

2006 Oral Health

Planning Process

The second oral health plan was developed under the guidance of a Steering Committee with the input of community residents, dentists, dental hygienists, public health administrators, school officials, disability advocates, policy makers and other interested parties in Illinois. While all Steering Committee members may not have agreed with all recommendations, this plan represents the views of the many stakeholders involved in the process and provides a roadmap to ensure access to quality oral health care in Illinois. The plan represents a vision for the state to be accomplished by all engaged participants working in partnership at the state and local levels.

In May 2006, the IDPH Division of Oral Health convened the Statewide Steering Committee to review the existing oral health plan, provide updates to the plan, and oversee a process that would result in distribution of a second five-year plan by January 2007. Based upon the evaluation of the first IOHP Planning Process (see Appendix D), the Committee was expanded to include rural health leaders and organizations that represent persons with disabilities to assure input from these specific underserved populations. The Committee met throughout the summer and fall of 2006, and hosted seven Town Hall Meetings, culminating in a Statewide Summit in Springfield on November 13, 2006. A draft of the plan was disseminated at the Summit for public input and comment.

The seven Town Hall meetings were hosted during the summer of 2006 in the following communities: Galesburg, Carbondale, Rockford, Downer's Grove, Champaign, Chicago, and Maryville. The same five questions were discussed at each of the town hall meetings to ensure the collection of consistent data in each region of the state (see Appendix E). Although many of the issues addressed through IOHP I were not raised during the 2006 town hall meetings, some continued to be voiced in all areas of the state. Those unresolved recommendations from the first plan were added to the list of recommendations received in the IOHP II planning process to produce this comprehensive plan of action.

Five subcommittees of the Steering Committee were formed to focus on each of the goal areas, to review the state priorities and recommendations, and to develop the strategies for implementation. The subcommittees included both Steering Committee members and community participants who provided additional resources and information to complete the draft plan. The Steering Committee met in the fall of 2006 to discuss the details of the draft plan and develop plans for the Statewide Summit. The Committee developed the Summit agenda, recommended speakers, and coordinated the invitation process for the Summit.

The Statewide Steering Committee would like to express its sincere appreciation to the following organizations for hosting the seven Town Hall Meetings:

- Knox County Health Department
- Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Center for Rural Health and Social Services
- National Center for Rural Health Professions, University of Illinois School of Medicine, Rockford
- DuPage County Health Department
- Champaign County Health Care Consumers
- Illinois Primary Health Care Association
- Madison County Health Department

Town Hall Meetings

