

Share & Learn: Simplifying the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) Data Process

April 17, 2025

Speakers

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Facilitator

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Funding & Disclaimer

- **Acknowledgement:** This webinar is funded by the Office of Oral Health (OOH) within the California Department of Public Health. Funding is provided through Proposition 56 – the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016 – under Contract 22-10488. COHTAC assists OOH in advancing the California Oral Health Plan through technical assistance and training.
- **Disclaimer:** The presentations today are the content of the speakers and do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the California Department of Public Health, California Health and Human Services Agency, Office of Oral Health, or the California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center (COHTAC).

Housekeeping

- Meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the COHTAC website and YouTube channel – follow up materials and recording link will be emailed
- Questions, comments, and resource sharing are welcomed in the chat box and will be answered at the end of the presentations – please stay muted until called on
- As always, we appreciate your feedback – please take a minute at the end to complete our evaluation survey

Learning Objectives & Agenda

Objectives

- Explain the importance of KOHA data
- Share tools and resources to help with KOHA data collection and entry into SCOHR (central database)
- Effectively overcome challenges with entering data into SCOHR
- Provide resources from *Smile, California*

Agenda

- Welcome and overview – [Aubri Kottek](#)
- Tour of the COHTAC website and updates to KOHA webpage – [Katie Conklin](#)
- Importance of data – [Dr. Bahar Amanzadeh](#)
- Top 3 challenges for entering data into SCOHR – [Katie](#), [Claire Bleymaier](#), and [Ariel Thomas-Urlik](#)
- Q & A – [All](#)
- KOHA Toolkit deliverable – [Karen Jacoby](#)
- *Smile, California* resources – [Pamela Vera](#)
- Announcements and wrap up – [Aubri](#)

Planning Team

Thank you so much!

- Claire Bleymaier, San Mateo
- Ariel Thomas-Urlik, Sonoma
- Sharrie Sprouse, Stanislaus
- Karen Jacoby, OOH
- Bahar Amanzadeh, COHTAC
- Katie Conklin, COHTAC
- Aubri Kottek, COHTAC



Tour of the KOHA Webpage

Katie Conklin

Importance of Data

Dr. Bahar Amanzadeh

Importance of Data

KOHA data can support your efforts in:



Identifying community needs and connecting children to care



Communications with schools/school districts



Guiding program priorities, communication with schools/school districts, and strategic planning



Supporting advocacy efforts and funding proposals

SCOHR Tour

Katie Conklin



Top 3 Challenges for Entering Data into SCOHR

Katie Conklin, Claire Bleymaier, Ariel Thomas-Urlik

Section 3: Urgent Referrals

Ariel Thomas-Urlik (Sonoma County)



Section 3: Follow-up to Urgent Care (Filled out by entity responsible for follow up)

Parent notified that child has urgent dental care need on:	MM – DD – YYYY
A follow-up appointment for this child has been scheduled for:	MM – DD – YYYY
Did child receive needed treatment?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (If no, entity responsible for follow-up will be encouraged to check back in with parent) <input type="radio"/> I don't know

The law states schools must keep student health information private. Your child's name will not be part of any report as a result of this law. This information may only be used for purposes related to your child's health. If you have questions, please call your school.

Section 3: Urgent Referrals

Ariel Thomas-Urlik (Sonoma County)

- Student information requested by a clinic/provider for class 3 referrals
- Student name
- Student date of birth
- Parent/guardian(s) name
- Parent/guardian(s) phone number(s)
- Parent/guardian(s) preferred language
- Treatment information



Q & A



KOHA Toolkit Deliverable

Karen Jacoby

KOHA Tools

Work plan deliverable 3.1.d

Provide or adapt tools and training to make presentations and write letters for educating school board members to include KOHA activities in the Local Control funding formula and the Local Control Accountability Plan.

KOHA Steps to Completion

[KOHA School District Flowchart](#) | [KOHA Flowcharts](#)

1 KOHA Forms

2 Reminders

3 Data

4 Urgency Referrals

5 Waiver

6 Communication



[LCAP \(CA Dept of Education\)](#)
[LCFF \(CA Dept of Education\)](#)

KOHA Tools


Work plan deliverable 3.1.d

- Board of Education letter templates
- List of presentations made
- KOHA & sealant social media toolkit
- Talking points
- Starter manual for school staff

Home > Our Programs > School Oral Health Programs & KOHA > Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment > Communication

Communication

Helpful Letters, Presentations, and Materials for Schools



Curriculum Department
of Education
1400 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95833-1500 | 916.227.2000 | www.cde.ca.gov

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:


Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Requirement Update

The California Department of Education and the California Department of Public Health are writing to inform you that the forms used for the Kindergarten Oral Health Requirement are being revised. The new forms will be available for download on the CDE website by the end of the month. The new forms will be available for download on the CDE website by the end of the month. The new forms will be available for download on the CDE website by the end of the month.

The Office of Oral Health and California Department of Education co-signed a letter to promote the intersection between the importance of oral health and school readiness.

You can share the letter with your county office of education, school districts, and schools to build relationships with school staff, school nurses, and KOHA champions.

Editable KOHA Presentation for Schools




KOHA Requirement and SCOHR Reporting

School District Nurses and Lead Coordinators
Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Intro Slides When Presenting to School Administrators/School Board

Planting the seeds for educational success

How KOHA helps to put California children on a path toward healthy and successful lives



UCSF School of Dentistry

[Name of Presenter, Credentials Go Here]
[Audience/Conference and Date Go Here]

Editable version created by Matt Jacobs.

KOHA & Sealant Social Media Toolkit



KOHA Tools

Work plan deliverable 3.1.d

Provide or adapt tools and training to make presentations and write letters for educating school board members to include KOHA activities in the Local Control funding formula and the Local Control Accountability Plan.

- Program letter for June deliverables:
 - Instructions, templates, resources for each deliverable
 - Releasing in early May 2025



Smile, California Resources

Pamela Vera

Supporting Families Through KOHHA and Medi-Cal Dental Care Access



Medi-Cal Dental

The Impact of Oral Health on School Attendance & Readiness

A Look into Children's Dental Health in California:

- **60%** of children experience tooth decay by 3rd grade.*
- **1 in 5** kids have untreated cavities.*
- Approximately **300,000** children missed school due to a dental problem in 2022.**

*2018-20 3rd Grade Basic Screening Survey, California Office of Oral Health

**2021, 2022 California Health Interview Survey. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research



Healthy Children Are Ready to Learn!

Oral Health and School Readiness

Establishing good dental care habits at home at a young age is important. However, home care alone is no substitute for a dental check-up. Having a dental home and seeing a dentist every six months is the best way to ensure a child remains pain-free and able to focus at school.



The Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA)

What is the KOHA?

Definition: To make sure children are ready for school, California law requires that children have a dental assessment by May 31 in either kindergarten or first grade, whichever is their first year in public school.

Importance: A dental assessment helps identify and address dental issues early, supporting children's health and school readiness. Early intervention prevents future problems and contributes to their success in the classroom.



Medi-Cal Has Dental Covered

Medi-Cal covers dental services for **FREE** for all ages.



FREE check-ups twice a year, and sometimes more for members *under* the age of 21.



FREE check-up once a year for members 21 and *older*.

SERVICES	BABIES	KIDS	TEENS	PREGNANCY	ADULTS & SENIORS
Exams*, x-rays, teeth cleaning, and fluoride varnish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fillings and tooth removal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emergency services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sedation	✓	✓	✓		✓
Molar sealants**		✓	✓		
Root canals		✓	✓	✓	✓
Orthodontics (braces)***			✓		
Crowns			✓	✓	✓
Partial and full dentures and denture relines			✓	✓	✓
Scaling and root planing			✓	✓	✓

*Free check-ups every six months, and sometimes more, for members under the age of 21 and every 12 months for members 21 and older.
 **Permanent molar sealants are covered for kids and teens up to age 21.
 ***For those who qualify.

Two Ways to Help Members Find a Medi-Cal Dentist



1

“Find a Dentist” Tool: Direct members to SmileCalifornia.org or SonrieCalifornia.org to search for local Medi-Cal dentists.



2

Care Coordination Services: Inform members about personalized support to find a dentist and schedule appointments.

How to Use the “Find a Dentist” Tool

1. Visit SmileCalifornia.org or SonrieCalifornia.org and select “Find a Dentist.”
2. Click the “Provider Directory Search” link.
3. Enter the member’s zip code.
4. Provide members with their top three choices using the [Smile Care Plan](#).



Visit SmileCalifornia.org/Find-A-Dentist

Medi-Cal Dental Care Coordination

Care Coordination representatives are ready to help Medi-Cal Fee-For-Services members with:

- Appointment Scheduling
- Locating a general dentist or dental specialist
- Language and American Sign language assistance
- Transportation



Accessing Care Coordination Services

Members can connect to Care Coordination Services by either:

- Completing the [Care Coordination Referral Form](#); **or**
- Calling the Telephone Service Center at **(800) 322-6384** Monday through Friday, between 8:00am to 5:00pm



Source: Member Bulletin, June 2024, Vol. 7, No.9,
https://dental.dhcs.ca.gov/MCD_documents/members/member_bulletins/Volume_07_Number_09.pdf

A laptop screen showing a web form titled "Care Coordination Referral Form". The form has a blue header and a light blue background. It contains six numbered sections with input fields and radio buttons.

Care Coordination Referral Form

1. Member's Name
2. Member's Legal Guardian (if applicable)
3. Member's Medi-Cal ID (BIC Number) if known
4. Date of Birth
5. Member's Gender
☐ Woman
☐ Man
☐ Non-binary
6. Member's Ethnicity

Oral Health and School Readiness



KOHA Resources

To educate parents and caregivers about the KOHA and Medi-Cal covered dental services download, print, or share these materials:

- **KOHA Flyer:**
 - [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Chinese](#)
- **KOHA Poster:**
 - [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- **[KOHA Video](#)**
- **Healthy Children Are Ready to Learn! video**
 - [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- [Social media images and captions](#)



KOHA and Medi-Cal Dental Resources



Enhance Your Local Events with Free KOHA Toolkits!

You can request a free KOHA toolkit to support your outreach events and provide valuable resources to the communities you serve.

Each toolkit contains enough materials for an event with 50 people and includes:

- **KOHA Poster**
- **Medi-Cal Has Dental Covered Flyer**
- **Branded Toothbrushes**
- **Seal Today to Prevent Decay Fotonovela**



**Scan the
QR code to
submit a
request!**

Email us directly for help at hello@smilecalifornia.org

For more information about Medi-Cal
dental benefits and to find a dentist, visit
SmileCalifornia.org or call the Telephone
Service Center at **1-800-322-6384**.

Follow us on social media!



@SmileCalifornia



@SmileOnCalifornia

Email us!

hello@smilecalifornia.org or
Medi-CalDentalOutreachSNC@gainwelltechnologies.com



Medi-Cal Dental





Announcements

AB 2630 Guidance

Adding TK to KOHA

- Proof of assessment required only once during the two-year (TK+K) timeframe
- Count TK with K in SCOHR – will not report separately
- Indicate grade level on KOHA form (TK, K, or 1st)

Section 1: Child's Information (Filled out by parent or guardian)

Child's First Name:	Last Name:	Middle Initial:	Child's Birth Date: MM - DD - YYYY
Address:			Apt.:
City:		ZIP Code:	
School Name:	Teacher:	Grade:	Year child starts kindergarten: Y Y Y Y
Parent/Guardian First Name:	Parent/Guardian Last Name:	Child's Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Child's Race/Ethnicity:	<input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="text"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-racial <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		

KOHA Forms

Newly translated forms are here 

All four KOHA forms have been translated into 6 languages:

- Spanish
- Chinese (simplified and traditional)
- Korean
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese

[Home](#) > [Our Programs](#) > [School Oral Health Programs & KOHA](#) > [Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment](#) > [KOHA Forms](#)

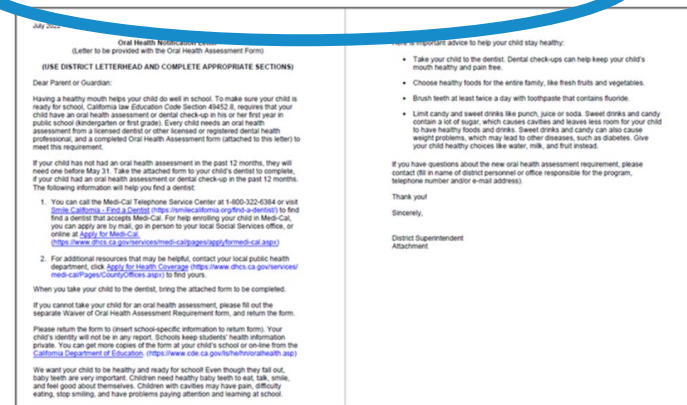
KOHA Forms

Say Hello to the KOHA Forms!

[Parent Notification Letter](#): describes what the KOHA requirement is and what parents/caregivers need to do. It includes information about how to access dental care in the county as well as basic oral health information.

Access the Parent Notification Letter in other languages below:

[Spanish](#) ♦ [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#) ♦ [Chinese \(Traditional\)](#) ♦ [Korean](#) ♦ [Tagalog](#) ♦ [Vietnamese](#)

A screenshot of the 'Parent Notification Letter' form, which is a letter to be provided with the Oral Health Assessment Form. The form is dated July 2015 and is titled 'Oral Health Assessment Form (Letter to be provided with the Oral Health Assessment Form)'. It includes a section for the 'DISTRICT LETTERHEAD AND COMPLETE APPROPRIATE SECTIONS'. The letter is addressed to the 'Dear Parent or Guardian' and explains the importance of a healthy mouth for a child's school performance. It states that California law (Education Code Section 49452.2) requires that every child have an oral health assessment or dental check-up in his or her first year in public school (Kindergarten or first grade). Every child needs an oral health assessment from a licensed dentist or other licensed or registered dental health professional, and a completed Oral Health Assessment form (attached to this letter) to meet this requirement. The letter provides instructions for parents to get a dental check-up for their child, including contacting the Medi-Cal Telephone Service Center at 1-800-322-6384 or visiting the Medi-Cal website. It also lists additional resources that may be helpful, such as contacting the local public health department. The letter concludes with a request for the parent to return the form to the school and a note that the school will keep the form confidential. The form is signed by the District Superintendent and includes a space for an attachment.

Need More KOHA or SCOHR Support?

COHTAC and SCOHR support

- Join **KOHA data support office hours** – bring your questions to the group presenting today on Wednesday, May 7, at 3pm
- Join **SCOHR office hours** on Tuesday, May 20, at 11am and 12pm
 - SCOHR team will be available to answer any questions about accessing and using SCOHR, participating vs. non-participating districts, etc.
- Join our **Slack LOHP Workspace**
 - Add your questions to **#obj3-koha** channel
 - Email oralhealthsupport@ucsf.edu to join

Need More School Programs Support?

COHTAC's School Office Hour

- **Expert Guidance Session**



Date: Wednesday, May 1st



Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (1-hour session)

- **Purpose**

- Get personalized guidance on your school dental programs
- Bring any ongoing questions or challenges
- Receive a walkthrough of new resources shared from previous School Open Hours cohorts

- **Post questions under #obj2-school in Slack LOHP Workspace**

Sacramento LOHP Convening

See you on 5/13!

- Reminder to **take 2-min survey** to help us tailor the day's agenda to meet your needs
- Need to amend your registration? **Contact us ASAP!**
- **Waitlist** set up for additional interested registrants
- Questions? oralhealthsupport@ucsf.edu



Thank You