

The U.S. Oral Health Workforce in the Coming Decade: A Workshop

Tracy A. Harris, DPM, MPH
April 19, 2009

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



IOM At-a-Glance

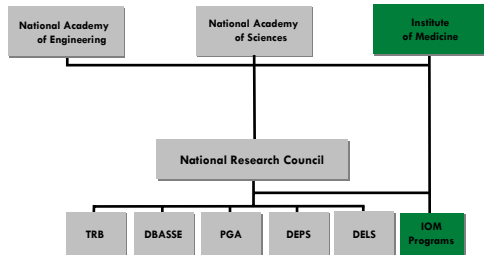
- Established in 1970
- Private, independent nonprofit
- Chartered by Congress as part of the National Academy of Sciences
- 150+ dedicated staff
- 40+ published reports per year



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



The National Academies



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



How We Are Organized



- Honorary membership
- Policy research organization

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



What We Do

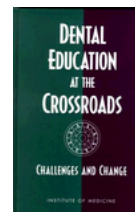
- Offer unbiased advice
- Issue evidence-based recommendations
- Act as a convener
- Shape health policy



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



Consensus Studies



- 22 recommendations
- 4 broad objectives:
 - Improve knowledge of “what works”
 - Reduce disparities
 - Encourage prevention
 - Promote attention to oral health

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



Convening Activities

- Forums and Roundtables
- **Workshops**
- Symposia and lectures



20

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

How Did This Workshop Come About?

- Planning meeting – July 2007
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- California HealthCare Foundation

20

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Statement of Task

“...to examine the current oral health care workforce and consider how that workforce contributes to problems of access to oral health care services.”

continued

20

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Statement of Task - #1

What is the current status of access to oral health services for the U.S. population?

- Underserved populations
- Connection between oral health and overall health and well-being

20

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Statement of Task - #2

What workforce strategies hold promise to improve access to oral health services?

- New types of providers and new roles
- Relationship between oral health, public health, and medical health care workforces

20

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Statement of Task - #3

How can policy makers, State and Federal governments, and oral health care providers improve the regulations and structure of oral health care delivery to improve access to care?

20

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Planning Committee Members

- **David N. Sundwall** - *Chair*, Utah Department of Health
- **Marcia Brand**, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- **Daniel Derksen**, RWJF Institute for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico
- **Len Finocchio**, California HealthCare Foundation
- **Shelly Gehshan**, Advancing Children's Dental Health Initiative, Pew Center on the States
- **Beth Mertz**, Center for the Health Professions, University of California, San Francisco

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



#1 - The Current System

- Connection Between Oral Health and Overall Health and Well-Being

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



Current Oral Health Needs and Status of Access to Care

- Early life cycle
- Older adults and disabled persons
- Rural populations
- Indian Health Service
- African American populations
- Hispanic populations

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



Current Demographics and Future Trends: Dental Workforce

- Dentists
- Dental Hygienists
- Dental Assistants

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



Current Demographics and Future Trends: Non-Dental Workforce

- Physicians
 - Family Practice
 - Pediatrics
- Nurses
 - NYU collaboration
- Integration

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



Current Delivery Systems

- Private practice
- Medicaid-focused practices
- Community health centers

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



Current System: Challenges

- Education and training
- Regulation
- Financing
- Quality Assessment

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

#2 - Workforce Strategies

- What are the ethical principles and obligations to increasing access?

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

The International Experience

- Australia
- The Netherlands

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Examples of Workforce Strategies

- Community Dental Health Coordinator
- Dentex: The Dental Health Aide Therapist in Alaska
- Oral Health Practitioner
- Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice (RDHAPs)

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES *continued*

Examples of Workforce Strategies

- Virtual Dental Homes
- Oral Health Impact Project
- Health Commons
- Pediatric Oral Health Educator

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES


**#3 – Reframing the System:
Who will provide leadership?**

- Representative Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD 7th), U.S. House of Representatives
- Panel discussions:
 - State and federal government
 - Educators
 - Advocates

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Themes



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Criteria of Report Review

- Content is clear and comprehensible
- Accurately reflects presentations and discussions
- No statements implying overall consensus
- Impartial and objective treatment of sensitive policy issues
- Proper attribution

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

The U.S. Oral Health Workforce in the Coming Decade

www.iom.edu/oralhealthworkforce

tharris@nas.edu
(202) 334-2918

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES