



Leading Change for Oral Health in Pennsylvania

Greetings PCOH Members and Friends,

Wow, 2014 passed by quickly. Thank you so much for your encouragement, insight, and partnership throughout the year!

As we enter 2015, it is a great opportunity to reflect on our achievements and look toward the future. We can all be proud of the great progress we've made by working together. Even more exciting is the fact that PCOH is gaining traction. Our collective action is impacting the awareness and elevating the importance of oral health across Pennsylvania. Next year will be an important time to accelerate our oral health agenda. We are all set to put our plans into motion and I know we can accomplish great things when we direct our efforts toward our common goals!

2014 Highlights:

- We've forged relationships with Pennsylvania government agencies to raise awareness of the importance of oral health.
 - ◆ Connecting with the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services (formerly DPW) has helped us build awareness and gain traction with oral health messages and policies.
 - * Advocated for the addition of a Medicaid question on the Dept of Health's oral health workforce survey
 - * Served as a voice for oral health in State improvement plan discussions.
 - * Facilitated collaboration between managed care organizations and Department of Human Services to streamline Medicaid enrollment and credentialing process
 - ◆ PCOH is now serving on the Advisory Committee of the State Health Improvement Plan.
- Together, we have established a PCOH Policy Brief.
 - ◆ The policy brief outlines important oral health issues in Pennsylvania.
 - ◆ It serves as the platform for consistent messaging with policy makers and decision makers.
- Our Coalition grew in numbers and diversity.
 - ◆ We've added many new members interested in advancing the PA oral health agenda.
 - ◆ Our membership has expanded to represent a wider geographic area and more organizations working across the oral health care delivery system.
- Our members are actively learning, networking and collaborating with one another and with other organizations who share our passion for improved oral health.
 - ◆ Our quarterly meetings were dynamic and included informative presentations by guest speakers from organizations like The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the DentaQuest Foundation.
 - ◆ Funders are recognizing the importance of oral health and PCOH's ability to address the issues.
 - ◆ When PA Department of Health received a HRSA Workforce grant to fund a state dental director position, PCOH played a major role in advocating for a compensation package that would attract the most competent candidates.

Moving forward into 2015:

- PCOH will continue to advocate and build awareness of oral health issues.
 - ◆ Members will have the opportunity to "sign on" to the policy brief.
 - ◆ PCOH will disseminate the policy brief to legislators, state agencies and the governor's office.
 - ◆ Members will continue to network and build new partnerships to address the oral health issues outlined in the policy brief.
 - ◆ PCOH will develop a public relations strategy to magnify our shared voice.
- PCOH will help shape Pennsylvania's new oral health plan.
 - ◆ We are contracted to partner with the Department of Health on the HRSA workforce grant.
 - ◆ We welcome Jan Miller to our coalition. Jan is our new state oral health coordinator, we look forward to supporting the new state dental director.
- Pennsylvania received a collaborative DentaQuest grant to eradicate children's dental disease.
 - ◆ This is a collaborative grant is a partnership between PCOH, PA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the PA Head Start Association and the PA Association of Community Health Centers.
 - ◆ PCOH's role in the grant includes planning a workforce summit, increasing legislative activities, developing a media campaign, and supporting community water fluoridation.

THANK YOU!

- PCOH values our Steering Committee members for contributing their time and expertise. Thanks to our Steering Committee members: *Dr. Bernie Dishler (Chair), Dr. Eve Kimball (Secretary), Ann Marie Healy (Treasurer), Jenny Englerth, Michele Mummert, Dr. Larry Paul and Amy Requa.*
- PCOH appreciates the generosity of our funders. Without their support, we would not have the resources needed to advance our mission. Thank you to the following 2014 funders: *AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies, Brandywine Health Foundation, Catholic Health Charities,, Delta Dental, DENTSPLY International, First Hospital Foundation, North Penn Health Foundation, Partnership for Better Health, Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers, Pennsylvania Dental Foundation, Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation*
- PCOH acknowledges the BRAVO GROUP for providing the meeting room space for 2014 quarterly meetings.