

HealthyCommunities

Summer 2003

Oral Health

Good oral health begins with brushing and flossing twice a day and visiting the dentist twice a year. The twice a day routine can be done easily at home. Unfortunately, the twice a year routine is not always easy. Under the leadership of Dr. David Reece, President of the Hanover-Adams Dental Society, and William Taft, Executive Director of Healthy Adams County, the Oral Health Task Force's mission is to prevent and control oral disease and to provide greater access to dental care.

To look at the complex issue of access to care, the Task Force worked with the Healthy York County's Oral Health Task Force in coordinating the first Dental Summit for York and Adams counties. The program, held on May 9, 2003, was hosted by WellSpan Health System with the support of the Healthy York County Coalition and Healthy Adams County.

Dr. Burton Edelstein, a well-known pediatric dentist and founding Director of the Children's Dental Health Project, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Edelstein consults on children's oral health issues and on Medicaid/CHIP for policy makers and other professionals.

School Nurses

In the good old days, a visit to the school nurse happened when you fell off the monkey bars or you got sick after too much sugar for breakfast. In today's world, school nurses need to be aware of the dangers of domestic violence, drug and alcohol poisonings, diabetic reactions, ADHD, obesity and inactivity, and even pregnancy.

The Children's Health Task Force sponsored an in-service day for the School Nurses of Adams County earlier this year. In addition to hearing from many of Healthy Adams County's task forces, the training featured a round table discussion on children's and adolescent's health issues led by Dr. Scott Jaeger.

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New Faces

There are two new faces working on the fight against tobacco in the partnership this summer, Sarah Kitchen and Devin Gebhart.

Sarah Kitchen, a recent graduate of Shippensburg University, has been hired as the Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program Assistant. Sarah is utilizing the web-based reporting system designed by the DOH which records various tobacco related activities and programs that have been organized within Adams County.

Sarah's other projects include a survey of area



restaurants on current smoking policies, a brochure for restaurant owners on becoming smoke-free, and a smoke-free dining guide for Adams County.

Devin Gebhart, a junior at the Pennsylvania College of Technology, has been hired as the Tobacco Database Intern for the summer of 2003. His duties include updating the tobacco component of the Healthy People 2010 database through the most recent statistics at the national, state and local levels. Devin is also responsible for identifying and maintaining tobacco resources to facilitate the activity of the Tobacco Control Program in providing education, prevention and cessation programs to the people of Adams County.

Skatepark News



Local youth have been working with Skatewave professionals to design the Gettysburg Alternative Sportsark slated to open in summer 2003. The skatepark is a collaborative project between the Borough of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Area Communities that Care, an affiliate of Healthy Adams County. The Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program, funded through the PA Department of Health (DOH), continues to grow as they work towards minimizing tobacco use in Adams County.

HAC Goals

The goals for Healthy Adams County have been released by Executive Director, William Taft and the Board of Directors:

1. Address community needs assessment priorities.
2. Achieve improved balance, coordination, and participation of local and regional resources in addressing health status needs.
3. Establish optimum organizational structure for governance, management, and coordination of resources.
4. Attain greater local recognition for the Partnership and its affiliated Task Forces.
5. Establish a system of accountability for use of resources to improve health status.
6. Achieve financial viability and sustainability.

Children on List of Priorities



It was a day of clowns, entertainment, eats, and festivities. To the casual observer, it was a day "Under the Big Top" for kids of all ages. A closer look, however, also showed the dedication of nearly 70 exhibitors who participated in the 7th Annual Health & Safety Day for Kids on May 4.

Several Healthy Adams County task forces took part in the event which attracted nearly 1,000 children and their families. The Tobacco Task Force was one of several task forces who participated in the event. Others included Adams Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Domestic Violence Task Force, Safe Kids Coalition, and Communities that Care. The annual event is sponsored by Gettysburg Hospital, 1320 WGET, Gettysburg Times, and Allstar Events Complex with the support of Belco Community Credit Union and WPMT Fox 43.

Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) telephone survey, currently being conducted in Adams County, is about half complete. Each month, 100 adults are interviewed, which will produce 1,200 local surveys by the end of 2003.

Healthy Adams County is one of eight State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) partnerships affiliated with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to be approved for this study, which will provide a data report on a wide range of self-reported health status behaviors within our local community.

This survey promises to yield valuable information about local health status and needs, and make comparisons possible with state and national population data. It will also provide information on the progress of Adams County toward the Healthy People 2010 Objectives for the Nation.

Latino Needs Addressed

With its rural beauty, historic focus, and proximity to the major metropolitan centers on the East Coast, Adams County is a great place to live, work and play. In fact, Adams County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state.

One of the fastest growing segments of the population are the Latinos. Their rich cultural heritage and traditions bring a vitality to the county. It also brings challenges, especially for health and human services

To help us better understand each other, the Latino Services Task Force is sponsoring a workshop, Latinos in Adams County: Rights, Responsibilities, and Resources, on September 16 at Gettysburg College.

The workshop is intended to raise awareness of the cultural issues, resources and efforts underway to deal with the challenges. Watch for your Save-The-Date card in the mail soon.

New Web Address

The Healthy Adams County web page can now be accessed through a new domain www.healthyadamscounty.org Task Force pages are currently under construction and should be completed in early summer.