



4th Annual New England Rural Oral Health Conference



“Improving Rural Oral Health Through Innovative Programs”

September 11, 2009

New England Center at UNH, Durham, NH

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Presented by:

The New England Rural Health RoundTable

In Collaboration with:

Connecticut State Office of Oral Public Health

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Oral Health Program

Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, Office of Oral Health

New Hampshire State Oral Health Program

Rhode Island Office of Oral Health

Vermont Department of Health, Office of Oral Health

Up to 5.5 CEUs will be available through the NH Dental Society for this event

PROGRAM

7:30 – 8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 Keynote: "Oral Health for the Rural Underserved: Stories from Appalachia"
Dr. Edwin Smith, General Dentist and Founder, Kids First Dental Care, Barbourville, KY

Dr. Smith, who was featured in the recent ABC 20/20 documentary on Appalachia, came up with a unique approach in 2004 to increasing access to oral health for children in eastern Kentucky. Using his own funds, he purchased an 18-wheel truck, outfitted it with used dental equipment, and currently drives it several days a week to schools in 16 counties, providing free preventive and restorative care to children who otherwise never see a dentist. In this keynote session, Dr. Smith will set the framework for the day by sharing some stories from his remarkable program, along with a discussion about the challenges he faces in maintaining his private practice while meeting the needs of the public he serves.

9:30 – 10:30 Plenary: "Is There Oral Health in Health Care Reform?"
Tricia Brooks, Senior Fellow, Center for Children & Families, Georgetown Health Policy Institute

Ms. Brooks will present a primer on SCHIP versus CHIPRA, which stands for the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (the legislation that extended and funded CHIP) through 2013. The presentation will provide detail regarding the dental provisions and what states are doing to provide greater access to oral health services for children in New England.

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 12:00 Improving Oral Health Access in the New England States

Representatives from each of the six New England state oral health offices will discuss efforts to improve access to oral health services. The panelists will focus on efforts within states to change roles for practitioners or to change the scope of service abilities for providers.

Panelists:

Nancy Martin, Oral Health Program Manager, NH

Judith Feinstein, Director, Oral Health Program, ME

Linda Ferraro, Program Coordinator, State Office of Oral Health, CT

Office of Oral Health, VT

Lynn Bethel, Director of Oral Health, MA

Office of Oral Health, RI

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 Concurrent Roundtable Conversations

Six concurrent roundtables will be facilitated by individuals with extensive background in the topic areas. This will be an opportunity to learn and share information in the following areas:

- Local oral health grassroots advocacy and coalitions
- School-based oral health programs
- Foundation support for oral health programs
- Mobile dental clinic operations
- Connecticut’s oral health carve out program
- Clinical delivery innovations/virtual dentistry

2:00 – 2:15 Break

2:15 – 2:30 Brief presentation on plans for the new Dental School at the University of New England

2:30 – 4:00 “Alternative Models and Emerging Practitioners: National Perspectives”

The American Dental Association (ADA) and the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) have developed positions on alternative models of providing services. In addition, other states have moved ahead with emerging dental practitioner models. This session will provide an opportunity to hear from the ADA and the ADHA and to learn what changes have been made in the state of Minnesota.

Panelists:

Mike Scandrett – Minnesota Safety Net Coalition

Dr. Jane Grover – representing the ADA government affairs office

Megan Fitzpatrick – representing the ADHA government affairs office