

Oral Health Practitioner Work Group 2008

Project Summary and Timeline



Background and Purpose:

The 2008 Minnesota legislature passed legislation establishing a new oral health practitioner discipline, licensed by the Board of Dentistry and working under the supervision of a dentist. The legislation also creates a workgroup to advise the commissioner of health on recommendations and legislation to specify the training and practice details for oral health practitioners and report to the 2009 legislature. MDH's Office of Rural Health & Primary Care (ORHPC) will convene and host the workgroup created. The 13 member workgroup must complete its work by December 15, 2008, at which time it will dissolve. MDH and the Board of Dentistry must report work group's recommendations and proposed legislation to the legislature by January 15, 2009. It is likely there will be legislative action on the recommendations during the 2009 legislative session.

MDH will provide logistical support and background research to the work group. A contracted facilitator will lead each work group meeting. The final process design will be determined after MDH consults with the contracted group process consultant/meeting facilitator and incorporates their suggestions. The initial concept for the project is that the work group will move through each of the ten issues on which it is to develop recommendations through a series of eight to ten meetings from July through approximately November. Each of the issues assigned to the workgroup calls for substantive background information, development of options and discussion by members. MDH is considering a tentative objective of reaching closure on at least one issue area per meeting. MDH will rely on the Board of Dentistry for technical and regulatory expertise.

Project Objectives:

1. Convene Oral Health Practitioner Work Group, with the composition specified in law.
2. Design and conduct a workgroup process that successfully engages members in a thoughtful and productive series of workgroup meetings during the summer and fall of 2008.
3. Develop workgroup recommendation and proposed legislation for the education and licensure of oral health practitioners by December 15, 2009, as required by law.
4. Produce an implementation schedule that allows for enrollment of students in oral health practitioner educational programs by the fall of 2009.
5. Report recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health care and higher education issues by January 15, 2009.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Minnesota Department of Health, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care (ORHPC)

1. Recruit Work Group members.
2. Engage contracted work group facilitator and short term work group staff person.. With assistance of facilitator, map out timeline of process steps, meetings, and work products.
3. As provided in law, seek private funding or grants to support the activities of the oral health practitioner work group. To the extent the costs cannot be covered with grants and external funding, charge a fee to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and the University of

Minnesota Dental School proposing to develop oral health practitioner education programs to cover the remaining costs, as provided in law.

4. Convene Work Group to meet 8-12 times, July through no later than December 2008.
5. Provide logistical support to the project.
6. Provide staff research and analysis to support work group activities, including but not limited to existing midlevel dental practitioner programs in other countries and in Alaska and proposals for dental therapists, advanced practice dental hygienists, and other models.
7. Facilitate and assist the Work Group in developing recommendations. Assure the Work Group reaches closure on all assigned issues; and
8. Prepare and submit report, recommendations and proposed legislation to legislature by January 15, 2009, with the Board of Dentistry.

Oral Health Practitioner Work Group members

1. Review Work Group charge, goals, scope of work, timelines, ground rules, expectations/goals of work group members.
2. Select work group chair. Chair role to be determined.
3. Attend 8-12 meetings of Work Group between July and December 2008.
4. Hear presentations of MDH staff, fellow members and possibly other resource people on related research and analysis.
5. Review existing midlevel dental practitioner programs in other countries and in Alaska and proposals for dental therapists, advanced practice dental hygienists, and other models. The work group shall review research on midlevel practitioners and, to the extent possible, base its recommendations on evidence-based strategies that are most likely to: (1) improve access to needed oral health services for low-income, uninsured, and underserved patients; (2) control the costs of education and dental services; (3) preserve quality of care; and (4) protect patients from harm.
6. Discuss and reach closure on all ten issues delineated in the law establishing the work group.
7. Provide recommendations and proposed legislation on the ten issues delineated in the law establishing the work group.
8. Develop recommendations by December 15, 2008.

Minnesota Board of Dentistry

1. Collaborate with MDH on work group planning.
2. Appoint Work Group representative.
3. Contribute dentistry technical and regulatory expertise and background to the project.
4. Contribute and assist in background research.
5. Provide staff resources as necessary.
6. Submit report to the legislature with MDH.

Work Group Facilitator (contracted)

1. Become familiar with the legislation and history leading up to the initiation of the work group.
2. Hold a project entry meeting with MDH staff.
3. Prepare suggested workplans and meeting/decision-making designs for a series of workgroup meetings that will produce the required recommendations and legislation by the completion of the project. Include project stages and timelines; specify deliverables.
4. Advise and assist MDH staff to plan the timeline and details of the work group process.

5. Meet or speak individually as needed with work group members and other interested parties prior to the first meeting.
6. Serve as the work group meeting facilitator, preparing for each meeting and following up after each meeting.
7. Meet with MDH staff as needed during the course of the project
8. The contractor will be assigned a role in writing the report of the work group's activities and recommendations, and may have the lead role in writing the report.

Timeline:

June-July 2008	Recruit work group members; recruit facilitator, hire project staff.
July 2008	Initial work group meeting
August-November 2008	8-10 additional work group meetings
November -December 2008	Draft and review report
Jan. 15, 2009	Submit recommendations and proposed legislation to MN legislature

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