Funding Available for Medical-Dental Meet Ups
October 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

The AAP Section on Oral Health (SOOH) has funding available to support AAP state chapter and member efforts to convene meetings between medical and dental professionals, including public health, education, health coalition, and community representatives. Chapters or practices will be reimbursed for meeting expenses upon submission of receipts, a description of the meeting, attendance lists, and a description of the proceedings (notes, minutes, or brief report). Support will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis with a not-to-exceed limit of $500. Meetings must take place before December 31, 2019. Sorry, no alcohol.

**Rationale:** By the age of three, most children have had frequent doctor visits, but many have never seen a dental professional and do not have a dental home. Childhood dental disease is both common and preventable. That's why it is so important for pediatricians to assess oral health, provide anticipatory guidance, and refer families to dental care.

Referral, however, is not always easy. **To facilitate inter-professional referral and bi-directional communication, the SOOH will provide funding to offset costs of in-person meetings between pediatricians, dentists, their professional colleagues (e.g. hygienists, assistants), and others to discuss and develop working relationships that result in warm hand-offs of pediatric patients to dental homes.** Community members involved in provision of oral health promotion and disease prevention, such as Head Start, school sealant and other community programs, may also be included.

**Examples of eligible meetings include:**

**Professional Association Meet-Greets:** Invite staff and leadership from your chapter, the state dental and pediatric dental associations, dental hygiene association, family practice association, and others to explore how to engage all constituent members in oral health promotion and disease prevention, particularly bi-directional communication in practice.

**Provider Meet-Greets:** Invite pediatricians (+ nurses, PAs, medical assistants), family physicians, general and pediatric dentists, hygienists and others in geographic or demographic configurations that serve children most affected by dental disease. Explore how to collaborate for individual patients as well as communities of children who are at high risk or underserved.

**Chapter Meetings:** Use a chapter meeting to invite dental and other oral health professionals to explore how to engage work with pediatricians and others in oral health promotion and disease prevention, particularly bi-directional communication in practice.

**Meetings of Other Pertinent Audiences:** Invite your **Chapter Oral Health Advocate** or other chapter leadership to present oral health promotion and disease prevention content and make introductions of chapter members to colleagues in dentistry, oral health advocacy and other health professions.
To be considered for funding, please contact Hollis Russinof, hrussinof@aap.org or 630-626-6483.

As part of this initiative, you are strongly encouraged to do the following:

1. Establish contact with your local or state dental societies, including chapters of the National Dental Association, Hispanic Dental Association, and Society of American Indian Dentists, where available.
2. Engage your Chapter Oral Health Advocate. (Don’t have one? Let us help you identify someone.)
3. Link from your chapter website to these AAP oral health resources:
   - Oral Health Prevention Primer
   - Campaign for Dental Health
   - Section on Oral Health
4. Present the Oral Health Prevention Primer at an upcoming chapter, other meeting. (An OHPP PowerPoint is being developed for your use; available late October/early November!)
5. Connect with your local or state oral health coalition or group working within the OPEN Oral Health Network.

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Thank you.