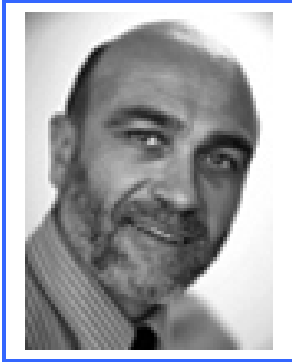


2009-2010 Report of the Child Advocate



James J. Crall
AAPD Child Advocate

Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide comprehensive child development experiences, including health services, for approximately one million low-income pre-school children annually, including children with special health care needs. Responsibilities during 2009-2010 included serving as Project Director for AAPD's 5-year, \$10 million Head Start Dental Home Initiative (DHI) contract from the Office of Head Start (OHS) and serving in the capacity of a half-time Oral Health Subject Expert at the Office of Head Start in Washington, DC. Prominent DHI-related activities included:

- Serving as liaison to the OHS federal contract officer and project officer;
 - Participating in DHI State Launches in HI, WV, VT, IN, SD, VA, MS, SC, DC, NH, MO, CA, NJ and IL;
 - Participating in the Head Start Expert Workgroup Meeting, Washington, DC;
 - Participating in DHI Advisory Group Meetings for Region XI (American Indian/Alaska Natives) and Region XII (Migrant & Seasonal Head Start Programs), Washington, DC;
 - Development of educational DVDs for dental professionals, Head Start parents and Head Start Staff on the importance of oral health care for infants and young children, and what Head Start programs do to emphasize oral health as part of comprehensive child development;
 - Periodic conference calls with AAPD Head Start Regional Oral Health Consultants and Head Start State Leadership Teams.
- Serving as the OHS Oral Health Subject Expert also afforded the opportunity to participate in revision of the Head Start Performance Standards, particularly those related to oral health.

Representing AAPD at Meetings with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Agencies in Washington, DC

- July 24, 2009: Meeting with Ms. Cindy Mann, newly appointed Director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Center for Medicaid State Operations and CMS staff to discuss AAPD priorities for Medicaid and CHIP.
- August 4, 2009: Meeting with Dr. Mary Wakefield, newly appointed Administrator for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and HRSA staff to discuss AAPD priorities.
- December, 2009: Meeting with Dr. Howard Koh, newly appointed DHHS Assistant Secretary for Health to discuss pediatric oral health priorities. Dr. Koh recognized the

AAPD Head Start Dental Home Initiative as one of seven noteworthy DHHS programs during a presentation at the 2010 National Oral Health Conference.

- March, 2010: Participated in CMS Listening Session on development of a Medicaid national oral health performance measure.
- Being part of the Office of Head Start (as the OHS Oral Health Subject Expert) also has allowed me to participate in the recently reconstituted DHHS Oral Health Coordinating Committee, which has been charged with identifying strategies to be pursued by DHHS agencies to improve the oral health of Americans and reduce oral health disparities.

CHIP Reauthorization (CHIPRA) Quality Measures Development Activities

- *Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) Subcommittee on Quality Measures for Children's Healthcare in Medicaid and CHIP*
AHRQ partnered with CMS to lead efforts to identify an initial core quality measurement set suitable for regular voluntary reporting by Medicaid and CHIP programs as required by the CHIPRA legislation that was enacted in January, 2009. AHRQ also has been asked to provide technical assistance to CMS as it develops best practices for measuring and reporting quality, and for adopting and utilizing core child health quality measures in administration of Medicaid and CHIP, to be completed by 2013. I was invited to participate as a member of the AHRQ Subcommittee (see attached invitation letter), which met in July and September, 2009 and identified 25 initial measures, three of which were related to pediatric dental services. The final core measure set recommended by the Secretary of DHHS for implementation in 2011 contained two dental measures that States currently are required to report on annually as part of their CMS-416 EPSDT data.
- *NICHQ/NQF Child Health Quality Measures Invitational Conference*
January 21-22, 2010: I was invited to participate in a conference convened by the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ) and National Quality Forum (NQF) to articulate a framework for measurement priorities for child health, with the goal of informing the upcoming measure development program to be established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as specified in the Child Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 / CHIPRA legislation (see attached invitation letter).

Representing AAPD on the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) Steering Committee

AAPD was invited to be a member of the Dental Quality Alliance Steering Committee initially convened by the ADA in December, 2009; and I was asked to represent AAPD for a term that expires in December, 2012 (see attached invitation letter). The DQA is being developed with encouragement from CMS as a parallel entity to organizations that have been formed for physicians and pharmaceutical organizations. The goal of the DQA is to develop and disseminate oral health care performance measures, and to educate the profession about performance measures and their application.

Representing AAPD for Institute of Medicine (IOM) Oral Health Committee Activities

I provided oral and written testimony on behalf of AAPD at the initial meetings of the IOM Committee on Oral Health Access to Care (March 4, 2010) and the IOM Oral Health Initiative Committee (March 31, 2010), both of which were convened in Washington, DC.

Copies of the respective testimonies were posted on aapd.org. I also represented AAPD at a meeting arranged by the ADA on March 8, 2010 with IOM President Harvey Fineberg to discuss concerns regarding the composition of the two committees and how ADA and AAPD could be involved. Agreed to serve as the AAPD liaison to the IOM Oral Health Committees.

Support for State Dental Organizations and State Agencies

The AAPD Child Advocate frequently is called upon by AAPD state units, state dental associations and/or state oral health coalitions to participate in State Medicaid/CHIP activities or State Oral Health Forums. Activities of this type in 2009-2010 included:

- July, 2009: Consultation with plaintiffs' attorneys concerning federal Medicaid litigation involving Florida's dental Medicaid program.
- September, 2009: Invited presentation at Wisconsin Head Start Oral Health Forum.
- October, 2009: Invited presentation at Virginia Oral Health Summit.
- March, 2010: Invited presentation at a meeting convened by the Austin Group, a group of 20+ state dental association representatives, to discuss state responses to mid-level provider initiatives.

Additional AAPD Activities:

- AAPD Ad Interim Board of Trustees Meeting – Torrey Pines, CA, October, 2009.
- AAPD Winter Board of Trustees and Planning Meetings – Chicago, IL, January, 2010.
- AAPD Council of Government Affairs, ex-officio member.

Advisory Committees:

- Consultant, American Dental Association Council on Access, Prevention & Interprofessional Relations (CAPIR), 2007-present.
- Member, American Academy of Pediatrics Oral Health Initiative Steering Committee.

Publications:

- Crall JJ. Oral health policy development since the Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health. *Acad Pediatr*. 2009 Nov-Dec;9(6):476-82.
- Morgan MA, Crall JJ, Goldenberg RL, Schulkin J. Oral health during pregnancy. *J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med*. 2009;22:733-739.
- Principal author for AAPD Analysis and Policy Recommendations Concerning Mid-level Dental Providers. *Pediatr Dent* 2010;32:21-26..

International Meetings

October, 2009: Met with representatives of dental organizations and health officials in Australia and New Zealand to learn about the use of dental therapists in those countries. Learned of changes in NZ that involve a strategic shift from school-based services provided by dental therapists to community-based clinics where therapists work as part of teams headed by dentists, consistent with a national strategic plan for improving oral health.