



**Noble Maseru, Ph.D., MPH**  
**Health Commissioner**  
**Board of Health**  
**City of Cincinnati**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**CINCINNATI HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**SCHOOL HEALTH AND**  
**GREATER CINCINNATI ORAL COUNCIL**  
**AWARDED BY OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Cincinnati Health Department School Health program along with the Greater Cincinnati Oral Health Council will be awarded the Ohio State University 2007 Champion of Public Health Award, October 18, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio. This award is given for outstanding success with dental screening, referral and treatment of dental disease in children. The public health nurses in the School Health Program provide school nursing services to Cincinnati Public Schools utilizing a public health nursing model.

In 2005-2006, public health nurses began dental screening in Cincinnati Public Schools due to the epidemic of dental disease in America's school-aged children. That year 28% of the students screened were referred for treatment. In 2006-2007, 10,270 students were screened and 2,892 students (28%) were referred for treatment. Prior to this dental screening program, less than 700 students were identified for treatment. With this innovative screening program public health nurses have identified and referred more than five times the number of students with dental disease than in previous years. Of the 2,892 children with obvious decay from in school screening this year, 89% obtained completed treatment.

The Cincinnati Health Department School Health Program nurses worked with CHD Dental Department to obtain treatment for these students, especially those with the most severe disease. Consents were developed for the CHD/Greater Cincinnati Oral Health Council Dental Van and for school-linked dental services during the school day at community health centers.

For students needing extensive work, the CHD Assistant Dental Director enlisted a local pediatric dentist to donate his surgical services and the students are taken to Children's Hospital to finish their care. The Cincinnati Health Department worked tirelessly and the public health nurses made many home visits to get the students the care they needed.

Dr. Noble Maseru, CHD Health Commissioner and Dr. Larry Hill, CHD Dental Director will accept the award on behalf of CHD Public Health Nurses and CHD Dental Staff. "We applaud their efforts and success with this program", **said Dr. Noble Maseru.**

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