The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose
Improving Children’s Access to Oral Health Care Through Comprehensive School Based Health Centers

Annual Conference, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, February 23, 2013
Learning Objectives

- Identify challenges facing public health leaders as they try to improve children’s access to oral health services
- Outline a HRSA MCHB grant program that supports comprehensive oral health programs in SBHCs
- Describe a project funded by the MCHB grant program
Children’s Oral Health: What We’ve Learned

- Why children’s access to oral health remains a challenge: Views from the field.

Lessons from a Survey of the Field on Why Access to Oral Health Care Remains a Tough Challenge

**Problem:** Persistent poor oral health status of low income & minority children as documented in a decade of studies and reports

**Study Method:** 25 key informant interviews with state & federal officials, researchers, foundation officials

**Solutions:**
1. Increasing consumer demand
2. Expanding provider supply
Why Poor Children *Still* Don’t Get the Oral Health Care They Need

Findings from CHHCS study

1. Demand factors: Lack of parent demand, policy maker demand, broader citizenry demand

2. Supply factors: Constrained supply of dentists, limitations on mid-level providers, absence of adequate public finance strategy
SBHCs and Oral Health -- Advice from an MCHB Planning Meeting

How does oral health care relate to other services in SBHC & how do providers relate?

What are relationships with external providers?

Who tends the policy context?

What is the sustainability plan?

Evaluation and quality assessment?
Challenges or Opportunities?

- The 10-month school year
- A policy environment that has local, state and federal dimensions
- Community dental providers
- Integration or parallel play with other services in SBHC -- Co-location or single record?
- Evaluation - Options