



WNC Children's Oral Health Initiative

Registration is Open!

WNC Children's Oral Health Initiative invites you to join us to identify the best strategies and next steps to help **improve children's oral health and services.**

[Click Here to Register](#)

There will be two strategic planning sessions; the agenda is the same for both days. You may register for one or both sessions.

WNC Children's Oral Health Strategic Planning:

January 9, 2019 from 9:00 - 12:00 at Lake Junaluska Conference Center for Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, & Transylvania Counties

January 16, 2019 from 9:00 - 12:00 the NC Arboretum in Asheville for Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, & Yancey Counties

Breakfast and snacks will be provided. Please forward to others interested in working to improve children's oral health.

Be ready to roll up your sleeves and collaborate with community, dental, and medical partners to chart our course for 2019. We need your voice, your knowledge, and your willingness to help!

NC Public Health Association Conference a Big Success

The NC Public Health Association Conference celebrated the Oral Health Section's 100th birthday in style. A few highlights from sessions that could help us improve children's oral health in WNC:

We heard about the Oral Health Section's work to build a collaborative practice between dental providers and medical providers to improve care for women during pregnancy. A new **Perinatal Oral Health Collaborative Framework** was released. The goal is to **strengthen medical-dental collaborative practice to improve maternal oral health to help babies have a good start in life.** Did you know that pregnancy complications have been linked to oral bacteria that has been located within the amniotic fluid? And that most young children acquire caries-



causing bacteria from their mothers, so a mother's poor oral health will likely cause the child to have poor oral health.

The American Dental Association **Community Dental Health Coordinator** curriculum is being taught by Alamance Community College to dental assistants and dental hygienists as continuing education. These new dental positions are to help community members find the care they need. Those that have hired CDHCs have seen their no show rates for appointments drop significantly. And community members have a trusted community member to help them navigate the system.

The Division of Public Health's Oral Health Section unveiled their **Oral Health Snapshots** that give us key oral health data by region. These snapshots will be on the [OHS website](#) in mid-January.

There were many more conference sessions that were excellent. Nice job NCPHA!

NC Oral Health Collaborative

a program of the Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation

NC Oral Health Collaborative brings together partners from across the state to improve the oral health status of all North Carolinians. **Dr. Zachary Brian has going the team as their Program Director.** Dr. Brian recently served as a Dental Director leading initiatives for Fair Haven Community Health Care, a Federally Qualified Health Center in New Haven, Connecticut in partnership with Yale University. Prior to this role, Dr. Brian served in Indian Health Service as Site Director for the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. To learn more about their work and to review their excellent resources, visit their website at www.oralhealthnc.org.

[Checkout the Reframing Oral Health Communications Toolkit Here](#)

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