



Red River Valley
**Dental
Access**
Project

**Progress and
Participation Report:
The First
Three Years
2000 - 2003**

Mission

The Red River Valley Dental Access project is an oral health coalition that is committed to improve access to oral health care through advocacy, education, expanding and developing the workforce, assuring services and creating unified strategies to improve access.

History:

The Red River Region Community Dental Access Committee was formed in 1997 to address the critical and growing problem of access to oral health care especially for low-income, uninsured or Medical Assistance eligible individuals and their families. In 1998, through the support of Dakota Medical Foundation, the committee solicited the help of Oral Health of American to facilitate a conference with regional stakeholders and discuss the issues and possible strategies to resolve the problem. In November 1999 a follow-up meeting was held for strategic planning which set the stage for a grant that was awarded by Dakota Medical Foundation in 2000 for the development of the Red River Valley Dental Access Project (RRVDAP). RRVDAP is now a non-profit, non-governmental, 501-(c)(3) organization led by a board. Many committed individuals and agencies have actively been a part of this process and many who continue to be active on the board represent, health and dental (public and private) professionals; legislators; representatives from Minnesota and North Dakota Departments of Health and Departments of Human Services; representatives from local human service programs; county health departments; Dakota Medical Foundation; managed care; MN State Community and Technical College, North Dakota State School of Science, University of Minnesota Dental School.



Programs

Advocacy:

- Worked with over 1000 callers to identify dental care opportunities.
- Annual surveys to local dental providers to determine access opportunities.
- Fargo Forum presented a 3 day series of issues related to accessing dental care in July 2002.
- Surveyed Long Term Care organizations about dental access.
- Involvement and collaboration with organizations, programs and communities developing strategies to improve dental care.

opportunities, collaboration with Representative Kevin Goodno in acquiring the MN "Guest Licensure" bill for the Urgent Care Program.

Education/Prevention

"Healthy Smiles for the Red River Valley " education/prevention project program

3 components:

- "Healthy Smiles for the Red River Valley"; HRSA- Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program grant, targeting low-income children and families.
- "Healthy Smiles for the Red River Valley – Special Populations"; ND Oral Health Grant Allocation, targeting

- special populations and their caretakers such as nursing homes, Developmentally Delayed, residential programs, child care and others.
- "Healthy Smiles for the Red River Valley – Celebrating Diversity"; F-M Area Foundation grant, geared towards education activities and activities that increase understanding planned for 2004

Over 2,200 children and their families have been provided education and or/dental supplies. 138 professionals have been provided training as well as 60 assisting/hygiene students. Two oral health education brochures for ages 0-3 and 4-5 have been developed and have been translated into Bosnian and Somali.

Education/Prevention Activities

- United Way School Supply Drive
- Romkey Park Parent's Resource Fair and Centro Cultural Fall Fiesta
- WIC Office – Fargo and Wahpeton
- Head Start in Moorhead, Dilworth, Mahube
- Head Start in Park Rapids, Detroit Lakes; Fargo/Cass, Valley City, Jamestown
- Daily Discoveries
- Wal-Mart Health Fair
- NTC Dental Hygiene Student Screening Training
- “Give Kids a Smile Day” Screening Project in collaboration with NTC and CHARISM Center
- CHARISM After school Program – Oral Hygiene Instruction
- Dakota Boys Ranch
- Partners in Parenting – Detroit Lakes, Park Rapids
- MSUM Health Fair – Moorhead
- Fargo Schools ELL – Hjemkomst
- Kindred High School –Health Fair
- Friendship Inc.
- ShareHouse
- Mental Health Association – Social Club
- Fraser
- Girl Scouts
- Svee Home
- Northwood Nursing Home
- Richland County Public Health
- Sheyenne Health Care Center – Valley City
- Family HealthCare Center (National Health Center Week)
- Valley Eldercare
- Southeast Counties Nurses Meeting - Ransom county hosting
- Luther Memorial Home in Mayville
- Lakota Good Samaritan Center
- Roseadele Nursing Home – Jamestown
- Hillsboro Medical Center – Nursing Home
- DWAC
- Bethany Homes
- Woodside Village Nursing

Our thanks to the many partners who have collaborated with us on these activities, including dental hygiene and assisting students from both MN State Community and Technical College and ND State College of Science, Apple Tree Dental, and the CHARISM Center as well as members of our Advisory Committee.

Expanding and Developing The Workforce

The Red River Valley Dental Access Project has worked collaboratively to recruit dentists to programs serving underserved.

Our Partners at Work:

Providers:

Family HealthCare Center:

- FHC, Clay County Public Health, Migrant Health, Dakota Medical Foundation and MN DHS collaborated to fund and operate a new 5 operatory dental clinic in Moorhead in 2000. The Fargo and Moorhead Clinics are now fully staffed.

Apple Tree Dental:

- Expanded to six operatories as of 9-00, currently fully staffed

North Dakota and Minnesota Dental Associations:

Both associations have worked to secure a dental loan repayment program, Donated Dental Service and supporting continued and increased dental coverage under Medicaid programs.

NDDA trustees visit the regional dental schools yearly to meet with dental students and promote dentistry in ND as well as promoting dentistry as a career at high school career fair opportunities.

MN Legislative Action:

MN legislative dental initiatives in 2001 included dental access grants, incentive-based reimbursement, dental advisory committee, student loan forgiveness program, licensed foreign trained dentists, expanded role of dental auxiliaries, increased reimbursement rates/selected areas, retired dentist program, and in 2002, guest licensure, Donated Dental Services Program, Volunteer Health Care Provider Program.

ND Oral Health Department:

The ND Oral Health Department was awarded a grant from the Center of Disease Control (CDC). This grant will be used to strengthen its oral health program and reduce inequalities in the oral health of the state's residents. RRVDP is carrying out portions of this project through education.



Assuring Services:

An Urgent Care/Walk In Dental Clinic for low-income, uninsured or Medicaid eligible individuals began in June 2002. This program is a collaborative effort between the local private dentists, oral surgeons and Family HealthCare Center. The program which is open on Tuesday nights and two Fridays a month during the school year has served nearly 1000 patients from over 60 communities in our region. This clinic has been successful because of the dedication of all these partners which includes the dentists who have volunteered their time.

Participating Dentists

Dr. Paul Abrahamson	Dr. Stacy Goodwill
Dr. Matt Alm	Dr. Dennis Hetland
Dr. Tom Anderson	Dr. Brent Holman
Dr. Jon Anderson	Dr. Steven Hoiium
Dr. Geoffrey Bentley	Dr. Mark Jung
Dr. David Brant	Dr. Joel Kangas
Dr. Richard Callender	Dr. Charles Klemz
Dr. Byrum Cartwright	Dr. Ron Kolb
Dr. Wayne Christianson	Dr. William Kranzler
Dr. James Colbert	Dr. James Lancaster
Dr. Gary Cornforth	Dr. William Larson
Dr. Todd Debates	Dr. Jim Lichtsinn
Dr. David Dobmeier	Dr. Dan Lysne
Dr. Nicholas Dorsher	Dr. Brian Mathison
Dr. Darin Edeen	Dr. Chris Mathison
Dr. Jay Erickson	Dr. James McDonald
Dr. Tom Fellman	Dr. Dan Mengedoth



Dr. Terry Moe
Dr. Lynne Olson
Dr. Gerald Parker
Dr. John Pollard
Dr. David Rostad
Dr. Bill Savage
Dr. E. Kent Shirley
Dr. Heather Skari
Dr. Lee Simmons
Dr. William Stearns
Dr. Jay Taylor (Providing
Endo)
Dr. Robert Toutges
Dr. David Tranby
Dr. Paul Tronsgard

Dr. Marvin Ugland
Dr. David Vogelsang
Dr. John Volkerding

Participating Oral Surgeons

Dr. Charles Crago
Dr. James Glore
Dr. John Hicks (Oral Pathology)
Dr. Paul Iverson
Dr. Gary Lindemoen
Dr. Edward May
Dr. Scott Preisler

Other Activities

Mobile Dental Services

In March of 2002, Medica sponsored the University of Minnesota Mobil Dental clinic to come to Moorhead and serve the Medica population who was finding it difficult to access care. This project successfully treated over 60 patients with

the collaboration between Northwest Technical College, Clay County Public Health, Family HealthCare Center and RRVDAP.

Donated Dental Services

The Donated Dental Services Program was activated in 2000 in North Dakota and the Moorhead area. Since it's beginning through July of 2003, 85 patients have been treated at a value of \$152,621. Dentists donate they care for patients who meet criteria and need extensive work completed. MN is currently developing the process in this state.

Give Kids A Smile Day

The American Dental Association sponsored its first "Give Kids A Smile Day" in February 2003. The RRVDAP collaborated with the local Southeast District Dental Society in this Project to connect kids in need with participating dentists. The following dentists saw over 40 kids:

Richard Callender	Michael Keim
Brad Clark	Fred Lundstrom
Tom Fellman	Brian Mathison
Melinda Harr	Lynne Olson
Dennis Hetland	David Rostad
Chris Hieb	Paul Tronsgard
William Hunter	David Vogelsang
Brent Holman	Robert Toutges



Financial Information

The Funding for all programs and activities sponsored by RRVDAP for FY 2002-03:

Dakota Medical Foundation 58%

All other Grants 26%

Fundraising/Contributions 8%

Revenues from Urgent Care 4%

Other 4%

Grants

- American Academy of Pediatrics CATCH Grant – collaboration
- Dakota Medical Foundation – 3-year seed grant, 2003 – extended grant
- Dakota Medical Foundation Extended Grant
- Dakota Medical Foundation Matching Program
- Dakota Medical Foundation Board Member Discretionary Grant
- Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation
- Foundation for Dental Health Education
- Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program (Maternal Child – HRSA, DHHS)
- Minnesota Department of Human Services
- North Dakota Oral Health Department
- Otto Bremer Foundation

Donors

Access Champions

\$1,000 plus

- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Dakota Dental Service Corporation*
- Corwin-Wilson, Mgmt, LLP
- Brent Holman, DDS*
- Michael Keim, DDS*
- Robert Kline, DDS
- James McCulley, DDS*
- North Dakota Dental Foundation*
- Lynne Olson, DDS*
- Orthodontic Associates-Shelley Townsend, DDS*
- Prairie Oral Surgery- Edward May, DDS
- Southeast District Dental

Society of North Dakota

- Swansons Health Products*
- James Werre, DDS
- Anonymous donors

Access Partners

\$500 – 999

- David Dobmeier, DDS
- Fellman and DeBates, DDS
- Mr. and Mrs. Larry Groves
- John Hicks, DDS
- J. Christopher Hieb, DDS
- William Hunter, DDS
- Paul Tronsgard, DDS
- James Werre, DDS

** Indicates more than one donation.*

Access Sponsors

\$ 100-499

- Paul Abrahamson, DDS*
- Alerus Financial
- Jon Anderson, DDS
- Geoffrey Bentley, DDS
- Wayne Christianson, DDS
- Jay Erickson, DDS
- Fellman and DeBates, DDS
- Paul Fredrikson, DDS
- Philip Gattuso, DDS
- Melinda Harr, DDS
- David Hegge, DDS*
- William Hunter, DDS
- William Kranzler, DDS
- James Lichtsinn, DDS
- Ronald McClure, DDS
- James, McDonald, DDS

- Memorial from the Staff of Robert Kline
- Gina Nolte
- North Dakota Dental Hygienists Association*
- Gerald Parker, DDS
- Ron Peterson, DDS
- E. Kent Shirley, DDS
- Raymond Simmons, DDS
- Tooth Achers, LLC,- J. McDonald, P. Tronsgard, E.K. Shirley, DDS
- David Tranby, DDS
- Valley Dental Center, PC-Bruce Tofteland, DDS

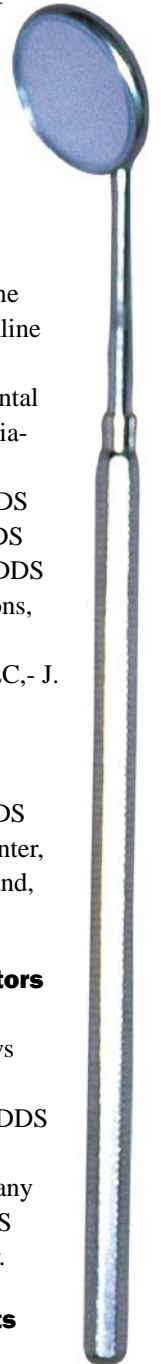
Access Contributors

\$1-99

- Integrity Windows
- David Manning
- R.E. McKibben, DDS
- RDO Equipment
- RD Offutt Company
- David Wells, DDS
- Arthur Wilson, Jr.

Donated Products

- Brasseler USA
- Crest
- Lynne Olson, DDS
- Lee Simmons, DDS
- Specialized Care Company
- Sullivan-Schein Dental



Thank you to all of our contributors. We couldn't do it without you!



LEADING THE WAY

Healthy Tomorrow's Advisory Committee

Carole Steidl	MN Sate Community and Technical College
Desi Fleming	Cass County Public Health – Baby Steps Program
Hollie Harrington	ND State Oral Health Consultant
Rosemary Wiese	Family HealthCare Center
Gyda Anderson	Clay County Public Health
Debbie Olson	ND Healthy Tracks
Kim Vance	WIC
Linda Broers	MN State Community and Technical College
Leslie Witte	MN Child Teen Checks
Sue Uhler	Clay-Wilken Head Start
Laetitia Ntakarutimana	Fargo Head Start
Faye Smile Aakre	Native American Programs



Staff

Executive Director

Gina Nolte

Education/Prevention

Coordinators

Becky Lommen, RDH
Mary Sandy, RDH
Paula Wilson, RDH

Urgent Care Dental Assistants

Kathy Bonnichsen
Sharon Brown
Kim Burton
Del Enno
Kim Fagre
Nichole Haug
Gretchen Linder
Julie Nelson

RRVDAP Board of Directors

James Lichtsinn, DDS (President)
Betty Windom-Kirsch (Vice-President)
Sherlyn Dahl (Sec/Treasurer)
Brent Holman, DDS (Past President)
Fowzia Addie
Joan Altenbernd
Maija Beyer
Dan Boedigheimer, DDS
Wayne Christianson, DDS
Carl Ebert, DDS
Stacy Goodwill, DDS
Mike Helgeson, DDS
Mary Kay Herrmann
John Hicks, DDS
Judy Lee
David Manning
James McDonald, DDS
Lynne Olson, DDS
Carol Steidl
Judy Vorachek
Ray Weisgarber

Moorhead
Clay County Public Health
Family HealthCare Center
Fargo
Representative from Refugee Community
Migrant Health
North Dakota State Oral Health Department
Apple Tree Dental
Moorhead
Apple Tree Dental
Family HealthCare Center
Apple Tree Dental
Fargo Cass Public Health
Dakota Clinic/Dakota Medical Foundation
West Fargo – ND State Senate
Prairie Oral Surgery
Fargo
Fargo
MN State Community and Technical College
Fargo Dental Hygienist
LTC – Bethany Homes

Our Thanks to previous Board members:

Karla Abdo - MN Legal Services
Linda Broers - MNSCTC
Tom Fellman DDS
Jean Holthusen, Consumer
Lisa Job CDA
Kathy Mangskau
Dan Mengedoth DDS
Bill Savage DDS
Mark Schaffer DDS
Heather Thimjon NDSCS

**To learn how you can
further support this effort
call 364-5364.**





Red River Valley
**Dental
Access**
Project

To learn how you can further support this effort call 364-5364.