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Dear Friends:

On May 6, I had the honor to represent the DentaQuest Foundation at the 11th Annual [National Dental Association](#) Day on Capitol Hill. This legislative program was hosted by Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-7th MD), Dr. Leslie E. Grant, Legislative Chair, and Dr. Walter R. Owens, President of the National Dental Association. I served as a panelist for a program titled, "Perspectives on Oral Health Care Reform" attended by NDA leaders and members, NDA Corporate Roundtable members, health care professionals, Deans and alumni from Howard University's College of Dentistry and the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, dental students and VIPs.

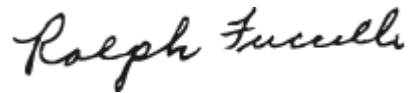
Congratulations to ASTDD, AAPHD, Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on a very successful **National Oral Health Conference** in St. Louis this April. In what may be a sign of an improving economy and of the heightened interest in oral health as a result of health reform, I think this was one of the best attended conferences in my recent memory. I had the opportunity to meet with state Medicaid dental directors and brief them on the work we're doing to improve oral health. I participated in several sessions and shared my thoughts about philanthropy's leadership role in oral health. In a different forum, Dr. Michael Monopoli, our Director of Programs and Policy, talked about the role of foundations in supporting programs that are making system-wide changes to improve oral health. We look forward to these national events for the opportunity they give us to connect with partners in oral health including the California Dental Access Foundation, the Children's Dental Health Foundation, and dental public health leaders from across the United States. It makes us better at the work we do in supporting effective approaches to preventing and caring for oral disease.

On the way to St. Louis, I took a detour to Denver for the [Council on Foundations](#) Annual Conference where the DentaQuest Foundation's 2009 Annual Report (with the theme of Getting to Change) received a silver medal in the Wilmer Shields Rich Awards for excellence in communication strategies and techniques in support of grantmaking goals. We are grateful for this recognition.

A year ago, the DentaQuest Foundation was invited to participate in a Communications and Coordination Workgroup at the **American Dental Association Access Summit**. Members of this workgroup left the Summit eager to continue the process of sharing information that began at that meeting and have been gathering at regular intervals over the past year. Though still in its infancy, this group is evolving into a national alliance. The DentaQuest Foundation is honored to have been invited to facilitate and support future gatherings of this group.

Finally, I'd like to introduce **Patrick W. Finnerty** who is joining the DentaQuest Foundation team as Senior Advisor. Many of you know Pat from his years of outstanding service as the Medicaid Director in Virginia. His knowledge and experience will make the DentaQuest Foundation stronger and more responsive in working with our partners across the United States.

Please read on to learn about other exciting developments at the DentaQuest Foundation.



Ralph Fuccillo

A New Resource for Coalitions

The DentaQuest Foundation has created an Electronic Compendium of Resources for Building Oral Health Coalitions to serve professionals building community-based coalitions dedicated to improving oral health. It is available [online](#) (pdf format).

The citations in this encyclopedic compilation link to free, full-text publications crossing the fields of communication, management, oral health, prevention, psychology, public health education, and public policy. Prominent among these resources are virtual public libraries covering all aspects of community based coalition development. This document facilitates access to dozens of evidence-based programs that support that proposition. We hope they provide coalitions many inspiring models to follow.



Grants Awarded, First Quarter 2010

- **HealthCare Options** will use its grant of \$50,000 for The Elder Dental Program to continue providing access to oral health for low-income seniors in southern Norfolk County, Massachusetts through a network of dentists who volunteer to provide this vulnerable population with reduced-fee services.

- **Nova Southeastern University** in Florida received \$218,808 for the Training in Special Care Dentistry Program which will focus on educating case managers on the importance of oral health status to systemic health and provide advanced education opportunities for practicing dentists to provide oral health services for persons with special healthcare needs who are medically, mentally, or physically compromised.
- **University of Maryland Dental School** was awarded \$219,626 to develop a dental case management program pilot model in a targeted area of Baltimore. The project seeks to increase the number of children receiving care; increase the number of children with a dental home; reduce the number of no-show appointments; strengthen the patient and provider perception that oral health is integral to overall health; increase the number of dentists participating in the Maryland Medicaid program; and heighten the awareness of case managers regarding dental issues.
- **American Dental Association** was awarded a grant of \$33,200 to support the Symposium on Early Childhood Caries in American Indians and Alaskan Native Children and to publish the proceedings of the symposium on-line.
- A grant in the amount of \$13,981 was awarded to the **Reede Scholars** to conduct the Annual Health Equity Symposium: Integration of Care is the topic for 2010.

Opening Day for School-Based Dental Care in Miami Dade County

This March, the [DentaQuest Foundation](#) joined with the Health Foundation of South Florida, The Children's Trust, two Miami community health centers, the Miami-Dade school system, and DentaQuest to celebrate the start of the school-based dental services in 17 public schools in Miami-Dade County.



Properly designed school-based programs overcome many barriers that make it difficult for children to get care -- barriers such as parents getting time off from work to accompany the child, finding transportation to the dentist, and finding a dentist that provides regular preventive oral health services to children participating in the Medicaid program.

The Miami Dade program, called Healthy Smiles in Our Schools, will increase the number of Medicaid-eligible children in the County receiving dental exams and treatment. Two community health centers, Borinquen Health Care Center and Community Health of South Florida, are the anchors for the project, providing the dental exams and treatment. The school-based program also creates opportunities to connect the children's families with the health centers for ongoing comprehensive family health care.

(Photo: Opening day at the Bent Tree Elementary School.)

National Oral Health Funders Focus on Children's Oral Health



The [DentaQuest Foundation](#) is a member and convener of the National Oral Health Funders Policy Group, an alliance of leading philanthropies which meets several times over the course of the year to investigate policies that are important to oral health. Three members of this

group have partnered to develop an assessment of State policies that improve the oral health of children. In February, the Pew Center on the States, a member of the Funders Policy Group, used Children's Oral Health Month as an opportunity to focus attention on state policies for prevention services and access to dental care for low income children, publishing [The Cost of Delay: State Dental Policies Fail One in Five Children](#).

The DentaQuest Foundation along with the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, another member of the Funder's Policy Group, provided support for this project. Our Foundation determined that a baseline of oral health status of children by state would be a helpful starting point as we expanded our geographic reach and would provide guidance for where we might direct financial and human resources in fulfillment of our mission to improve oral health. This benchmark summary highlights proven efforts that are working to prevent dental problems in the first place; programs that support access to dental care; and the progress states are making when it comes to children's oral health.

Massachusetts Has an Oral Health Plan

The Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition unveiled the Massachusetts Oral Health Plan for 2010-2015 at the State House on April 12. Foundation President Ralph Fuccillo served as master of ceremonies. Speakers representing state government and the health care community spoke about the importance of oral health and its connection to overall health.



The plan is the result of 18 months of work by a coalition composed of a dental care providers, program sponsors, lawmakers, state officials, insurers, health advocates, policy leaders, and consumers, covering communities across the state. It emphasizes cost-effective strategies and public-private partnerships at the local, regional and statewide levels. The DentaQuest Foundation has been the primary supporter of the Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition through in-kind and financial contributions. View the plan at [massoralhealth.org](#) or, at [dentaquestfoundation.org](#).

Dental Action Coalition Thrives in Maryland

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) has hired an Executive Director, Penny Anderson. MDAC is working on organizational and strategic issues as it prepares itself to be an independent non-profit serving the oral health interests of Maryland. MDAC hosted a very successful Oral Health



Heroes celebration on of June 4 at the National Museum of Dentistry. Following a panel discussion about Closing the Gap: Making Oral Health Accessible, Affordable, and Achievable, six individuals were honored for exemplary service.

Oral Health Heroes!

Massachusetts-5th Annual

In February, the DentaQuest Foundation joined with the Massachusetts Legislative Oral Health Caucus, Health Care for All, the Watch Your Mouth campaign, and other key partners at the Massachusetts State House to recognize oral health heroes. The 2010 legislative honorees are **State Senator Steven Panagiotakos** and **State Representative Ellen Story. Hugh Silk, M.D.**, and **Herlivi Linares, D.D.S.**, were honored for their significant leadership in community oral health.

Maryland - 1st Annual

The **Maryland Dental Action Coalition** hosted the first Maryland Oral Health Heroes celebration the morning of June 4 at the National Museum of Dentistry. Following a panel discussion six individuals were honored for exemplary service: **Secretary John Colmers, Dr. Harry Goodman, Sen. Thomas McClain Middleton, Delegate Peter Hammen, Dr. Scott Wolpin,** and **Dr. Winifred Booker.**

The MDAC assembled an energetic and highly informed panel which included, Catherine Dunham of the Children's Dental Health Project; Dr. Leslie Grant, Past President of the National Dental Association and Chair of the Legislative Committee; Dr. Norman Tinanoff, of the Department of Health Promotion and Policy of the University of Maryland (and a member of the DentaQuest Foundation's Board of Directors); Laurie Norris, Campaign Manager for the Pew Charitable Trust's Children's Dental Campaign; and Barbara Klein, Associate Vice President, Government and Community Affairs for the University of Maryland. Ralph Fuccillo of the DentaQuest Foundation served as moderator. The discussion focused on the state of oral health in Maryland, what is on the horizon to continue the progress Maryland has made, and how oral health access and oral disease disparities will be addressed in national health reform.

Oral Health Awareness in Florida

Grantee Frameworks Institute has developed a workshop on communications framing for advocates of children's oral health. This is now available as a self-guided eWorkshop from the DentaQuest Foundation website: dentaquestfoundation.org. Grantee **Florida Public Health Institute** helped bring this framing strategy to coalitions and

stakeholders in Hillsborough, Duval, and Palm Beach Counties in a series of training sessions that helped prepare advocates to effectively prioritize oral health and support statewide efforts across Florida's counties.

Another Foundation grant is supporting **MORE Health**, a young Tampa area oral health coalition. MORE Health has been engaged in community support for fluoridation in Plant City. It is also reaching out to the community to get oral health integrated into pediatric visits. **Health Choice Network** received a grant to extend the oral health benefits of the Healthy Smiles school-based dental program in Miami-Dade County with an educational curriculum that prepares school nurses to deliver ongoing oral health education to the students.

Mark Your Calendars:

June 27-29, 2010

Dental Management Coalition:

Westin Annapolis,

Annapolis, MD

[2010 DMC Conference.](#)

September 24, 2010

New England Rural Health RoundTable:

Wesford Regency

Westford, MA

[5th Annual New England Rural Oral Health Conference: Improving Access Through Advocacy and Public Health/Private Partnerships.](#)

October 24-28, 2010

National Network for Oral Health Access:

Gaylord Palms Hotel

Orlando, FL

[2010 National Primary Oral Health Conference.](#)

November 6-10, 2010

American Public Health Association:

Colorado Convention Center

Denver, CO

[138th Annual Meeting and Convention.](#)

The mission of the DentaQuest Foundation is to support and promote optimal oral health. We believe that as the largest funder solely focused on oral health in the U.S., we have the opportunity and a responsibility to provide leadership in improving oral health. Learn more about the DentaQuest Foundation, at www.dentaquestfoundation.org.