
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: SMITH
SUBJECT: NGA POLICY ACADEMY ON IMPROVING ORAL HEALTH FOR CHILDREN
DATE: 10/22/02
CC: MAYO

As you know, the NGA Oral Health Policy Academy focusing on improvement of the oral health of children was conducted last fall. Since the academy, the Department of Health has initiated several initiatives to address problems and needs identified by the state team during the academy. The following is a summary of activities that have been initiated:

1. A full time Public Health Dentist position has been filled at the Department of Health. The position will be funded with funds from the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. Dr. Nich Mosca, the new Public Health Dentist, will help develop a statewide action plan for improving oral health in Mississippi; will create and reinforce relationships with the dental community; and will provide consultation to the agency with regard to improving the oral health status of the children of the state.
2. A collaborative pilot project with UMC School of Dentistry and Delta Hills Public Health District III is being conducted to provide **dental sealants to public school second graders** in Attala, Bolivar, Carroll, Holmes, Humphreys, LeFlore, Montgomery, Sunflower, and Washington counties. The project will be funded with funds from the Maternal Child Health Block Grant. **(They have completed this in Washington County)**

I have attached the report from the policy academy, submitted by Connie Lane, Executive Director, Mississippi Dental Association. One of the recommendations of the team was for the Governor to appoint an ongoing, permanent Oral Health Task Force.

I recommend a joint press conference with Dr. Amy to announce Dr. Mosca as the new Dental Director, to establish an Oral Health Task Force, and to announce initiatives that resulted from the NGA Oral Health Policy Academy.

Would you like to do this?

YES_____

NO_____

If so, would you like to do a joint press event with Dr. Amy, the members of the task force, and Dr. Mosca?

YES_____

NO_____