



Finding Common Ground through  
Collaboration and Communication  
with the Medical Profession



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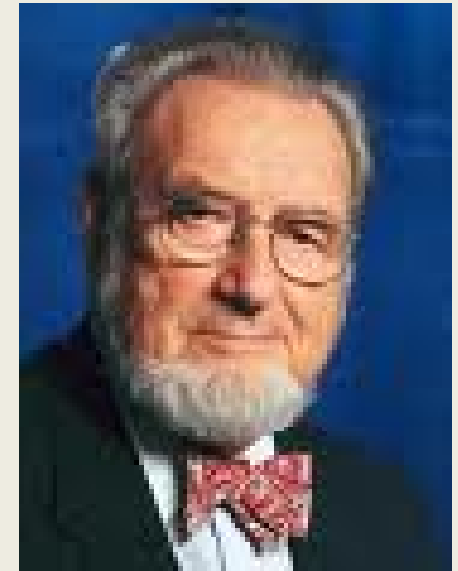




# The Big Picture

*“You are not healthy without good oral health...”*

C. Everett Koop, MD



- Dental care: the most common unmet health need
- Oral disease can severely affect systemic health
- Profound disparities in oral health and access to care exist at all ages
- Much oral disease is preventable or at least controllable



# Prevalence

- Dental caries is the most common chronic disease of childhood
  - 5 times more common than asthma
  - Affects 50% of low income children
  - Affects 70% of Native American children
- Severe gum disease affects 19% of adults aged 25-44
- 30,000 oral cancers diagnosed annually
  - 8000 die
  - Diagnosis is often late





# Prevalence of Geriatric Oral Health Issues

- 50% of the elderly (age >65) perceive their dental health as poor or very poor
- 33% of the elderly had untreated cavities
- Low income elderly suffer more severe tooth loss than their wealthy counterparts
- Edentulism: 1/3 of those over age 65; 50% of those in nursing homes
- Periodontitis in 41% of the elderly

# Physical, Economic and Social Consequences

- Mounting evidence of **aggravating effects on systemic conditions**
- **Oral pain**
  - Poor school performance in children
  - Work loss in adults
  - Poor chewing and poor nutrition
  - Costly emergency department visits
- **Dental decay and tooth loss**
  - Aesthetics and self-image
  - Speech and language development
  - Costly restoration



Photos: Donald Greiner DDS MS, ICOHP



# The Disconnect

- Children are 2.5 times more likely to lack dental coverage than medical coverage
- Only 43% of elderly visit the dentist
- >90% of physicians think oral health should be addressed at well visits, yet > 50% had little or no oral health training
- Little communication and coordination among medical and dental providers





# 1983 – A world of possibilities...



# Welcome to a new world...





...and unprecedented oral health needs!





Realization: *I can't do this by myself!!*





# The culprit....



# Piecing the puzzle together...



Prevention  
and  
Treatment

# Medical/Dental Collaboration was a start

- Treating the patient's dental needs
- Educating the parent and caregiver
- Community water fluoridation



# Collaboration & Coordination

- Midwives and Obstetricians
- Pediatricians and Family Practice
  - Well-baby visits
  - Fluoride supplements
  - Coordinated referrals
- Pharmacists





# Collaboration & Coordination

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Community Health Workers
- Head Start
- Schools (Parents & Teachers)



# Preaching their gospel...

- Prevention Services
  - Mammograms
  - Pap smears
- Immunizations
- Staff education
- Diabetes



# Biggest Obstacle...Grandmothers!!!



# Biggest Supporter...Militant Grandmas!



[blog.sina.com.cn/qktx](http://blog.sina.com.cn/qktx)



# 24 years of service



One door closes and another opens...



**Welcome  
to the  
ADA**



“If you are what you should be,  
you will set the whole world on fire!”



# CAPIR's Vision and Mission

## Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations

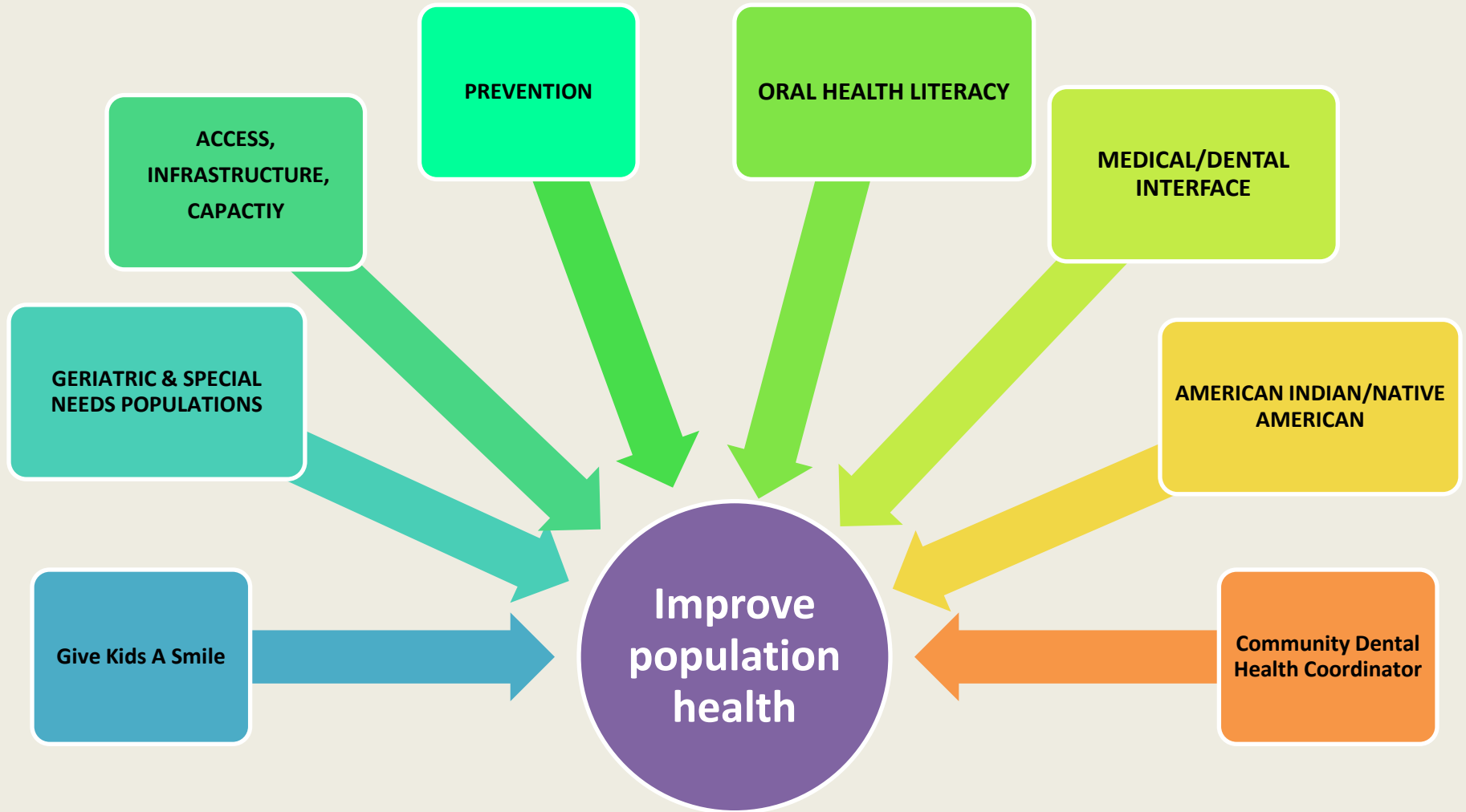
**Vision:** *Optimal oral health for all*

**Mission to:**

- *advance oral health care within the health delivery system*
- *promote prevention as the cornerstone of oral health*
- *improve access to oral health services for underserved populations.*



# CAPIR working together to make a difference...



# Changing course at the ADA...





# ADA Strategic Plan Goals: 2011-2014

- **Goal 1:** Provide support to dentists so they may succeed and excel throughout their careers
- **Goal 2:** Be the trusted resource for oral health information that will help people be good stewards of their own oral health
- **Goal 3:** Improve public health outcomes through a strong collaborative profession, and through effective collaboration across the spectrum of our external stakeholders
- **Goal 4:** Ensure that the ADA is a financially stable organization that provides appropriate resources to enable strategic and operational initiatives

# Support from House of Delegates

**Resolved**, that the ADA ...engage in dialogue, and where appropriate collaborate and affiliate with other organizations that impact the health care environment and delivery of oral health care  
*(Res.39H-2010)*

**Resolved**, that the ADA encourages member dentists to be leaders within grassroots community efforts that impact the oral health of the public.  
*(Res.18H-2011)*





# Perinatal Oral Health Consensus Statement

## Collaboration among:

- American Dental Association
- American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- Federal Government



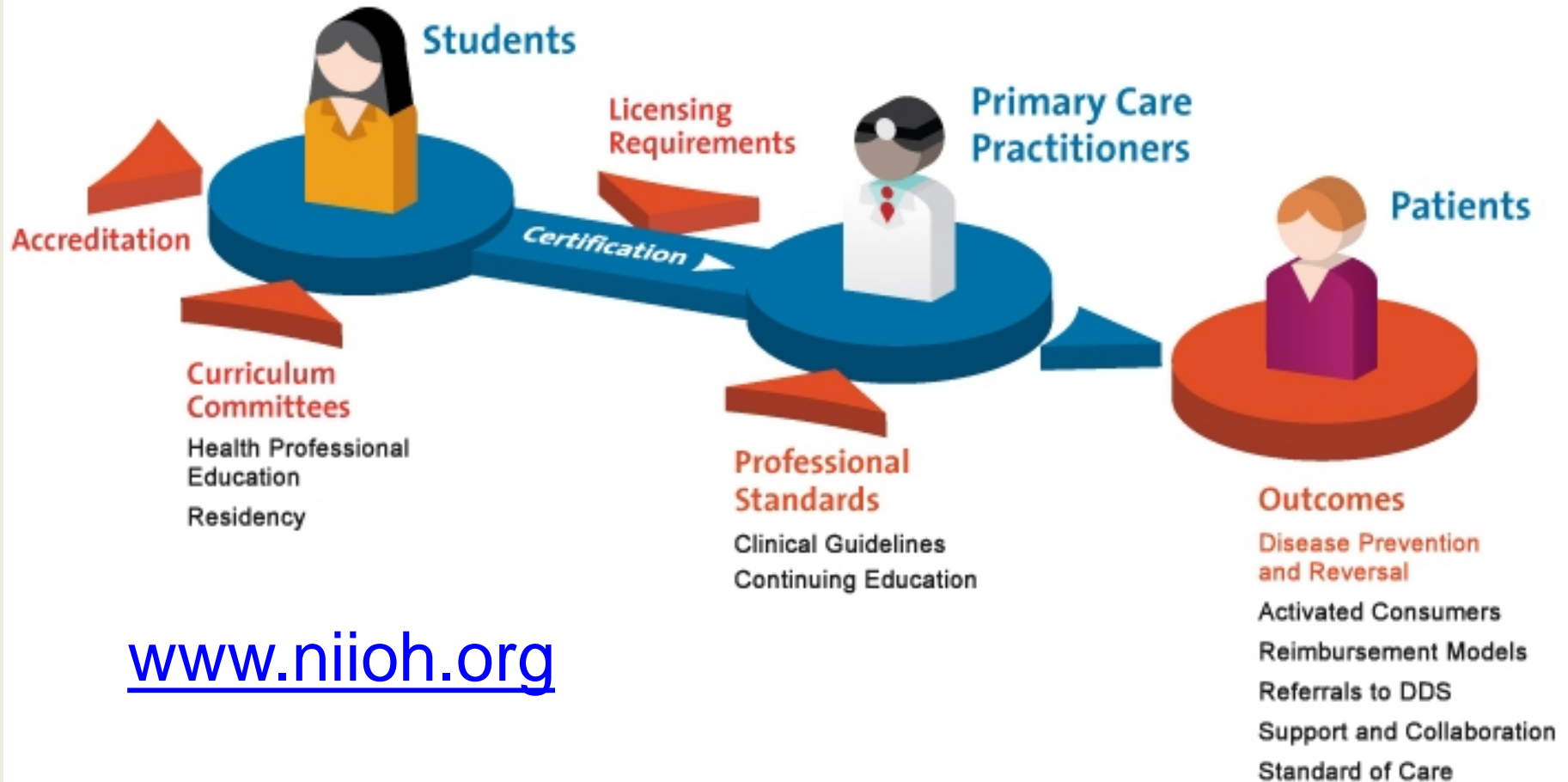
# CATOOH

## (Chapter Advocacy Training on Oral Health)

- Collaboration between ADA Foundation and American Academy of Pediatrics
- Train the Trainer across all 50 states
  - Caries Risk Assessment
  - Anticipatory Guidance
  - Fluoride Varnish as appropriate
  - Referral to a dentist
- <http://www2.aap.org/commpeds/doch/oralhealth/>



# National *Interprofessional Initiative* on Oral Health



# *Smiles for Life: a national oral health curriculum*

Eight annotated educational modules

1. The Relationship of Oral to Systemic Health
2. Child Oral Health
3. Adult Oral Health
4. Acute Dental Problems
5. Oral health & the Pregnant Patient
6. Fluoride Varnish
7. The Oral Examination
8. Geriatric Oral Health



<http://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org>

# U.S. National Oral Health Alliance

## 2009 Access to Dental Care Summit

- Convening, not leading...being at the table
- Acknowledging differences among 12 diverse stakeholder groups
- Finding *common ground*
- Identified six priorities for action

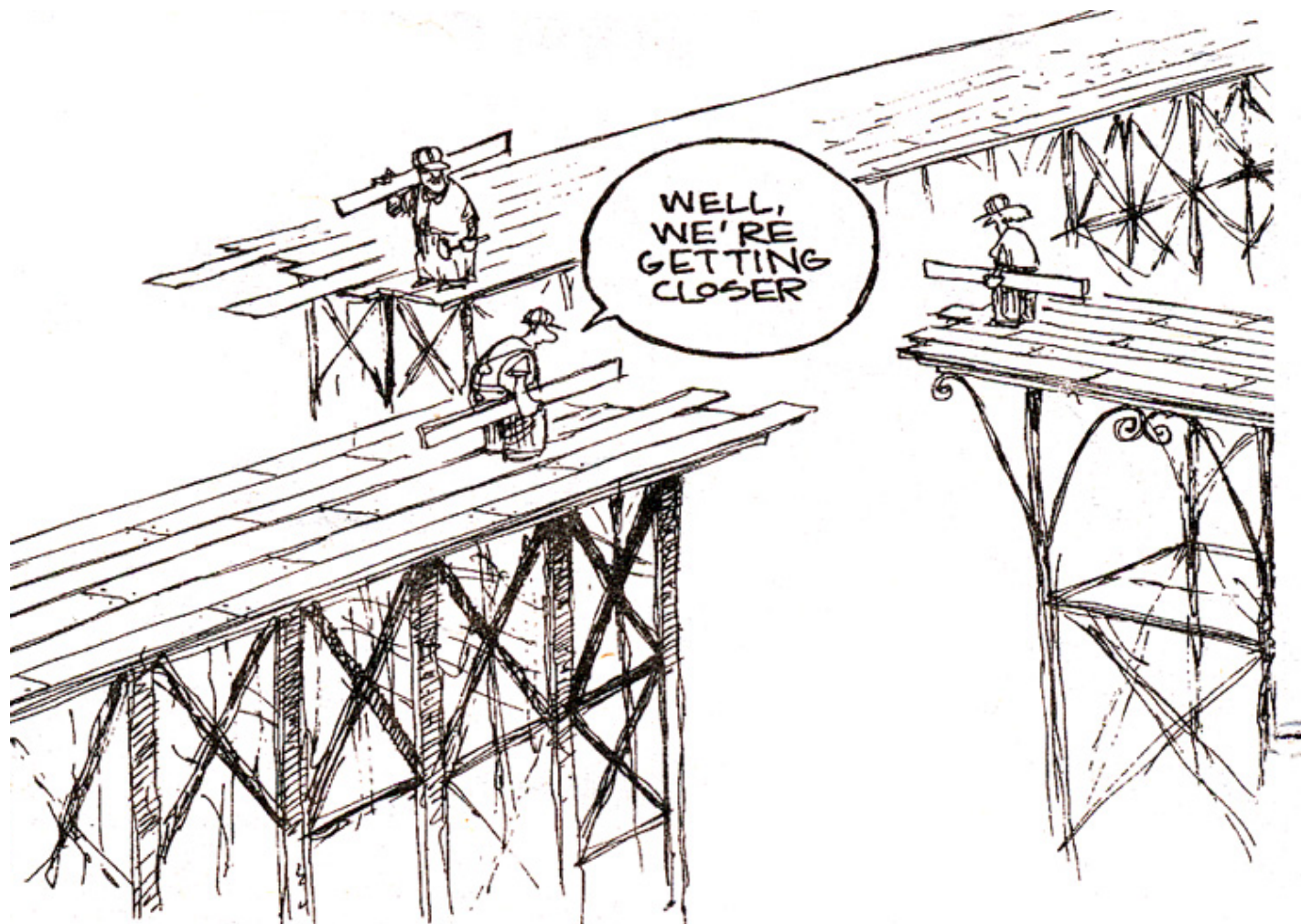


## U.S. National Oral Health Alliance

- A sustainable infrastructure for coordination and communication
- Working together to make a collective impact
- <http://usalliancefororalhealth.org/>



# Progress Report



# Collaboration has always been about:

- understanding others
- educating others about your positions
- correcting misconceptions about your positions
- **developing trust**
- working with others in search of common ground
- having input in decisions made outside your organization
- taking an honest look at your own beliefs.

# Finding Common Ground...

**Between the totally wrong and the perfectly right, there is a big field...**

**...I'll meet you there!**



*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”*

-- Margaret Mead





# Thank you!!

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