



# Mississippi Oral Health Community Alliance

Hello MOHCA Members

## MOHCA Officers

- Carla Bassett*  
Chair
- Cammie Balducci*  
Chair-Elect
- Rahel Mathews*  
Secretary
- Mary Parr*  
Acting-Treasurer
- Dr. Nicholas Mosca*  
Liaison

Note from the Chair

### APRIL SHOWERS.....

Our April General meeting began as most workdays do with the exception of bad weather coming our way. The meeting was interrupted due to inclement weather. As the weather passed, parts of Jackson and Clinton suffered damage from a tornado. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to those affected that day as well as the many other areas in MS later destroyed in the spring line of tornadoes.

### MULTI-TASKING AT IT'S BEST....

Despite the weather, we had over 50 attend. I want to thank those creative committees that kept the meeting going in the basement. We rearranged the agenda and pressed on with committee discussion until it was sage to return upstairs. Great work committees and thank you for hanging in there! A big thanks to the speakers for a wonderful job in adapting to the modified schedule. The topics were informative and helpful to the coalition as we strive to build regional chapters, mobilize community partnerships and expand membership. The MOHCA coalition has proof that networking pays off even in bad weather situations.

### CALLING ALL GRANT WRITERS....

I urge all members to keep your eyes open for grants that could benefit the coalition. MOHCA not only needs your participation but also financial support in order to grow. Keep up the good work and keep the grants coming!



Carla Bassett, RDH  
2011 Chair

## Meet Cammie

Dear MOHCA Members,

My name is Cammie Balducci and I would like to introduce myself as chair-elect of MOHCA. I am a native to the Delta and I reside in Cleveland, MS. I received an associate's degree in Dental Hygiene Technology at Mississippi Delta Community College in 2006. I am currently a stay home mom with two teenage boys and I work part time, as needed, for several dentists in the Delta area. I have been a member of MOHCA for two years and I look forward to bringing new ideas and collaborating with other organizations to improve the importance of oral health in Mississippi. I presently have objectives and goals planned in the next year and I look forward to formally meeting you on our next engagement in October.

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[www.facebook.com/MSMOHCA](http://www.facebook.com/MSMOHCA)

The Delta Oral Health project has ended its Year 2, having screened and varnished over 1700 children



under the age of 5 in child care centers in 6 counties: Sunflower, Leflore, Holmes, Coahoma, Sharkey and Issaquena.

The project provided educational trainings to over 160 parents and child care staff in that area.

The project is a collaboration of Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi State University, and the Delta Health Alliance.



### Mississippi Mission of Mercy

The Mississippi Mission of Mercy project was held at the Jackson Convention Complex on July 15th and 16th. 179 dentists, 27 dental hygienists, 65 dental assistants and well over 200 community volunteers gave their time and shared their talents and skills with the hundreds of patients who gathered at the convention center to stand in long lines even before 6:00 a.m. on both days in hopes of receiving free dental treatment.

By the time the clinic shut down late Saturday afternoon, a total of 1,435 patients had been treated and the preliminary figures note \$654,000 in free dental care provided.

## Golden Triangle Region Chapter

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE REGION (GTR) CHAPTER OF MOHCA MADE ITS DEBUT AT THE STARKVILLE COMMUNITY MARKET, BY HOSTING A CHILDREN'S BOOTH, ONCE IN MAY AND ONCE IN JUNE. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOOTH INCLUDED A TOOTHBRUSH GIVE-AWAY, COLORING BOOKS WITH NUTRITION AND TOBACCO-FREE THEMES, COLOR OF FOOD CARD GAME, MINI GOLF, FREE APPLES, AND INFORMATION ON FLUORIDATED WATER AS WELL AS ON ASTHMA. "HENRY, THE DRAGON" MADE AN APPEARANCE AT THE BOOTH IN JUNE AND ALLOWED CHILDREN TO PRACTICE BRUSHING HIS TEETH. TOOTHBRUSHES WERE GIVEN OUT TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS FROM AGES 2 TO ADULT TO ENCOURAGE GOOD ORAL HEALTH PRACTICES.



## Colgate Dental Van Visits Mississippi



Colgate Dental Van will visit Public Health District 1 September 8, 2011. They will conduct screenings at the Green Hill Elementary School in Sardis, MS with the help of dentists from A Smile For You in Oxford, MS. They will also be set up at the Family Dollar store in Sardis, MS on September 10 from 11:00- 1:00. Dr. Monte Montieth from Senatobia, MS will conduct screenings at this event. On September 13, 2011 they will be in Public Health District 3 at the Ray Brooks Elementary School in Benoit, MS. Dr. Tankersly from Ruleville, MS will conduct the screenings.



# Save the Date

Join MOHCA for the General Meeting  
Better Oral Health for Mississippi Schools...

Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Location: Quisenberry Public  
Library in Clinton, MS

Reserve your spot by emailing  
MOHCA@HealthyMS.com or  
by calling LaTasha Watson at  
601.576.7500

October 2011

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FRIDAY



## Calling for Nominations...

MOHCA is currently seeking someone for the Executive Committee Positions of Chair-Elect and Treasurer and for the Committee Chair Positions of Fiscal and Capability Building Committee.

If you or someone you know is interested please contact MOHCA@HealthyMS.com or LaTasha at 601.576.7500 for a nomination form.

*Membership Committee members are continuing their efforts to increase MOHCA membership throughout Mississippi. Save the date flyers for the October General Meeting are also being distributed through out the state. Our goal is to have Regional Coalitions throughout the state. Download our membership form at [www.HealthyMS.com/MOHCA](http://www.HealthyMS.com/MOHCA) and join **TODAY!***





“Aim to be tobacco-free” as we kick off our Fall sports this season. Find your local coalition at [www.tobaccofreems.org](http://www.tobaccofreems.org).



Flowood goes smokefree in May 2011. Pictured are the Mayor of Flowood, Gary Rhodes with the Flowood City Council, Anita Bales from the American Cancer Society, Jennifer Cofer with the American Lung Association and Tawni Basden with the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition of Rankin, Scott

### School is In – Smoking is Out

Mississippi high school student Michael Henderson appreciates the fact that he can go to school and not feel pressure from his classmates to use tobacco products.

“I am 100 percent behind the ‘no tobacco products on school campuses’ rule because there is less chance of peer pressure,” said Henderson. School is about learning, and students shouldn’t have to worry about being pressured to try tobacco products while they are at school.”

It’s been 10 years since legislation went into effect in Mississippi prohibiting students from possessing any type of tobacco products and adults from using tobacco products on educational property.

“Three thousand and seven hundred Mississippi kids become new daily smokers each year and 69,000 Mississippi kids currently under the age of 18 will die prematurely from smoking,” said Roy Hart, director of the Office of Tobacco Control at the Mississippi State Department of Health. “This policy is one way we can help protect kids from experiencing pressure to begin using tobacco products.”

“This legislation has been a great thing for Mississippi students because not only does it alleviate some of the peer pressure they experience from their classmates to try tobacco products, it also limits some of their exposure to secondhand smoke,” said Jacqueline Carter, director of the Tobacco-Free Coalition of Hinds County. “Each year in Mississippi, smoking accounts for an estimated 5,250 premature deaths, including 550 deaths among nonsmokers as a result of secondhand smoke.”

Henderson hopes to eventually see a policy in place that would protect all Mississippians from exposure to secondhand smoke. “If you are out somewhere and people around you are smoking, it can cause harm to you. I think everyone should be able to go to public places and be protected from secondhand smoke.”

For more information on the dangers of tobacco use and secondhand smoke, contact the Tobacco-Free Coalition of Hinds County at 601-352-6993 or visit [www.tobaccofreems.org](http://www.tobaccofreems.org).



### Better Oral Health for Mississippi

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[www.facebook.com/MSMOHCA](http://www.facebook.com/MSMOHCA)

Our mission is to:

- Offer a comprehensive approach to improve the oral health status for Mississippians by serving as an advocate for optimal oral health
- Mobilize community partnerships between and among policy makers, state agencies, professionals, organization, the public and other groups that are interested in improving oral health
- Develop plans and policies that improve oral health through a collaborative process; and
- Establish an oral health services infrastructure that assures the protection, promotion and provision of oral care for all Mississippians.