


Driving Public Health Policy: From Ideas to Reality



Nevada Public Health Association
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Nevada's Recent Oral Health Public Policy Efforts

- Identify and prioritize
- Build support
- Legislative process and outcomes




Nevada State Health Division Oral Health Program

- 2003 – CDC Infrastructure and Capacity Building grant!



RA 6 – Policy Assessment and Development



Children's Dental Health Project

"Dedicated to assisting policymakers, healthcare providers, advocates and parents improve **children's oral health** and increase their access to **dental care**."



children's Dental Health Project ...working for children's oral health.

<http://www.cdhp.org/>

Support state efforts to enhance their oral health infrastructure through promotion of progressive oral health policy.



CDHP Policy Tool

Provides a framework to:

- Identify policies
- Prioritize policies
- Develop an action plan

Essential Elements

- Facilitated process
- Tool
 - Part I - Assessing Opportunities for Policy Change and Systems Development
 - Part II: Developing a Policy Action or Systems Development Plan
- Guidebook

Stakeholders

- State Oral Health Advisory Committee
- Community Coalition for Oral Health
- Churchill, Lyon, Pershing and Storey Counties' Regional Oral Health Coalition
- Northeastern Coalition for Oral Health
- Central Nevada Oral Health Coalition
- Northern Nevada Dental Coalition for Underserved Populations
- Lyon, Pershing and Storey Counties' Regional Oral Health Coalition
- Nevada Dental Association
- Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Dental Medicine
- Great Basin Primary Care Association
- Nevada Health Centers
- Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union Welfare Fund
- Sierra Regional Center
- Head Start Association

Step 1-List opportunities for policy change or systems development

- Expand Medicaid coverage for adults - √√√√√
- Fluoridation for Washoe County - √√√√√ √√√√√
- Require oral health education in school curriculum - √√
- Mandatory oral health screenings for kids - √√√√√
- Medicaid coverage for pregnant women - √√√√√
- Soda tax to support health programs √√
- State funded school-based sealant program - √√√√√ √√√√√
- State mandated and funded Oral Health Program - √√√√√
- Universal free fluoride varnish for all children - √√√√√

Rank by number of votes (5 votes per person)

Step 2 - Evaluate the top 5

Ask:	About each opportunity:	What Rating?				
		1	2	3	4	5
To what extent is there a problem that is quantifiable through data sources (e.g. burden document)?	Fluoridation	1	2	3	4	5
	Sealants	1	2	3	4	5
	Mandated and funded State Oral Health Program	1	2	3	4	5
	Funding for rural services	1	2	3	4	5
	Mandated school curriculum	1	2	3	4	5

Additional questions

- To what extent will the policy or systems change **reach** the intended target **population**?
- To what extent does the **community** perceive a **need** for a policy or systems change (e.g., based on surveys or media reports)?
- To what extent do **oral health advocates** believe in the **urgency** for change in this area?

Calculate a total score for each question for each policy change

Step 3 – Evaluate Feasibility

1. Funding Options
2. Established “Return on Investment (R.O.I.)”
3. Regulatory Impact
4. Recognized supporter(s) among agenda setters
5. Recognized champion(s) to lead “inside” and broker alternatives
6. Strength, breadth, and history of supportive stakeholders
7. Strength, breadth, and history of opposing stakeholders
8. Catalyzing event or favorable timing

WORKSHEET TO SCORE FOR FEASIBILITY

Fluoridation

1) Funding options	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	(negative)	(neutral)	(positive)
	-3	-2 -1	0 +1 +2 +3
2) Established ROI	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	(negative)	(neutral)	(positive)
	-3	-2 -1	0 +1 +2 +3

Results: Total overall score

List of Policies	Step 1 Tally	Quantifiable through data?	Extent of reach?	Perceived Need?	Urgency?	Total Step 1	Feasibility - Step 2	Overall Score
Funding for oral healthcare in rural areas	11	4	5	3	4	16	16	32
State mandated and funded Oral Health Department	15	5	5	1	5	16	15	31
State funded school-based sealant program	13	5	5	3	5	18	12	30
Fluoridation	14	5	5	2	4	16	9	25
Oral health education in school curriculum	8	3	3	2	4	12	9	21

Next Steps

- Present at the January 2008 State Oral Health Summit
- Secure endorsement
- Incorporate into State Oral Health Plan
- Pursue legislative action (Part II Policy Tool)



Policy Tool: Part II

- Considers the basic sequential steps for formulating and moving public policy or systems development
- Provides a checkbox for each element so that those involved in the process can track progress in attaining the desired goal.

Steps 1-16

1. State the *Priority Policy Initiative* (from Part I) as a SMART objective. Know with absolute clarity the goal you seek – exactly what you want to accomplish and what you want the policymaking authority to do.
2. Have the information necessary to support your desired outcome including
 - a. a clear statement of need (using your *oral disease burden document* and *oral disease surveillance system*)
 - b. potential result if implemented
 - c. dollar costs
 - d. value in terms of benefit per dollar to be spent.

Steps 1-16

15. Implement your policy action or system development plan.
16. Reassess and modify your plan until success is accomplished



Next Speakers

- Dr. Michael Sanders – Building Support
- Jeanette Belz – The 2009 Legislative session