

What is the Field Advisory Committee (FAC) of the National Oral Health Council (NOHC)?

What is the National Oral Health Council (NOHC)? The NOHC, which consists of all dental personnel in the Indian Health system (IHS/Tribal/Urban or I/T/U), advocates on behalf of American Indians/Alaskan Natives for improved oral health by advising and assisting IHS leadership concerning relevant health issues and policies while promoting integration of oral health into overall health.

What is the Field Advisory Committee (FAC) of NOHC and what does the FAC do? The FAC provides a national forum to address oral health issues pertinent to clinical dentists, provides guidance for clinical dentistry, promotes improved access to care, promotes best practices in dental practice management, endorses the highest quality of care provided to patients, and serves as a conduit between clinical dental staffs and the leadership of the Indian Health Service.

How much time is involved in serving on the FAC? The FAC meets by conference call every 3rd Thursday of the month for approximately 1 hour. Service on one of the workgroups may involve additional conference calls or communication by email. As a FAC member you will represent your Area for two years. You can extend your membership by serving as chair or vice chair for additional years.

Why should I even consider applying to be a FAC representative? After all I am busy! This is a great opportunity to: (1) serve in a leadership position; (2) serve your colleagues from within the I/T/U dental programs of your Area (3) gain knowledge of important clinical issues that will inevitably help you and others in your clinic, (4) promote clinical issues of concern to you, your clinic, and your Area across the entire nation; (5) provide you with access to a diverse group of leaders across the entire Indian Health Service; and (6) learn how others across the nation facing similar challenges to your clinic overcome those situations.

How do I apply to be my area FAC representative? Simply contact your Area Dental Officer (ADO) and let him or her know you are interested. Committee members serve for two years and terms normally start in January (although special circumstances sometimes lead to more than two years).

How do I get more information about the FAC? Go to <https://www.ihs.gov/DOH/NOHC/> to read more about the FAC. This is on the Dental Portal, the same site where you get your continuing education, and for full details requires that you log-in with your username and password.