

Appendix D

Illinois Oral Health Plan I

Evaluation Report Summary, February, 2006 - Background and Methods

In July 2005, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Oral Health contracted with the Illinois Prevention Research Center (IPRC) located at the University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health, Institute for Health Research and Policy to conduct program evaluation and provide technical assistance to the ongoing oral health activities in the state. The framework for the evaluation of the IL Oral Health Plan is based primarily on two sources, the CDC's *Framework for Program Evaluation in Public Health* and suggested strategies offered by representatives of the CDC, Division of Oral Health during their site visit to Illinois in early 2005. Data for this summary come from a series of 3 statewide *Stakeholder Forums* and 107 *Illinois Oral Health Plan Development and Implementation Surveys*. *Stakeholder Forums* were conducted as collaborative efforts between the oral health division of the state health department and the following entities:

- Illinois Dental Education Forum (March 28, 2005 – Springfield, IL)
- Illinois Rural Health Association Oral Health Forum (April 13, 2005 – Effingham, IL)
- Illinois State Dental Society Access to Care Committee Forum (July 6, 2005 – Springfield, IL)

Administration of the *Development and Infrastructure Survey* took place with the following:

- Illinois Dental Education Forum participants
- Illinois Rural Health Association Oral Health Forum participants
- Illinois State Dental Society Access to Care Committee Forum – members
- Illinois State Dental Hygienists Association – Board members
- Illinois State Dental Hygienists Association – House of Delegates
- Illinois Public Health Association Conference participants
- Illinois State Oral Health Conference participants

Recommendations

Based on the results of the *Stakeholder Forums*, the findings from the *Development and Implementation Survey* and interactions with staff of the Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Oral Health, the following recommendations are suggested:

- Overall, the plan has been received and viewed as a positive step for oral health planning and programming in Illinois both in its development and implementation
- The Stakeholder forums were viewed as a positive method for obtaining direct and specific feedback from the groups involved
- Specific recommendations from the Stakeholder Forums should be included in the next State Oral Health Plan
- Increase emphasis on inclusion of special population needs including the elderly and rural residents with regard to oral health care access
- For the next plan, it was highly recommended that specific 'benchmarks' be included as baseline measures to ensure and demonstrate progress. Issues concerning prioritization of activities and the costs associated with implementing these were also suggested
- The plan is often used for grant writing, strategic planning, legislative advocacy and as a community health planning tool
- Concern remains about the role of the RDH within the practice community including recommendations for the expansion of the role
- There is a strong desire for the continued and expanded role of the oral health educational sector in the planning process
- There should remain an emphasis on 'getting the word out' on oral health through conducting local and regional meetings as often as possible
- The work of the Division of Oral Health is very much appreciated

Prepared by: Illinois Prevention Research Center, UIC Institute for Health Research and Policy under contract from the Division of Oral Health, Illinois Department of Public Health