

Priority list of top five critical issues (some issues were combined)

- **PROJECT COORDINATOR**
- **EDUCATION/PREVENTION**
- **REIMBURSEMENT/FUNDING**
- **RECRUITMENT**
- **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

GOAL STATEMENTS/OBJECTIVES

Planning participants divided into five groups based on their interest in working on a subcommittee on one or more of the critical issues. Subcommittees identified a contact person and then met to develop goal statements, objectives, and action steps. The subcommittees met again independently in early 2000 to further develop and refine their objectives. The following subcommittee reports include changes and additions made prior to April 1, 2000.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Project Coordinator/Coordination

Goal Statement: To facilitate/direct the implementation of the strategic plan to improve access to dental care for the Red River Valley

Objectives:

1. To gather data and community input on oral health access issues on an on-going basis
2. To schedule and facilitate meetings of the steering committee and associated subcommittees
3. To prepare agendas and record meeting minutes
4. To work with community stakeholders to develop systems of care which address access barriers
5. To develop projections of resources needed for short and long term objectives
6. To prepare and submit grant proposals to obtain funding for the implementation of the plan
7. To prepare and submit progress and final reports
8. To gather and report data for on-going evaluation of the project
9. Develop a public relations campaign

10. Develop parameters to support individual and community efforts that advance the goals of the coalition

B. Education/Prevention

Goal Statement: To increase understanding and awareness of oral health and access issues.

Objectives:

1. Develop strategies to develop public education messages to improve oral health
2. Educate the low-income public on how to access services
3. Educate the public on the importance of early and ongoing oral health
4. Develop strategies to educate professionals on dental issues
5. Develop a plan to keep policy makers informed on oral health issues

C. Reimbursement/Funding

Goal Statement: To ensure an adequate funding for dental public programs and identify and obtain private funding to support the efforts of the RR valley Community Dental Care Project

Objectives:

1. To ensure an adequate level of reimbursement to providers for dental services.
 - a. Maximize federal funding through primary health and other available resources and through federal matches of state Medicaid programs
 - b. Increase reimbursement rates to 75-85% of UCR, then assess effects on provider participation.
 - c. Develop tiered reimbursement rates to assist providers with more extensive public program patient populations.
2. To reduce overhead expenses of providers by decreasing administrative expenses in public dental programs.
 - a. Work with state health and human service agencies in ND and MN.
 - b. Work with health plans to reduce administrative burdens on dental providers in MN.

3. To fund overall expenses for coordinating the Dental Care Access Committee and its work groups (explore tobacco settlement funding).
4. To identify funding streams in both public and private sectors at the local, state and national levels to support the above.

D. Recruitment

Goal statement: To provide an adequate supply of dental professionals in the Red River Valley now and in the future.

Objectives:

1. To increase awareness of oral health professionals among high school and college students.
 - a. Develop career educational materials and fact sheets for high school counselors, etc.
 - b. Attend career fairs.
 - c. Develop and distribute list of local dental providers serving as mentors to colleges.
2. Provide opportunities for dental students to experience community based dentistry.
 - a. Develop dental mentorship program for Red River Valley.
 - b. Develop dental externship programs.
 - c. Explore the development of Red River Valley dental residency program.
3. Develop incentives to attract dental providers to underserved areas.
 - a. Secure appropriate designation status.
 - b. Work with state legislators to develop and expand scholarship and loan repayment programs.
 - c. Raise awareness of federal incentives for candidates.
4. Distribute community dental profiles to prospective candidates.
 - a. Gather information on local dental practices and incorporate into booklet form for distribution.
 - b. Conduct vacancy and turnover rate surveys and track trends.
 - c. Conduct dental school program visits annually to disseminate practice information.
5. Develop recruitment and retention committees.
 - a. Identify practice vacancies and conduct a recruitment/retention workshop.
 - b. Track personnel turnover rates.

E. Emergency Services

Goal Statement: To provide necessary emergency dental services for all

Objectives:

1. To develop and implement a dental call list and achieve call participation from 100% of dentists.
 - a. Hire a Project Coordinator responsible for dental call schedule.
 - b. Establish knowledge of the need for and necessity of participation in a dental call program with area dentists.
2. To establish protocols for accessible dental referrals.
 - a. Work with dentists to improve processes for scheduling for urgent needs.
 - b. Develop emergency dental access protocols for area healthcare facilities.
3. To provide dental emergency care education for area emergency department and urgent care physicians.
 - a. Develop a consumer education tool for access to emergency services.
 - b. Provide education to handle minor dental issues.

Appendices

- A. List of Red River Dental Access Committee Members (See Printed Report-not available online)**