A Policy Development Tool
For State Oral Health Programs
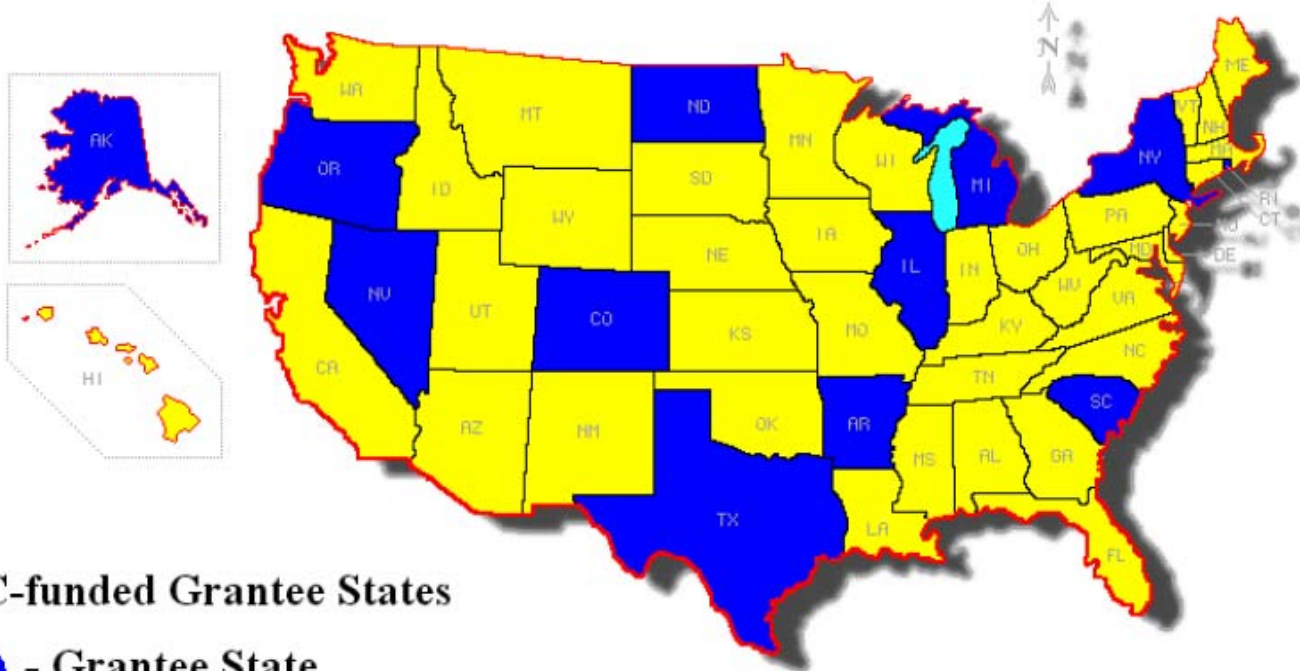
Burton L. Edelstein DDS MPH
Beth Hines MPH RDH
Marcy Frosh JD

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CDC Oral Health Capacity State Grantees
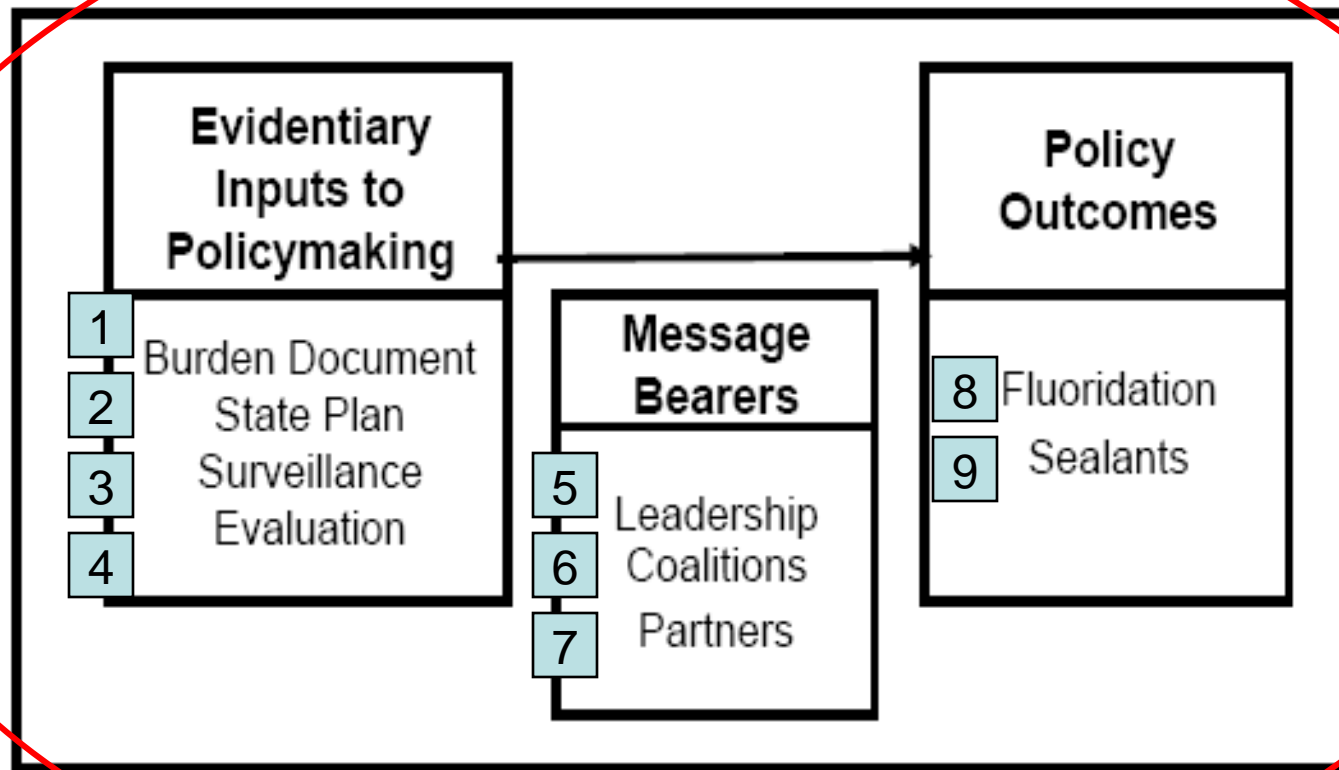

CDC-funded Grantee States

● - Grantee State

● - Non-Grantee State

8-4-06

10 Program Components

Policy Tool Objectives

Part I: Determine your policy goal

1. Identify policy needs and options

2. Objectively rate options on

    - Data-supported extent of the problem
    - Capacity for policy will reach target population
    - Extent of community's perceived need
    - Urgency

3. Factor in feasibility

    - Degree of difficulty
    - Likelihood of happening

4. Determine priority based on scoring formula

Policy Tool Objectives

Part II: Accomplish your policy goal

1. State priority as a SMART objective

   Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timed

2. Assemble information on need, cost, impact, ROI
3. Establish arguments on importance, timeliness, public benefit
4. Develop support network
5. Assess competitive environment
6. Target key policymakers
7. Analyze opposition policymakers' positions
8. Build on prior action/ successes

9. Learn from other states' efforts
10. Develop your messages/ talking points
11. Identify "message bearers"
12. Create supporting press, letter, event strategies
13. Distribute responsibility for strategies
14. Refine action plan with collaborators
15. Implement policy action plan
16. Reassess and modify as needed

Pilot Project

o   Pilot states: AR, MI, SC

o "Efficacy trial": Directly observed "walk through" with state Oral Health Directors and staff

o Revisions based on observation and feedback

o "Effectiveness trial":Implementation with state oral health coalition or committee

o Revisions based on group experience

o "Efficiency assessment": Solicited feedback on "return on time invested"

Policy Tool Summary Results

State	Efficacy	Effectiveness	Efficiency
Arkansas	Moderate-High	High	High
Michigan	Moderate-High	High	High
S. Carolina	Moderate-High	Low	Low

Key Findings

o **Effectiveness**
  - o Policy Tool served as "driver" to recognize and prioritize policy options
  - o Policy Tool "objectified" prioritization and yielded unexpected outcomes
  - o Policy Tool muted the influence of "loudest voice in the room"

o **Efficiency**
  - o Policy Tool was most efficient if there was no pre-existing method
  - o Policy Tool was most efficient in states with high "policy readiness"

o **Tool is best used with trained facilitator**

Project Status

Policy Tool is now…
o Ready for dissemination to all grantee states
o Being "pirated" by grantees for use in other venues
o In need of training materials and technical assistance
o To be used in series of case studies
o Available for retrospective analysis using past policymaking experience