RESOLUTION NO: 2013-2
Taney County Health Department Resolution on Community Water Fluoridation (CWF)

TANEY COUNTY, MISSOURI

Resolution Summary

Tooth decay, also known as dental caries, causes pain and disability for millions of Americans every year. There are safe and effective methods to prevent tooth decay; one of the most cost-effective is community water fluoridation. Fluoridation of community water supplies involves adjusting the naturally occurring fluoride levels in drinking water to 0.7-1.2 parts per million, the optimal fluoride level recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service for the prevention of tooth decay.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, community water fluoridation is the single most effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay and is one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. Studies conducted over the last 60 years have demonstrated that community water fluoridation is safe and effective in preventing dental decay in both children and adults.

Resolution on Community Water Fluoridation

WHEREAS, community water fluoridation benefits everyone, especially high-risk populations. It is the most efficient way to prevent one of the most common childhood diseases—dental decay (five times as common as asthma and seven times as common as hay fever in 5- to 17-year-olds). Without fluoridation, there would be many more than the estimated 51 million school hours lost each year in this country because of dental related illnesses;

WHEREAS, states need to reduce expenditures in Medicaid budgets and studies have proven that communities benefiting from fluoridated water use fewer Medicaid dollars to treat dental decay;

WHEREAS, the average cost for a community to fluoridate its water is estimated to range from approximately $3 a year per person in small communities to approximately 50 cents a year per person in large communities. For most cities, every $1 invested in water fluoridation yields $38 savings in dental treatment costs;
WHEREAS, with more than 60 years of research and practical experience, the overwhelming weight of credible scientific evidence has consistently indicated that fluoridation of community water supplies is safe;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has proclaimed community water fluoridation (along with vaccinations and infectious disease control) as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. Fluoridation of community water supplies is the single most effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay;

WHEREAS, more than 125 national and international health, service and professional organizations recognize the public health benefits of community water fluoridation for preventing tooth decay;

WHEREAS, community water fluoridation simply adjusts the level of fluoride that occurs naturally in water to the level considered optimal in helping protect against tooth decay. More than two-thirds of the population of the United States is served by public water systems that are optimally fluoridated;

WHEREAS, simply by drinking water, everyone, especially those without access to regular dental care, can benefit from fluoridation’s cavity protection whether they are at home, work or school. Studies prove water fluoridation continues to be effective in reducing dental decay by 20-40 percent, even in an era with widespread availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste;

WHEREAS, the maximum reduction in tooth decay is achieved when fluoride is available before teeth erupt so that it can be incorporated while teeth are forming and after teeth erupt to help repair enamel damaged by acid from decay-causing bacteria;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TANEY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Reaffirms its support for the continuation and expansion of community water fluoridation; and

2. Encourages its members and employees to be well informed about and to continue to support optimal fluoridation, and to help develop local and regional coalitions in support of fluoridation; and

3. Commends communities that are providing access to optimal levels of fluoride in the drinking water and encourages them to continue to fluoridate and to monitor and participate in the monitoring of local ordinances; and

4. Calls upon oral health and public health organizations to provide leadership in educating public officials, policy makers, and the general public about the need to implement and/or maintain optimal community water fluoridation.
References:
American Dental Association, www.ada.org
Centers for Disease control and prevention, www.cdc.gov

THIS RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED by the Taney County Health Department, a body politic and corporate, by its Board of Trustees, at a meeting held on the __22nd__ day of November, 2013, authorizing its Chairman to execute, and its Secretary to attest, this Resolution.

THE TANEY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BY: Buddy Roberts

BUDDY ROBERTS, Chairman-Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Della Russell

DELLA RUSSELL, Secretary-Board of Trustees