regarding older adults to include materials specific to assisting persons with developmental disabilities.	YR1. The Washington State Oral Health for Caregivers training manual is an available resource. Committee member from Washington will be the SME for this Team as they go through the manual and identify components that might be appropriate for distribution to caregiver provider agencies, to put on a website, or include in fact sheets for distribution. The Washington Dental Services Foundation (WDSF) has provided preliminary approval for use of the manual without charge. The WDSF has requested that their organization be recognized for development of the manual in printed form and during presentations. The WDSF would also appreciate the opportunity to conduct a train the trainer course in Arizona. Co-Chair will contact Direct Care Workforce for assistance in alerting the caregiver provider agencies about the materials as they become available. The Team will contact organizations that do family caregiver training and the ADRCs.
B. Inform various professionals (including caregivers, providers of home-based services, and staff at care facilities) about the Washington State Oral Health training module as potential for/within their caregiver training curriculum.	YR1. Co-Chair to contact DCW for assistance in alerting the caregiver provider agencies about the Washington State Oral Health training module. The Team will contact organizations that do family caregiver training and the ADRCs.

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<b>Goal: #2 Increase access to educational opportunities on oral health for target populations, service providers, and the community.</b>	
<b>Objective 2.3 Facilitate the distribution of educational materials on oral hygiene.</b>	
Team Leader:	
Team Members:	
<b>ACTION STEPS</b>	<b>STATUS REPORT</b>
A. <u>HIGH PRIORITY</u> . Adopt a consumer-oriented Oral Health Fact Sheet that includes simple care, statewide statistics, effects of poor oral care and resources for statewide distribution. Focus on importance of oral health, how to practice good oral health, and sources of care (resources).	YR1. Member has developed a draft Fact Sheet which was provided to the Sub-Committee on Oral Health for review. Draft will be placed on hold while Sub-Committee considers existing and appropriate materials in lieu of development, printing, and distribution costs.
B. Explore the availability and appropriateness of written materials on oral health and the importance of nutrition for older adults.	YR1. The team will collect written materials on oral health and nutrition. For example, the material developed by the Ohio Dental Association entitled "Dental and Oral Health (Seniors)" is being reviewed with particular interest by team members.

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<b>Goal: #2 Increase access to educational opportunities on oral health for target populations, service providers, and the community.</b>	
<b>Objective 2.5 Increase promotion and marketing efforts surrounding oral health for older adults.</b>	
<b>Note:</b> Partner with SHAC Hearing Loss Sub Committee to avoid duplication of effort in promoting initiatives of SHAC.	
Team Leader:	
Team Members:	
<b>ACTION STEPS</b>	<b>STATUS REPORT</b>
A. <u>HIGH PRIORITY</u> . Identify ways to provide information to the public on the specific campaigns, products, and messages contained in the Work Plan. (For example, assemble a set of vetted links and provide them to partner organizations to highlight on their websites).	YR2.
B. Enlist the assistance of various media in promoting oral health campaigns, health fairs, and educational programs, including providing free or low cost services.	YR2
C. Identify and partner with local community health centers, schools and health plans, etc. to educate and distribute materials on oral health, preventative measures, and benefits of adequate nutrition related to oral health related to seniors and person with developmental disabilities.	YR2

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<b>Goal: #3 Advocate for federal, state, and local efforts on oral health issues affecting older adults.</b>	
<b>Objective: 3.1 Monitor, evaluate and comment on legislation, policies, programs, funding, hearings and community actions.</b>	
Team Leader:	
Team Members:	
<b>ACTION STEPS</b>	<b>STATUS REPORT</b>
A. <u>HIGH PRIORITY</u> . Ask the GACA Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee (LPCC) to continue keeping a particular eye on legislation that affects dental care for adults.	ONGOING.
B. Through LPCC, obtain input from professional groups regarding legislation, policy changes, new programs they might propose. Also ask them to comment on policies or programs proposed by others. Such professional groups would be Arizona Dental Association, Arizona Dental Hygiene Association, Arizona Public Health Association, specifically the Oral Health Section.	YR2.
C. Through LPCC, advocate for federal, state, and local efforts on oral health issues affecting older adults.	ONGOING.
D. Support current continuing education efforts.	ONGOING.
E. Recommend that Sub-Committee members sign up for the Legislative Update Newsletter provided by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. (The newsletter can be acquired online at the GACA website: <a href="http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/">http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/</a> ).	YR1.