

## SEPTEMBER ORAL HEALTH COALITION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- New Division of Oral Health Staff
- Pilot Project: Welvista's Smiles for a Lifetime
- Call to Action: Community Water Fluoridation
- SC Rural Water Association Partnership

### NEW DIVISION OF ORAL HEALTH STAFF

**Amanda McAlhany**, MPH, LMSW has joined the Division as part of the HRSA Workforce grant. She will be coordinating oral health community-based initiatives in the Pee Dee through a joint partnership with MUSC. The Division also welcomes **Elouise Cram**, a Graduate Assistant who will be lending her expertise in social work across several oral health projects and initiatives.

### PILOT PROJECT WITH WELVISTA

Georgia Famuliner from Welvista shared information about **Smiles for a Lifetime**, a non-profit, school-based pediatric dental program providing preventive and restorative services to school-aged children in grades K-12 in rural South Carolina counties. She also shared information about the **Sealant Pilot Project** that will utilize innovative communication strategies including text messaging to engage parents/caregivers to improve consent form return rates. Here's a link to more information about the Smiles for a Lifetime program, <https://www.welvista.org/pediatric-dentistry/>

### CALL TO ACTION: COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

Alicia Johnston from the Division of Oral Health provided a brief overview about the positive oral health and economic impacts of community water fluoridation. Coalition members were issued a **Call to Action** to become **informed and engaged about community water fluoridation**, especially within their local community. We will

continue to send out information about community water fluoridation that will be educational and beneficial for Coalition members. For more information about community water fluoridation: <https://www.scdhec.gov/health/oral-health/child-and-teen-oral-health/flouridation>

### SOUTH CAROLINA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

Jerry Baxley from the SC Rural Water Association (SCRWA) joined us at the September Coalition meeting. Jerry shared information about community water fluoridation and the role the rural water system plays in maintaining a safe and effective level of fluoride in public water sources. The SCRWA is collaborating with the Division of Oral Health to support community water fluoridation efforts across the state by strengthening the relationship with rural water operators. Here is a link to their webpage, <https://scrwa.org/>

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*Fluoridation of community water supplies is the **single most effective public health measure** to prevent tooth decay and to improve oral health for a lifetime, for both children and adults.*

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

***The Dr. Carlos F. Salinas Dental Program for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Individuals with Special Health Care Needs***

Friday, September 27, 201 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the North Charleston Marriott

The objective of this course is to provide current oral health information about patients with special needs to the dental professionals in SC. With this collaboration, our goal is the reduction of oral health disparities and achieving a better quality of life for this special and very vulnerable segment of our population. It will offer a combination of lectures, visual presentations and Q&A sessions. <https://dentistry.musc.edu/programs/ces>



## **Special Care Advocates In Dentistry (SAID)**

**Conference October 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>**

Embassy Suites in Charleston

Program topics include:

- Opioids
- The Changing Face of Oral & Oropharyngeal Cancer
- Oral Health and Individuals with Special Needs in SC
- Forensic Dentistry
- Professional Communication in the Special Needs Clinic

<http://www.saident.org/registration.php>



Dr. Mary Bradley  
Tepper, SAID  
President

### **Contact Us:**

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**Coordinator**

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### **DON'T FORGET:**

Use this link to register as an official member of the SC Oral Health Coalition. <https://www.connectingsmilessc.org/sc-oral-health-coalition/>

Follow the Coalition on Facebook by adding us as a friend:

<https://www.facebook.com/SCORALHEALTH> or @SCORALHEALTH

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

SC Oral Health Coalition Quarterly Meeting

November 22, 2019

SC Primary Health Care Association

3 Technology Cir, Columbia, SC 29203

A question to  
consider...

*How do we make oral  
health relevant to  
overall health?*

Come with some  
thoughts and ideas to  
share at the  
November meeting.