



History of Interdisciplinary Collaboration to Promote Children's Oral Health in SF

To encourage and support other community groups across our state and country, who are interested in replicating in some form the effort and successes of the San Francisco Children's Oral Health Collaborative, we are documenting the history of the various community stakeholders contributions which led up to the present day CavityFree SF. We recognize the accomplishments made today rest on the shoulders of the efforts of many individuals and groups that have gone before, and hope this history will spark ideas to protect and promote the oral health of all children in other counties and states.

The work of the **SF Children's Dental Health Committee** eventually led to the formation of the SF HIP Children's Oral Health Collaborative and the development of the first [SF HIP Children's Oral Health Strategic Plan](#).

The SF Children's Dental Health Committee [SFCDHC] was initially formed by a group of dedicated health professionals in the early 1980s' to focus on the promotion of oral health in the city and county of San Francisco. Over time the projects of SFCDHC shifted from the general public to a focus on the challenges and solutions for children.

The interdisciplinary professionals and organizations that founded the committee were the San Francisco Department of Public Health Dental Services, San Francisco Unified School District, the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, the San Francisco Dental Society, and the Dental Hygiene Component.

Since inception, the SFCDHC meetings occurred quarterly at the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry. The meetings are open and over time a variety of community stakeholders attended meetings. In general, the chairperson rotated to each of the founding professional groups.

An overview of SFCDHC accomplishments include the creation or promotion of public health policy, protocols and programs to address oral health disparities in low-income children and families.

The implementation and evaluation of a yearly kindergarten screening program in San Francisco's public schools was identified as a top priority. The three primary goals were to identify children with immediate dental needs, to connect them to dental care and to establish a system for dental health assessment surveillance. More recent accomplishments include the 2015 Sugar Sweetened Letter to the SF Board of Supervisors. Also, the 2016 Calibration of Citywide Dental Screening Treatment Needs Classification across the various screening agencies in San Francisco was completed.

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