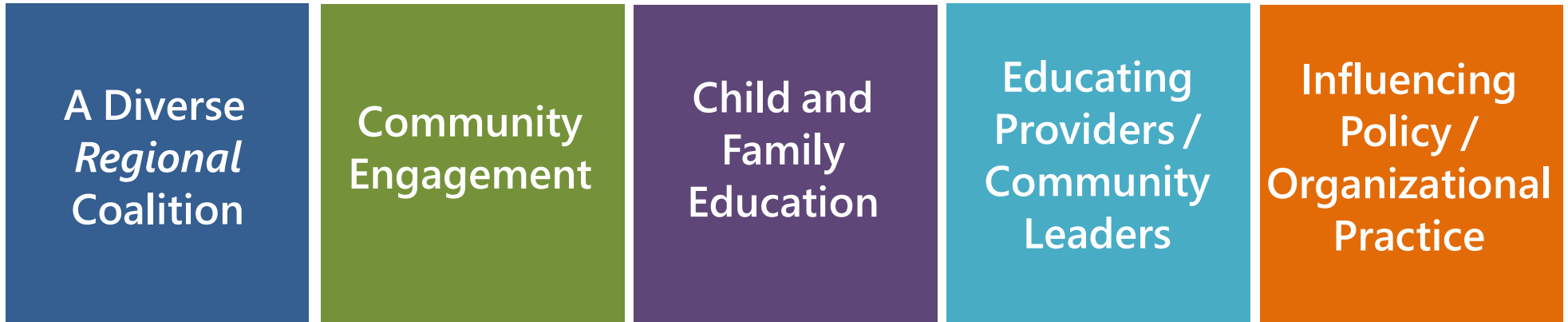


# Children's Oral Health Collaborative

**Strategic Plan:** Increase community access to affordable oral health care for children, families, and pregnant teens/women.



The Children's Oral Health Collaborative (COHC) focuses on systems level advocacy, education, prevention and community awareness, while Save a Smile (SAS) focuses on the child/family level to prevent and treat oral health disease. Both initiatives coordinate and complement one another in their efforts to remove barriers to oral health care for low-income families in Tarrant County and beyond.

- Established in 1999, the mission of the Children's Oral Health Coalition is to improve the oral health of children ages 0 to 8 in Tarrant County through community collaboration. Educate pregnant teens and woman on how to positively impact their newborn's health by starting early with supporting their oral health.
- Save a Smile (SAS), founded in 2003, is an innovative, nationally recognized, collaborative program dedicated to providing preventive and restorative dental care for children from low-income families in the community through volunteer dentists. Utilizing a social service component to coordinate care and relieve barriers along the way for children pre-kindergarten through sixth grade.

# 2024-2026 Strategic Plan Oral Health Collaborative

A Diverse  
*Regional*  
Coalition

Community  
Engagement

Child and  
Family  
Education

Educating  
Providers /  
Community  
Leaders

Influencing  
Policy /  
Organizational  
Practice

## **Strategy 1: Foster collaborative approaches and expand partnerships around children's oral health in the community**

- a. Assess primary and secondary data to support priority initiatives.  
Primary Service Areas: Counties of Tarrant, Parker, Denton, Wise, Johnson, Hood, Grayson, Collin.
- b. Identify gaps within our community ecosystem model that support opportunities for growth and diversity
- c. Convene diverse groups and individuals that support a broad spectrum of goals for greater reach and impact

## **Strategy 2: Increase community engagement with key stakeholders to improve children's oral health**

- a. Identify key stakeholders who are able to sustain children's oral health efforts
- b. Establish community strategies that support children's oral health initiatives
- c. Create committed partnerships to shape norms, in the organization's practice, to include children's oral health

## **Strategy 3: Provide community education and interventions that encourage improvements in children's oral health**

- a. Provide educational opportunities for children based on oral health priorities
- b. Provide educational opportunities for parents/caregivers of children, based on PEP/Best Practice
- c. Provide hands-on or virtual training and tools to support behavior change improving children's oral health

## **Strategy 4: Educate providers/community leaders who will share skills and knowledge with caregivers within their reach**

- a. Identify providers/community leaders with influence to transmit skills and knowledge to others
- b. Provide training opportunities to designated providers/community leaders on oral health topics
- c. Provide support and tools necessary for providers/community leaders to share education with families

## **Strategy 5: Develop strategies to support laws and policies that promote children's oral health**

- a. Identify opportunities for change at the organizational, local, state and national level
- b. Create a process for communicating opportunities for supporting policy change with key stakeholders
- c. Provide opportunities for collaborative members to support evidence-based/informed policy change affecting oral health efforts

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## Strategy 1

- Review reports and national data offered by CCHAPS, CCHCS, TDSHS, TDA, THI, ADA, ASTDD, MCD/CHIP and TX PRAMS: **Ongoing**
- Recruit partners and cultivate partnerships for expansion of oral health to services within 8-county service area - **Ongoing**
- Create and implement recruitment plan and support community partners: **Quarterly**

## Strategy 2

- Build and strengthen partnerships with schools, home visiting programs, early learning sites, and community clinics: **Quarterly**
- Engage OH Champions for Change volunteers to recruit medical/dental providers to support special needs/IDD and CC4PT+W activities: **Quarterly**
- Identify stakeholders to distribute oral health collaterals/supplies and educate children/families to support special needs/IDD and MCH: **Quarterly**
- Identify & partner in the community at events to increase awareness on importance of oral health to overall health and starting early: **Quarterly**

## Strategy 3

- Promote importance and messaging around Age 1 dental visit: **Annually**
- Increase knowledge and awareness around oral health and impact on overall health/related issues in the community: **Ongoing**
- Strengthen and support school screening partnerships in reaching high risk populations: **Annually**
- Establish framework to support early intervention for high risk populations, especially for special needs/IDD and CC4PT+W: **Quarterly**
- Provide prevention resources, education and supplies for special needs/IDD, infant, children and pregnant teens/women: **Ongoing**

## Strategy 4

- Educate community professionals working with high risk populations (Train the Trainer): **Quarterly**
- Facilitate educational and networking opportunities for medical/dental providers: **Quarterly**
- Support educational trainings and initiatives to support Oral Health Ambassadors: **Quarterly**
- Identify opportunities at local, state and national conferences to share oral health initiatives and best practices: **Annually**

## Strategy 5

- Determine appropriate partnerships and leverage support to align policies affecting high risk populations: **Annually**
- Advocate for systematic change to improve access to care for special needs/IDD and maternal and child health: **Annually**
- Engage with legislators and participate in legislative visits/activities at a local and state level: **Annually**

# Save a Smile Action Team

A Diverse  
*Regional*  
Collaborative

Community  
Engagement

Child and  
Family  
Education

Educating  
Providers /  
Community  
Leaders

Influencing  
Policy /  
Organizational  
Practice

## Strategy 1

- Review reports and national data offered by CCHAPS, TDSHS, ADA, TDA, ASTDD, THI and CCHCS: **Ongoing**
- Meet with Save a Smile action team and nurse administrators to determine appropriate Title 1 schools to target (FWISD, KISD & HEBISD): **Annually**
- Recruit volunteer dentists to conduct limited oral evaluations in schools and to provide dental treatment for the targeted population: **Annually**
- Collaborate with local dental hygiene schools to expand dental services provided for children and families: **Annually**

## Strategy 2

- Collaborate with school nurses, staff, family engagement specialist and/or parent liaison to support screening process, dental resources and treatment options at each school: **Annually**
- Collaborate with community partners to provide oral health care and education for children targeted through SAS: **Ongoing**
- Mobilize community volunteers to prepare oral health kits for all children screened: **Annually**
- Collect feedback from school nurse partners, volunteer dentists/staff and parents to determine satisfaction with SAS services: **Annually**

## Strategy 3

- Screen children enrolled in targeted schools and inform parents of results: **Monthly**
- Provide an oral health kit to all children screened and contact families of all Class 1 children to identify needed dental resources: **Annually**
- Provide and report coordinated care needed to facilitate dental treatment for SAS children/families : **Quarterly**
- Provide educational programming/resources to schools and provide educational and collateral materials for families: **Annually**

## Strategy 4

- Establish framework and support volunteer providers in the provision of treatment for acute dental services and comprehensive care for identified children: **Quarterly**
- Report annual evaluation findings to SAS action team/school districts; provide an opportunity for members (volunteer providers, school district nurses, action team, and families) to provide feedback regarding SAS services: **Quarterly**
- Determine the longer-term impact of LOEs and treatment on SAS children through year-to-year analysis of oral health status: **Annually**

## Strategy 5

- Develop a process to monitor opportunities to advocate for change on a local, state or national level, by sharing data with COHC: **Annually**
- Share opportunities for member/organizational support in other oral health efforts, oral health collaborative, and other community events : **Ongoing**

# School-Based Oral Health Action Team

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Collaborative

Community  
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Family  
Education

Educating  
Providers /  
Community  
Leaders

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Policy /  
Organizational  
Practice

## Strategy 1

- Recruit and build connections with “trusted” frontline community partners in 8 county service area
- Create and strengthen engagement opportunities with schools, early learning, and parent groups.
- Identify ecosystem gaps to support opportunities for growth and impact and review relevant data and reports to support priority initiatives.

## Strategy 2

- Create a social media campaign and key messages to promote importance of dental screenings, back to school check-ups, injury prevention, sports safety, and emergency dental care.
- Identify and develop awareness collateral addressing the oral health of at risk populations, i.e., young children, pregnant teens, special needs/IDD, unhoused students.
- Update All About Smiles Dental Screenings toolkit for sharing with interested schools.

## Strategy 3

- Identify educational opportunities at schools, early learning or community sites.
- Link oral health to other priorities and health observance months such as Mental Health, Asthma, Nutrition, School Gardens, Abuse, Reading, School Readiness, Pregnancy, Sports.
- Create educational toolkits by topics, i.e., brushing, nutrition, water/sugary drinks, etc.

## Strategy 4

- Develop a pipeline of volunteers (medical/dental professionals, CHWs, dental students, parents, etc.) to provide education.
- Facilitate education workshops/trainings on relevant topics (maternal health, dental trauma, mental health, special needs/IDD, routines, etc.).
- Create volunteer recruitment toolkit, checklist, and a caregiver checklist for feedback on dentists and other volunteers.

## Strategy 5

- Establish framework to increase access care, early prevention, and advocacy.
- Create list of dental providers for school screenings, community volunteers, and connect to high risk populations.
- Recruit dental partners to complete dental care of students screened and identified as high risk at schools, early learning sites, and community sites, etc.

# Health Access Action Team

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Collaborative

Community  
Engagement

Child and  
Family  
Education

Educating  
Providers /  
Community  
Leaders

Influencing  
Policy /  
Organizational  
Practice

## Strategy

1

- Recruit and build connections with “trusted” frontline community partners in 8 county service area.
- Create and strengthen engagement opportunities with schools, early learning, home visiting programs, parent groups, and community clinics.
- Identify ecosystem gaps to support opportunities for growth and impact and review relevant data and reports to support priority initiatives.

## Strategy

2

- Create a social media campaign with key messages prioritizing importance and safety of oral health care for everyone.
- Identify and develop awareness collateral addressing the oral health of at risk populations.
- Identify community events, resources available for families where they live, work, learn and socialize.

## Strategy

3

- Provide culturally relevant educational opportunities, tools based on oral health priorities, best practice, and recommendation.
- Integrate oral health into other health priorities such as Mental Health, Asthma, Nutrition, Abuse, School Readiness, Pregnancy, Sports.
- Identify topics to support parents starting healthy oral health behaviors early (Growing Healthy Kids parent conversations, discussion forums, Oral Health Cafes, videos).

## Strategy

4

- Implement networking opportunities for medical/dental providers to improve access to care for at risk populations within their reach.
- Develop a pipeline of community professionals (doctors, nurses, behavioral, social workers, CHWs, doulas) to serve as presenters/table leaders (TTT, Ask the Docs and volunteer/service learning opportunities for dental schools).
- Facilitate education workshops/trainings on relevant topics (maternal health, dental trauma, mental health, special needs/IDD, etc.).
- Create dental recruitment toolkit, checklist, and a caregiver checklist for feedback on dentists.

## Strategy

5

- Establish framework to advocate and support access to care and prevention early.
- Engage dentists who currently provide care to special needs/IDD and pregnant teens+women to recruit dentists as providers of service for this population.
- Support screening partners to access and complete treatment for at risk populations, i.e. screenings for early learning providers, pregnant teens, special needs/IDD, unhoused students, home visiting programs, etc.