



April 2018

# What's the issue?

- Childhood tooth decay is the most chronic, yet preventable, infectious disease in children
- 50% of tooth decay in low income children goes untreated disrupting early development
- There is a significant shortage of dental providers serving children on MN Healthcare Program insurances

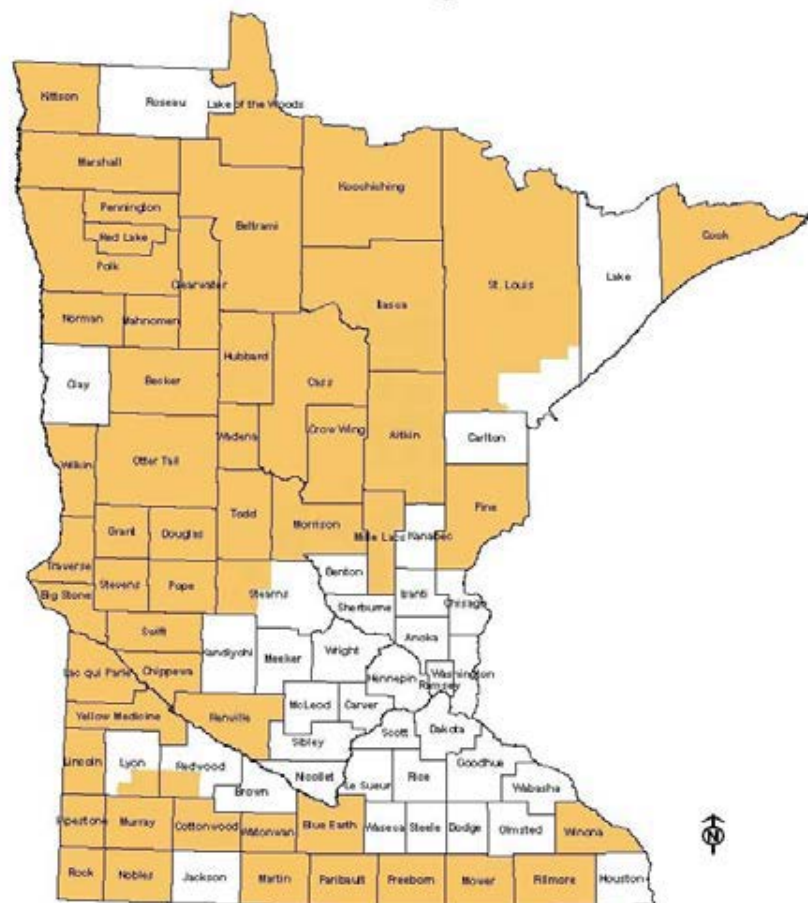
# State of Children's Oral Health – National Data

- >51 million school hours are missed each year due to dental-related illness
- Over 164 million work hours are lost annually due to dental disease
- Pediatric dental disease is a primary reason for emergency room visits for children
- ~17 million children in America have no dental care each year.



# Health Professional Shortage Areas

## Dental Designations



Data Source:  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Office of Rural Health and Primary Care  
State DD-HPSA June 2011.mxd



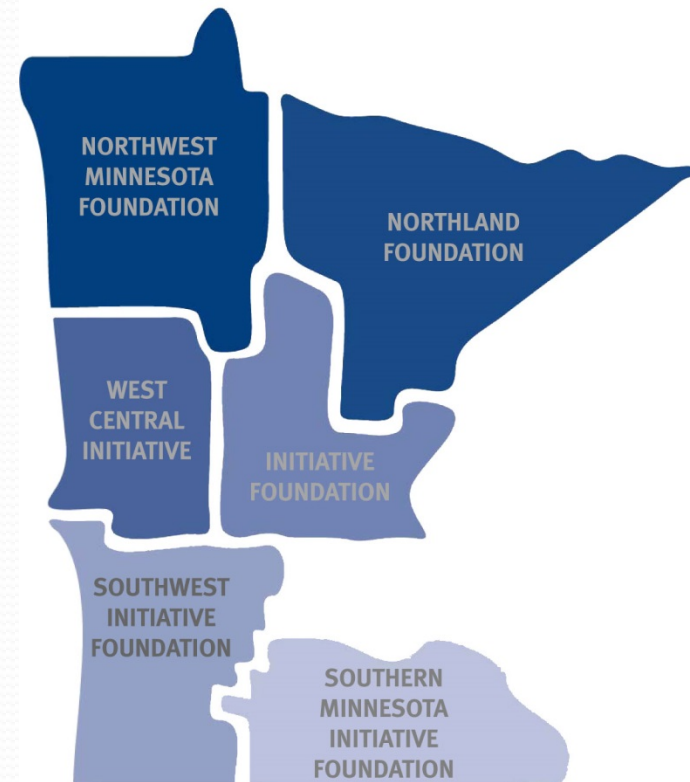
# Minnesota Data: Dentists

- Of the 3,908 dentists who renewed their MN license, only 26% were practicing in rural areas (2010)
  - Around 1,016 practicing dentists in all of rural MN
- 47% of dentists are 55 years or older (2009-2010)
- Just over half (53%) of practicing dentists submitted at least one dental claim for patients on public programs to MDH (2010)
  - 538 of the 1,016 dentists in rural MN

# The Minnesota Initiative Foundations

1984 – The McKnight Foundation

- Initiated a series of meetings in rural Minnesota
- Identified priority needs and ways in which a private foundation might help rural Minnesotans
- Six initiative regions were established



# The Minnesota Initiative Foundations (MIFs)

1984 - Original six goals:

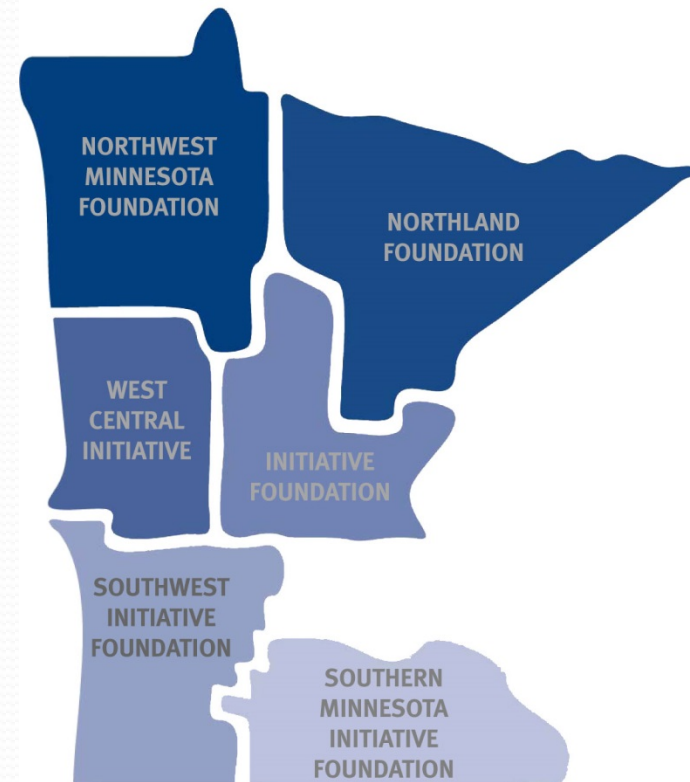
- Create regional organizations to coordinate existing resources
- Address the current agricultural crisis
- Initiate a long-term economic development effort
- Institute leadership development programs
- Develop incentives to address gaps in education and human service programs
- Make available incentive funds to address environmental issues



# The Minnesota Initiative Foundations

2003 - Early Childhood Initiatives (ECI)

The MIFs formed the ECIs based on research that shows strengthening early care and education for young children and their families is the most important investment communities can make for the future.





# Early Childhood Dental Network Across Minnesota

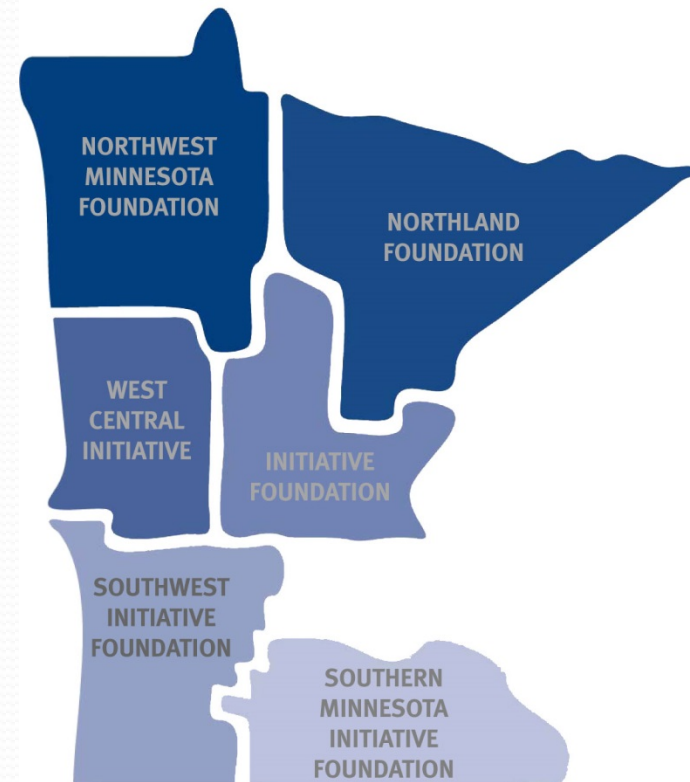
2005 Inception in west central region

2013 – expansion to IF & SWIF regions

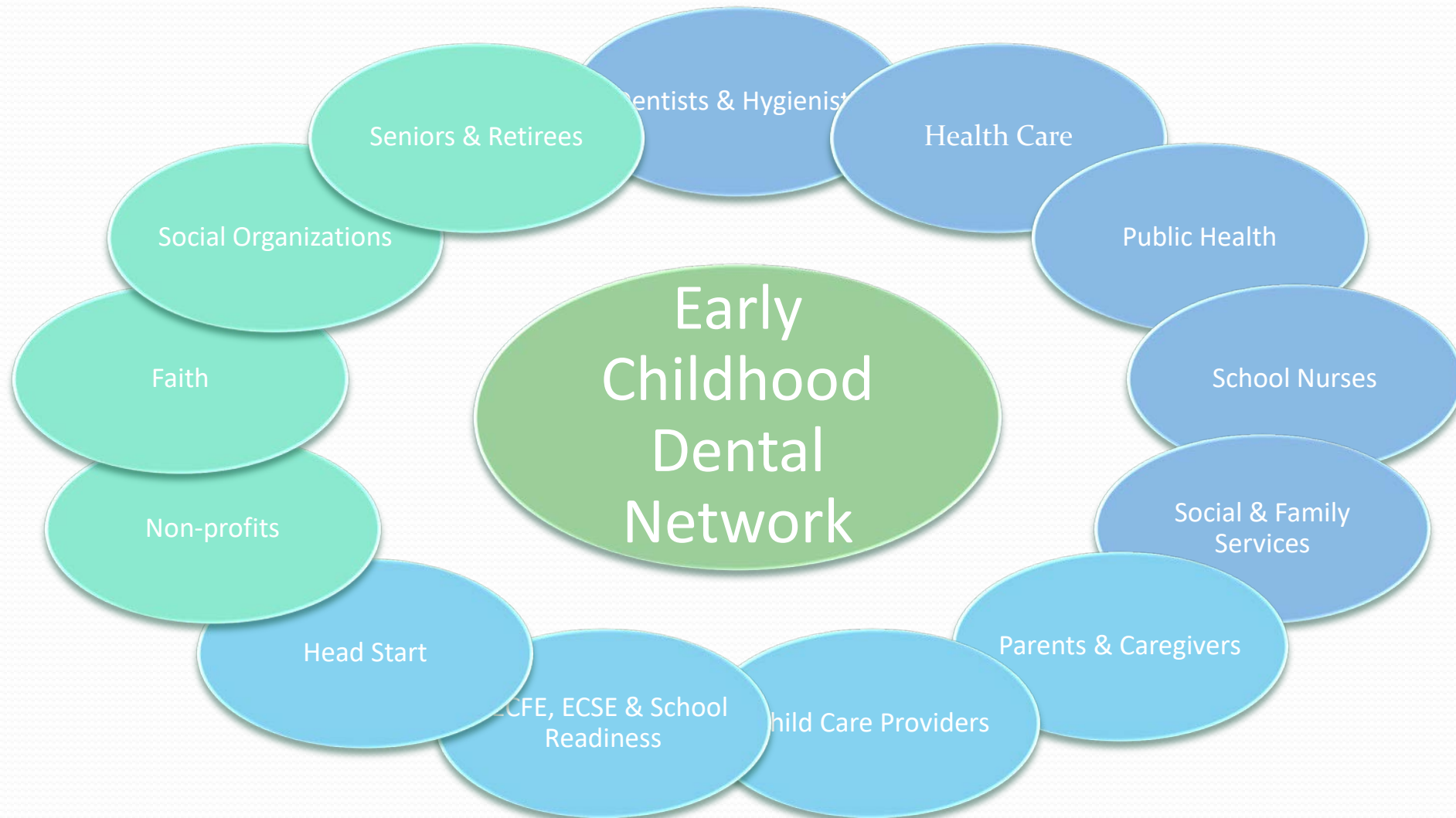
2015 – expansion to Brown and Rice  
Counties in SMIF region

2016 – expansion to Blue Earth/Nicollet &  
Martin Counties in SMIF and begin  
discussions in northern Minnesota

2017-18 expansion to Northern Minnesota



# Who are the key stakeholders in each county/community to initiate new oral health activities?



# Early Childhood Dental Network Minnesota Goals

- Improve access to dental care for low income children ages birth – 5
- Education for early childhood and other professionals
- Outreach and education for caregivers and children
- Collaboration, Collaboration....COLLABORATION!

# Early Childhood Dental Network – Outreach & Education

Parent education and  
community programs

A fun event especially  
for young children and  
their families!

**Happy Smiles for Children**



**Saturday,  
February 6, 2016**  
(alternate date February 20<sup>th</sup>  
if inclement weather)

**10AM – Noon**  
**Moorhead Center Mall, Moorhead**

**FEATURING:**

- Picture taking with the Tooth Fairy
- Goody bags and free dental supplies
- Dental screening and varnish
- Brush Flossy the Dinosaur's teeth
- Storytelling
- And more!



Meet Flossy!

Sponsored by the Clay County Early Childhood Initiative, Clay County Public Health, M State Dental Program, the Early Childhood Dental Network and West Central Initiative.



# Early Childhood Dental Network – WCI Outreach & Education

Child Care Provider Oral Health Visits



# Early Childhood Dental Network – WCI Outreach & Education

## Professional Development



# Early Childhood Dental Network – WCI Outreach & Education

## LOTS AND LOTS OF RESOURCES!

### Why see a dentist by age one?



#### Prevent problems

The dentist can check your child's mouth for any problems. The dentist can also give you ideas on brushing, food choices and fluoride use.

#### Find the right dentist for your family

The dentist and dental staff should be friendly to both you and your child. They can answer your questions and help with your dental concerns.

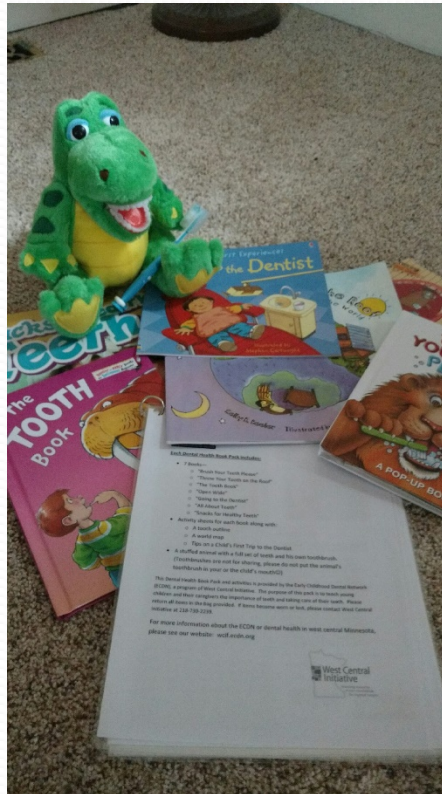


#### Baby teeth are important!

Problems with baby teeth can change how your baby acts, eats and sleeps. A healthy mouth is a happy mouth (and a happy baby)!



Recommended by the American Dental Association and brought to you by: **Early Childhood Dental Network**  
OF WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA  
ECODN.WCICF.ORG



# Early Childhood Dental Network – Improving Access to Care

- Assisted with organizing mobile dental outreach clinics across the state
- Permanent dental clinic in Fergus Falls which opened in May 2010 with currently over 5,000 patients of record
- Partnerships formed with various non-profit dental providers statewide to support and expand their work




# Early Childhood Dental Network – Improving Access to Care




# Collaboration Pays!

ECDN has attracted millions in grant funding through collaboration with a cross sector of partners and the Minnesota Initiative Foundations





Q & A



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