



WNC Children's Oral Health Initiative

Results from Oral Health Strategic Planning

Thank you for those who were able to participate in the **WNC Children's Oral Health Initiative's** Strategic Planning Session(s). Your input has helped us identify actions to take in each region.

Strategies both Regions 1 & 2 chose include:

- Assure all providers are saying the same thing about when to get care, where to get care, and the importance of getting care;
- Expand and deepen oral health partnerships that encourage primary prevention and a dental home for children on Medicaid; and
- Expand oral health services in primary care practices (Into the Mouth of Babes)



Region 1 Strategic Planning

Participants met at Lake Junaluska on January 9th and also identified an additional strategy:

- Expand services in childcare centers and schools.



Region 2 Strategic Planning

Participants met at The NC Arboretum January 16th and also identified an additional strategy:

- Enhance oral health literacy of families, policy makers, and health care providers.

Next Steps

Those that said they were interested in leading, collaborating, or supporting these strategies in our region will be contacted about next steps. If you were not able to join the Strategic Planning Sessions but wish to participate, please email [Nelle Gregory](#) and she will put you on an action team!

Resources to Improve Children's Oral Health

At the sessions, there were a few websites and resources we wanted to share with you. Dr. Susan Mims mentioned the work happening at [Harvard School of Dental Medicine](#)

Initiative to improve the integration of oral health and medicine. The [blog post](#) by Dr. Lisa Simon does a great job of summarizing their work.

The **American Academy of Pediatrics Oral Health Initiative** works to improve children's oral health through communication and collaboration between medical and dental homes. They have created a [policy statement](#) for physicians to improve children's oral health, as well as a [clinical report](#) on oral health for children with developmental disabilities.

North Carolina Division of Public Health Oral Health Section trains medical providers to deliver preventive oral health services to young children insured by NC Medicaid. [Into the Mouth of Babes](#) program provides an oral evaluation and risk assessment, parent/caregiver counseling, fluoride varnish application, and referral to a dental home. In addition, NC Oral Health Section released the [Oral Health During Pregnancy: NC Collaborative Practice Framework](#) to provide guidelines for providing oral health to pregnant women.

There was discussion about the role of **Care Coordination for Children (CC4C) Programs**. CC4Cs are able to provide follow-up for children on their oral health and have added a new oral health measure to track their progress. CC4C is an at-risk population management program that serves children from birth to 5 years of age who meet certain criteria. To find the CC4C in your county, check out this [list of CC4C providers](#) or call your local health department.

The strategies reviewed at the Strategic Planning Sessions were pulled from the Surgeon General's **National Call to Action to Promote Oral Health**. It gives more details about the strategies we will build on regionally.

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