Newsletter sent 6/X/22

You are receiving this message because you are either an IOHA member or have indicated that you are an oral health champion. If you no longer wish to receive any correspondence from the Idaho Oral Health Alliance, please respond to this email and ask to be removed from our list.

**Have you paid your 2022 membership dues yet?** To be eligible to vote in annual elections held each November, your annual dues must be current as of October 31. Haven’t paid for 2022? It’s never too late. Visit <https://www.idahooralhealth.org/membership/> to pay today. Not sure if you’re current? Reply to this email and ask! Individual memberships start at $40 per year.

**Job Announcements:**

**Idaho Oral Health Program:** Opening for program manager to serve as the defacto dental director for Idaho. Watch <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/about-dhw/job-openings-and-apply-online> for an updated announcement.

**SW Idaho Area Health Education Center (AHEC):** Opening for part-time Continuing Education Coordinator. Salary Range $21-$22.88 with benefits. The SW Idaho AHEC program is housed within Jannus, Inc. in downtown Boise. For more information click [here](https://workforcenow.adp.com/mascsr/default/mdf/recruitment/recruitment.html?cid=e3313e20-2522-40e5-ab2e-8dbc95be059a&ccId=19000101_000001&type=MP&lang=en_US).

**Scholarship Announcement:**

AHEC offices across the state are accepting applications for the 2022-2024 AHEC Scholars Program. The nationally recognized interdisciplinary educational and training program focuses on preparing a diverse, culturally competent healthcare workforce specializing in rural and underserved areas. Scholarships are available for health profession students *including dental hygiene students*! For information for Southwest Idaho, visit <https://www.idahoahec.org/ahec-scholars/> for North Idaho, visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/academics/wwami/ahec/ahec-scholars> and for Eastern Idaho, contact the office at seidahec@isu.edu

We hope you find the following resources helpful:

**Idaho Oral Health Improvement Plan Activity Report Form is LIVE**

The 2021-2026 Idaho Oral Health Improvement Plan was released last fall as a roadmap for the strategic vision for the improvement of oral health for all who live within the borders of Idaho. Created with input from a 50-member work group, it encourages oral health champions to undertake activities to create a better, healthier, and more equitable oral healthcare model for our state. The IOHA will prepare an activity report in early spring each year, so we need you to submit reports of the activities that you, your teams, and your communities undertake to help make progress on the State Plan goals. **Use the following link to submit a report every time you do something throughout the year. We want to hear from you!** <https://www.idahooralhealth.org/submit-event/>

**IOHA/IdahoSTARS Oral Health Education Module is LIVE**

The IOHA, through its Healthy Me is Cavity-Free initiative, is working to educate child care providers about the importance of oral healthcare, prevention, and healthy habits for their young charges. This dedicated group of volunteers partnered with IdahoSTARS to create an oral health education module that is now part of the learning platform available to childcare providers, Head Start teachers, and anyone who registers with IdahoSTARS. The IOHA extends a sincere thank you to Jill Hobbs, BS, RDN, LD, Child Care Consultant for IdahoSTARS (and volunteer committee chair); April Sluder, RDH-EA, dental hygienist for Southeastern Idaho Public Health (and Cavity-Free Kids guru), and Camille Biorn, RDH, ISU Dental Hygiene (and curriculum content writer). To sign up for the oral health curriculum module, register with IdahoSTARS at <https://idahostars.org/>

**Idaho’s Optimal Fluoridation Plan 2022**

The Idaho Oral Health Program within the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare has released its first-ever fluoridation plan. This plan serves as a guide for adjusting fluoride in drinking water across the state to optimal levels to improve oral health outcomes for all who live in the state. The plan can be found at <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/healthy-infants-children/oral-health> Want to know if your community water source has the right level of fluoride as recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service? Visit [My Water’s Fluoride](https://nccd.cdc.gov/doh_mwf/default/default.aspx) and look up your community water system.

**Policy Change Means More Idaho Families Qualify for Head Start**

The U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services announced in April 2022 that children who qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will now be considered eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start prenatal-to-five school readiness, nutrition, and family support services. This decision increases the number of families that qualify for the free comprehensive Head Start program and eliminates the burdensome paperwork that prevented families from applying. Approximately 22,000 children in Idaho are impacted. Programs are available in 39 Idaho counties and applications for the 2022/2023 school year are now being accepted. Parents and caregivers should visit the Idaho Head Start Association webpage <https://www.idahohsa.org/> to get in contact with their local program.

**Free Clinics Expand to Help with Community Oral Health Needs**

Snake River Community Clinic in Lewiston, with help from Delta Dental of Idaho, will soon begin providing dental services in their new dental operatory. In addition to helping the Lewiston clinic, Delta Dental of Idaho has generously assisted other Idaho free clinics, Idaho State University Dental Hygiene, and several public health department dental clinics in purchasing new equipment and enhancing abilities to provide care. Thanks to Delta Dental of Idaho for their generosity. For more information about Snake River Community Clinic services, visit <https://srccfreeclinic.org/> Want to volunteer at a free clinic? Visit <https://www.idahoafcc.org/> to find one near you.

**Idaho Participates in National Fluoride Varnish Effort**

In 2021, Idaho was admitted into a national program designed to support state efforts to increase utilization of fluoride varnish. This two-year learning collaborative is sponsored by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and Idaho team members include the Idaho Oral Health Alliance (IOHA), the Idaho Oral Health Program (IOHP), Managed Care North America (MCNA), the Idaho Primary Care Association (IPCA), the Idaho Society of Pediatric Dentists (ISPD), and the Idaho Medicaid Program. The Idaho goal is to *increase the rate of Idaho Medicaid and CHIP recipients, ages 1 to 6, receiving twice annual fluoride varnish applications, either by a dental or medical provider, by at least 10 percent by December 31, 2022.* We are recruiting medical providers and practices that want to either increase or add fluoride varnish protocols to their patient care activities. MCNA is supporting this effort, both by encouraging eligible Medicaid clients to utilize their dental benefits at the dentist office, and by leading efforts to teach medical providers about the benefits, process, and ease of application. The IOHP and its partners will supply fluoride varnish and application tools to participating clinics. **If you know of a medical clinic that serves children ages 1-6 that would like hands-on training for fluoride varnish, please contact Jennifer Wheeler at** **jwheeler@idahooralhealth.org** The training and initial supplies are free to participating medical clinics.

**Medicaid Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) – The First Ever Oral Health Seat**

For years, Idaho has maintained a committee of advocates, service providers, and public agencies that come together to share their experience and knowledge to maximize the care available to Idaho Medicaid participants. This group advises Idaho Medicaid in the development and refining of the Idaho Medicaid program by providing a sounding board and by giving feedback on current and evolving issues. The IOHA learned that there has never been a dental representative on this committee, so we advocated for such a position and were granted a committee seat. Working with the Idaho State Dental Association (ISDA), we recruited Dr. Shaun Christensen serve in this inaugural role. Our thanks to him for his commitment.

**CDC Activity Book for Children: Take Care of Your Teeth**

[**Take Care of Your Teeth**](https://t.emailupdates.cdc.gov/r/?id=h65f86074,16965560,16965aa8&e=QUNTVHJhY2tpbmdJRD1VU0NEQ18xOV8xLURNODI4NTkmQUNTVHJhY2tpbmdMYWJlbD1EZW50YWwlMjBQdWJsaWMlMjBIZWFsdGglMjBSZXNpZGVuY3klMjBQcm9ncmFtJTIwRXhwYW5zaW9uJTIwYW5kJTIwQ2hpbGRyZW4ncyUyMEFjdGl2aXR5JTIwQm9vaw&s=jT0WyYf1X8biYFx-NLhDZDU-a9DmeI5y79hm8T_lM6U)offers parents an interactive approach to talk to their children about ways to care for their teeth. The activity book features coloring pages, mazes, word searches, and connect-the-dots to teach children how regular oral health habits—such as brushing your teeth, flossing, and regular visits to the dentist—can help prevent cavities. The activity book is recommended for children from 3–8 years old and is available in 13 languages: Amharic, Arabic, Chinese (simplified), Chinese (traditional), English, French, Oromo, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Tigrinya, and Vietnamese.

**Oral Health Signs of Child Maltreatment**

The Office of Head Start National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety shared a post about identify signs of child maltreatment. There are four types of maltreatment: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. To learn the signs and find resources [click here](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/oral-health/brush-oral-health/identifying-oral-health-signs-child-maltreatment?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Resources%20to%20Make%20You%20Smile%20Issue%20No%2016&utm_content=Resources%20to%20Make%20You%20Smile%20Issue%20No%2016+CID_ac48d3d0bf1ef54b029766c39b3ecd3a&utm_source=CM%20Eblast&utm_term=Identifying%20Oral%20Health%20Signs%20of%20Child%20Maltreatment&cid=ac48d3d0bf1ef54b029766c39b3ecd3a).

**We hope you will continue your support of the IOHA by joining us as a 2022 member.** Annual memberships start every January, but you can join at any time. For more information or to pay your dues, visit <https://www.idahooralhealth.org/membership/>

We offer our sincere thanks to our annual corporate sponsors: Delta Dental of Idaho, Eide Bailly, Managed Care North America, Molina, SelectHealth, and the Idaho Oral Health Program.

Thank you for all you do to support the oral health needs of all who live within the borders of Idaho.