Fulfilling the Potential of State Oral Health Programs: Coalitions

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Confluence of Research, Education and Practice
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Why Have Coalitions?
Arkansas Academy of General Dentistry
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
Arkansas Cancer Research Center
Arkansas Center for Health Improvement
Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence
Arkansas Dental Assistants’ Association
Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Comprehensive Health Education
Arkansas Department of Health, Office of Oral Health
Arkansas Department of Health, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care
Arkansas Department of Human Services
Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care
Arkansas Head Start Association
Arkansas Health Care Access Foundation
Arkansas School Nurses Association
Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners
Arkansas State Dental Association
Arkansas State Dental Hygiene Association
Arkansas Minority Health Commission
Community Dental Clinic (Ft. Smith)
Community Health Centers of Arkansas, Inc.
Delta Dental Plan of Arkansas
Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging
Healthy Connections, Inc.
Interfaith Clinic of El Dorado
Partners for Inclusive Communities
Pulaski Technical College Dental Assisting Department
UALR Share America
UAMS College of Public Health
UAMS Dental Hygiene Department
UAMS Regional Programs (AHECs)
The Usual Suspects

- Dental, Dental Hygiene and Dental Assistants’ Associations
- Departments of Health, Human Services, Education, Higher Education
- Insurers
- Universities
- Foundations
- Advocates
- Free Clinics
The Unusual Suspects

- Minority Health Commission
- Cancer Research
- Family Violence Agencies
- Community Health Centers
- Centers on Aging
- Dental Board
Who’s Still Missing?

- Faith-based organizations
- Corporations
- Minority Professional Associations
- Consumers
- Voluntary Organizations / Service Clubs
Education (Policy)

- Act 1216 of 2003 – Mandated Oral Health Curriculum
Education (Policy)

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- “Spit Tobacco: Chew, Dip and Die”
Education (Policy)

- Act 1216 of 2003 – Mandated Oral Health Curriculum
- Spit Tobacco: Chew, Dip and Die
- Governor’s Oral Health Summits
Education (Policy)

- Act 1216 of 2003 – Mandated Oral Health Curriculum
- *Spit Tobacco: Chew, Dip and Die*
- Governor’s Oral Health Summits
- Medical Mile Mural
Fluoride: The Natural State of Water
Education (Policy)

Arkansas Body Walk
Prevention (Policy)

- **HB2627 of 2005**

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**Fluoride everywhere**

**Except Hot Springs, Fort Smith, etc.**

Some folks in the sleepy Louisiana town in the Delta didn't know they didn't have fluoride in their water. Isn't adding fluoride just a part of the water purification process by now? Right after the all-important, highly technical process called 4:10am Things? So when the issue was brought up in the mid-1990s, the town council overwhelmingly said yes to fluoridation, but put it to a vote of the people because of the cost involved.

You can guess what happened. Lurking somewhere between the John Birch Society and MoveOn.org is that vast unconscious where our mindsless fears foster, you'll find the anti-fluoridationist impulse. A hairdresser with no medical training got on the Internet—where you can find the real truth, ya know—and found that fluoride was a poison. A poison! It would kill you! But we'll assume that the small type says not to eat the toothpaste. We'll also assume that that tube of toothpaste has a lot more fluoride in it than you'd ever get out of your kitchen faucet. So let's keep things in perspective, and remember that, in this debate, it's quantity that counts.

Another argument from the opposition and, as Dave Barry used to say, "WE'RE NOT MAKING THIS UP! Fluoridation is linked to a number of illnesses, including cancer, Alzheimer's and AIDS.

Including AIDS! According to whom? Or rather, according to which Web site?

And, of course, the opposition will use the good old back-to-nature argument. We want pure water in the natural state, just like God intended.

Uh huh. You want it complete with toadstools, too? For farmers, how about some naturally occurring ninjas? Or a whole
Prevention (Policy)

- HB2627
- Awareness on Fluoridation and Dental Sealants
Access (Policy)

- General Supervision
- Clinic Networking and Grants
- Recruitment
Policy = Survival

- Act 785 of 2001
- Act ?? of 2005
Where We Began