



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health
Fluoridation Advisory Board Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, June 2, 2017
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES:	
<p><u>Board Member Attendees:</u> Dr. Richard W. Ballard, DDS Dr. Tahisa P. Colbert, DDS Patrick Credeur Suzanne Farrar, R.D.H. (Phone) Ad HOC Member – Sue Catchings, EBR School-Based Health</p>	<p><u>Non-Board Member Attendees:</u> T. Jay Ray, LDH MeChaune Butler, LDH Kaitlyn King, LDH Melissa Martin, LDH Annette Droddy, Louisiana Dental Association</p>
ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS:	
<p>Dr. Cyril Richard, Dr. Kenneth M. Luminais, Dr. Roger G. Grimball, Dr. Richard R. Brasher Jr. (Board Member Status Pending), Dr. Jeremy D. Brown, Dr. John T. Little (Board Member Status Pending), Dr. Charles B. Foy Jr. (Board Member Status Pending), Dr. Henry Grimillion</p>	
Agenda Items:	Discussion:
<p><i>10:00 am—10:00am</i> Welcome & Introductions Patrick Credeur</p>	<p>Patrick, Fluoridation Advisory Board Chairman, commenced meeting by welcoming present board members and attending participants. All present board members and participants provided their personal introduction.</p> <p>MeChaune Butler, welcomed members and gave some historically information on FAB as well as a brief synopsis of the role of the Oral Health Program in regard to both Act 908 (Creation of FAB) and Act 761 (Fluoridated Water Systems)</p>
<p><i>10:00 am—10:30 am</i> Fluoridation Advisory Board Update</p>	<p>FAB Member Update The Maternal and Child Health Coalition Representative seat will be vacant moving forward as this Coalition is no longer active. Louisiana Medical Society Representative seat will be vacant moving forward as Society has declined the opportunity to maintain a board member seat. Newly appointed Board Members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Tahisa P. Colbert, D.D.S. is a new appointee to represent Region IV ○ Dr. Richard R. Brasher Jr., D.D.S. will represent Region VI (pending completion of Senate confirmation) ○ Dr. Jeremy D. Brown, D.D.S. is a new appointee to represent Region VII ○ Dr. John T. Little, D.D.S. will be reappointed from Region VIII (pending completion of Senate confirmation) ○ Dr. Charles B. Foy, D.D.S. will be reappointed to the seat in Region IX by the end of June 2017. <p>Voting for FAB Chairman Position & Review of Chairman Roles Roles of Chairman include seeking potential funding sources to drive the Fluoridation Advisory Board’s mission including assisting state water systems in initiating water fluoridation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Although there was no quorum and since there are no bylaws in place, the present members in attendance voted as follows :

- Chairman - Patrick Credeur
- Co-Chair - Dr. Tahisa Colbert

View of Legislation

- The State mandated FAB, established in 1997, resulted from Senate Bill No. 963. The advisory board was created with the purpose of bringing together Governor appointed Oral Health Champions to serve as Board Members and advocate for water fluoridation throughout the state. The legislation was reviewed.
 - Board members are recommended by the Louisiana Dental Association. Recommended members are then confirmed by the Senate. See legislation for details.
- Act 761 that legislated public water systems with at least 5000 service connections to fluoride water and the LDH-OHP to promulgate rules as well as provide sufficient sources of funding when available in conjunction with the mandate. Legislation was reviewed to discuss the details.

What is the board's focus?

- Overall the FAB plans to create goals to embrace goals that:
 - Seek and secure funding for CWF
 - Work to educate the public on matters regarding dental health, dental health access, and the prevention of tooth decay

Techniques to sustain an active board

- Patrick Credeur brought to the table to potential opportunity to work with local governments, who are looking to initiate water fluoridation, and gain funding from the citizens served by the water system. Adequate funding to support fluoridation initiation could be supported by increasing the water fee by only \$1.00/citizen
- Design legislative outreach plan to target potential legislative oral health advocates, determine areas of focus that will assist in gaining legislative support:
 - LDA (Annette Drodgy) is willing to connect with and have conversation with the lobbyists who support LDA efforts to see if any potential champions can be identified. Potential contact: Senator Hoffman
 - Identify champions and begin conversations on potential collaboration/potential fund seeking opportunities
 - Looking to identify regional representatives
 - Health Center's in Schools (Sue Catchings) is willing to connect with lobbyists who support SBHCs and advocate for children's issues. Trying to connect the importance of fluoridation and children's wellbeing may open up avenues to different decision makers who are willing to assist & support. She is also willing to assist with writing the By-Laws.
 - Focus on children's health outcomes?
 - Explore/brainstorm different groups who advocate for oral health and who could sit in on the meetings as participants and partner with the advisory board (School Health Alliance, LA School Nurses Board, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry)
 - Work to design and implement a fluoridation campaign that is backed by legislature and visible to the public

<p>10:30 am–11:00 am Future Direction of FAB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to integrate FAB efforts with other oral health stakeholders throughout the state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Louisiana Oral Health Coalition is an active group who has a water fluoridation focus group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strive to have FAB board member presence at the Oral Health Coalition Meeting to align fluoridation forces ○ Approach other coalitions, groups, organizations with an invitation to sit in on FAB meetings as participants to collaborate efforts as we work to move Oral Health forward. • Is it beneficial for the FAB continue to meet quarterly? Attendance at FAB meetings is continuously low <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should board bylaws incorporate requirements for attendance? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In what capacity is a board member expected to serve? ○ Because of low attendance rates would joining the FAB and Oral Health Coalition be an option? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Board has been established for a total of 20 years in which a quorum has never been met during a FAB meeting ➤ Would Board Member attendance increase if the FAB phased into the Oral Health Coalition? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To maintain the presence of FAB as a standalone group a short FAB meeting could be held following the Oral Health Coalition meeting. ➤ Attempting to change the dynamic of the Board Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conference call vs. in person meetings to boost participation in the FAB. Attempting to use options such as GoToMeeting or Skype.
<p>11:00 am–11:15 am Next Steps</p>	<p>Next Steps and Action items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing board member participation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OPH will create a survey for board member’s in an attempt to make board meetings more accommodating for members ○ OPH will draft FAB bylaws to be visited at the next FAB meeting • OPH will work to collect LSU Dental Program testimonies that promote importance of water fluoridation (i.e. tooth decay prevalence in EBR vs. Orleans as noted by students post Hurricane Katrina dental screenings) • Encourage Board Members to attend the October Oral Health Coalition meeting to learn more about partnership opportunities and potential group integration • OPH will plan agenda for September 2017 meeting to discuss how, who and what the Board can do to partner with decision makers and legislators at the Capital Building
<p>11:15 am – 11:30 am Current State Program Fluoridation Efforts T. Jay Ray <i>Oral Health Fluoridation Coordinator LDH</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Jay Ray, is the acting Fluoridation Program Monitor for the Office of Public Health’s Oral Health Program. The Fluoridation Program Monitor is responsible for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recruitment of water systems who are interested in initiating water fluoridation ○ Providing technical assistance to those systems who are currently fluoridating ○ Supporting and encouraging engineers to obtain the license required to manage the CWF process within a water system • State Program Health Departments have been responsible for Fluoridation Programs since 1979. In 2008 Act No. 761 required mandatory fluoridation of systems with 5000 or more connections, however, a caveat that the mandate was only enforced when LDH had funding to provide to these systems to assist in the process. TA was to include assisting systems in purchasing required equipment and 6 months of required chemicals to initiate.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding from the State has not been provided since the founding of the board however, within the past few years the Oral Health Program has assisted two Louisiana systems to initiate fluoridation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gonzales received \$90,000 in grant funding ○ Sulphur received \$100,000 in grant funding • Water fluoridation Reporting is an important state oral health program component. This reporting defines where Louisiana stands in regards to fluoridation efforts in comparison to other states in the nationwide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 44% of Louisiana residents benefit from CWF compared to the national average of 74.4%. ○ 31 water systems in Louisiana have initiated supplemental fluoride <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The fluoridation monitor’s role is to go to each one of these systems at least one time per year to ensure proper levels are being maintained. ➤ Water systems report daily to the fluoridation monitor and these daily levels are in turn reported to the CDC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water systems that are able to maintain recommended levels for the entire year receive the Annual Water Fluoridation Quality Award from CDC. ○ OHP created educational flyers in regard to water fluoridation to highlight the current fluoridation status of our state including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community Water Fluoridation Facts Sheet ➤ Percent of Population with Fluoridated Water by Parish ➤ Louisiana Public Water Systems with 5k or more Service Connections
<p><i>11:30am—11:45am</i> Patrick Credeur <i>Executive Director, LA Rural Water Association</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Credeur is the acting Executive Director of the Rural Water Association (RWA). The RWA is a non-profit organization whose efforts provide onsite technical assistance to water systems when it comes to situations including source water protection, leak detection, water meters for accuracy, and providing trainings that act as CEUs for water system operators. • The RWA currently has an operator base of about 6,400 individuals in the state. The RWA consistently advocates for systems to fluoridate their water system and the Association is deliberate in pursuing systems who are interested in fluoridation. Education regarding fluoridation is also a high priority. • The RWA puts out a Newsletter that can possibly be utilized to begin to spread the fluoridation campaign. This Newsletter goes out to all water systems, Congress, Senate, and Capital Leaders. RWA is available to help in any capacity and looks for partnership with LDH. • The capability that the RWA has to present to the Capital is an important piece to maintaining and sustaining the FAB. This partnership between the RWA and State decision makers is a ticket to obtaining greatly needed funding.
<p><i>11:45am—12:00pm</i> Melissa Martin, RDN, LDN <i>Director LDH- Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa Martin, recapped the action items that are on the table for the next FAB meeting and thanked all • The next FAB Meeting will be held in September 2017 • Mr. Patrick Credeur called meeting to adjourn