

ORAL HEALTH NEVADA NEWSLETTER



Vision: Empowering All Nevadans to have the best oral health possible.

September - October 2015

Oral Health Nevada Expands Mission and Membership

Oral Health Nevada Inc. was established in 2013 and received its 501(c)3 status in 2014. Oral Health Nevada is an independent, statewide oral health organization open to all stakeholders, professional and otherwise, in, but not limited to, dental, health educational, state and local government, financial and insurance agencies and organizations - all interested in the advancement and improvement of oral health for all Nevadans.

Poor oral health impacts general health in addition to children's learning and the productivity of adults. Earlier this year, Nevada received a grade of "F" for children's dental health in the Nevada Legislative Briefing Book, a document that provides a snapshot of some of the most pressing issues facing Nevada's children. The purpose of the information is to assist advocates and policymakers in creating positive changes to improve the lives of Nevada's children.

In Nevada, 47% of Head Start children and 64% of 3rd graders have experienced tooth decay and 29% of 3rd graders have untreated tooth decay.

"This is unacceptable," remarked Adriana Perry, Oral Health Nevada board member and Reno educator. "A child in pain in the classroom cannot possibly concentrate on the lessons being taught and time away from the classroom because of dental pain or having to visit the dentist takes away time from learning." Research demonstrates that more than 51 million school hours are lost annually due to dental related-illness.

Nevada's adults are also impacted by poor dental



Oral Health Nevada Schedules Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors and membership are scheduled to convene on Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 10:00am. The meeting, which will be conducted via teleconference, will present a report of the Chair and Treasurer, as well as an overview of 2015 accomplishments in addition to plans for the coming year. To RSVP and receive meeting information, send an email to secretary@oralhealthnevada.com

Action for Dental Health

In 2013, the American Dental Association (ADA) introduced *Action for Dental Health* – a community-based movement to improve the oral health needs of underserved residents of the US.

Action for Dental Health has three main goals: 1. Provide care now to people who suffer from untreated dental disease; 2. Strengthen and expand the public/private safety net; and 3. Bring disease prevention and education into communities.

In 2015, the ADA released a 2-year report on Action for Dental Health outlining the initiatives to support the goals which include services to address the oral health needs of seniors, children and those trying to access dental care through hospital emergency rooms. The report documents that in the US in 2001, 1.1 million dental ER visits were reported and in 2010, 2.1 million visits. Research done by UNLV School of Dental Medicine, shows that dental ER visits is similarly a problem at hospital emergency rooms in Nevada. Traditionally, these medical settings do not have licensed dental personnel to provide actual care, leaving physicians to provide palliative care and prescriptions – merely a band-aide rather than treatment of the disease.

For more information on the ADA's Action for Dental Health and to read the 2-year progress report, go to:
www.ada.org/en/public-programs/action-for-dental-health/



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health. Recent data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) implemented by the state health department, demonstrates that in Nevada, 23% of adults living with diabetes have lost 6 or more, but not all of their teeth, compared to just 9% of all Nevada adults.

According to Christine Garvey, Chair of Oral Health Nevada's Board of Directors, "This data demonstrates that oral health, especially among our chronically ill residents, is a very real problem in Nevada. As a former U.S. Surgeon General noted, it's a 'neglected epidemic.' It's our hope that Oral Health Nevada will facilitate the convening of stakeholders, professionals and residents across the state to identify, address and expand on the resources needed to improve oral health for all Nevadans."

For more information and to become a member of Oral Health Nevada visit our website at www.oralhealthnevada.com

REGIONAL COALITIONS FIND HOME ON THE INTERNET

Community Coalition for Oral Health (CCOH), the southern Nevada oral health coalition, and Northern Nevada Dental Coalition for Underserved Populations (CUSP), its northern Nevada counterpart, have found a home on the Oral Health Nevada website.

Information about the regional coalitions' leadership and mission, in addition to meeting minutes and upcoming meeting announcements are available. Contact information for each organization is also noted on the website.

For CCOH and CUSP information, go to:

www.oralhealthnevada.com/CCOH
www.oralhealthnevada.com/CUSP