AAPD E- News provides the latest information about AAPD’s continuing education, new products/services and other news related to the AAPD and Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children: The Foundation of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry activities.

AAPD Head Start Dental Home Initiative Update

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) and the Office of Head Start have created a partnership to address the silent epidemic of children’s tooth decay and help parents and caregivers secure quality dental homes for all Head Start children.

Head Start Dental Home Initiative Launches Scheduled for First Six States

State launches will take place during September and early October 2008 for the first six states entering the network development phase of the AAPD Head Start Dental Home Initiative. The launches for Connecticut, Maryland, Tennessee, Michigan, Texas and Washington will bring together each State’s Head Start Dental Home Leadership Advisory Team and an initial group of mentorship teams for training that will establish a common knowledge base for individuals from the dental and Head Start communities. State leaders will oversee the development of state-wide networks comprised of pediatric dentists and general dentists who will provide quality dental homes for Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) children. AAPD members interested in participating in the Head Start Initiative are encouraged to contact their respective state leaders.
**Connecticut**
Doug Keck  
991 State Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 787-3669  
dougkeck@earthlink.net

**Michigan**
Daniel Briskie  
806 Tuuri Place  
Flint, MI 48503  
(810) 768-7585  
briskie@mottchc.org

**Maryland**
David M. Hasson  
602 Center Street, #203  
Mt. Airy, MD 21771  
(301) 829-6588  
davidhasson@verizon.net

**Texas**
Paul Kennedy  
6200 Saratoga Boulevard  
Building #1  
Corpus Christi, TX 78414  
(361) 992-9500  
pkennedy@gte.net

**Tennessee**
H. Pitts Hinson  
612 Eton Court  
Franklin, TN 37064  
(615) 791-6534  
pittshinson@bellsouth.net

**Washington**
Dr. Sidney R. Gallegos  
926 S. 348th  
Federal Way, WA 98003  
(253) 924-0717  
doc@sidneyrgallegosdds.com

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**Check out the Head Start Dental Home Web Site**

The AAPD Head Start Dental Home Web site is continuously being updated. Please visit us at [http://www.aapd.org/headstart/](http://www.aapd.org/headstart/) where you will find the latest information on initiative-related activities. AAPD members can also find detailed information in the members-only section of the Web site located at: [http://www.aapd.org/members/headstart/](http://www.aapd.org/members/headstart/)

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**Members Have a History of Partnering With Head Start**

Over the years, many AAPD members have formed positive relationships with their local Head Start Center. These dentists not only provide dental homes for Head Start children, but they engage in preventive and educational activities as well. The following quote from Dr. Nick Rogers, Region VII Oral Health consultant and affiliate member of AAPD, illustrates how this can be a positive as well as challenging experience.

"For me, the thrill comes from the excitement of the 4-year-olds as they experience a dental office. The energy of that age group is challenging but their enthusiasm for everything is contagious. On that day, as in past years, it was not uncommon to see children living with over half their teeth filled with decay and several with draining..."
fistulas. This year, as those 4-year-olds bounced into the office some struggling with incredible dental issues, I met the challenges with a sense of hope and excitement. Providing a dental home to all children is a huge task and reaching out to their parents is challenging but if that task is broken down into smaller increments it makes it easier to achieve our goals."

Opportunities for Involvement

To date, 143 members have contacted AAPD to express an interest in becoming involved with the Head Start Dental Home Initiative. This response is encouraging as it reflects the desire of AAPD members to give back to their profession.

As AAPD President Beverly Largent said, "The initiation of the contract between the Office of Head Start (OHS) and AAPD represents an important opportunity for our members to carry out the mission and vision of the AAPD. Through the Head Start Dental Home Initiative AAPD members will demonstrate that we are the leaders in representing the oral health interests of all children. Participation in the initiative will provide testament that our members are willing and able to reach out to those in our own communities who have traditionally lacked the resources to care for the oral health of their children. This initiative truly offers the opportunity to provide for the oral health and oral health care for children."

Opportunities are also available for members in every state across the country. If you do not live in one of the first six pilot states, but would like more information about opportunities for involvement, please contact Head Start Dental Home Project Manager Jan Connelly at jconnelly@aapd.org or visit our Web site at http://www.aapd.org/headstart/.

You have been subscribed to this list as an AAPD member to better inform you of news and upcoming events. Please do not send responses to this message.

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