



*Leading Change for  
Oral Health in  
Pennsylvania*

## Our Mission

PCOH advances policies and practices that increase access to oral health services and prevention education especially for our most vulnerable Pennsylvanians.

## 2015 Winter Update

The winter is almost behind us! During the last few months we have been actively involved and excited about kicking off our 2015 initiatives. Of note, we continue to work on the state's oral health infrastructure and educate government agencies about oral health. We also started a process for educating our legislators to ensure they understand how important oral health is to overall health. PCOH will need to be attentive to the new administration's budget and goals as we continue to develop and crystallize our oral health policy goals. We are looking forward to our upcoming quarterly meeting on March 24th in Mechanicsburg and are planning a May meeting in the Pittsburgh area. Please join us for these meetings to learn about current and future initiatives, network with oral health advocates and partners, and provide input on the future of oral health in PA!

## PCOH Winter Quarterly Meeting Informing, Networking and Collaborating

**Date:** Tuesday, March 24th

**Time:** 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Place:** The Child Welfare Resource Center - 403 East Winding Hill Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Please see the map on our [website](#) for directions

**RSVP:** You will be receiving an invitation for the meeting. Please respond by March 16th for our lunch and participation count.

**Note:** The Pennsylvania Head Start Association Oral Health Task force will be joining us for the morning session

## Steering Committee News

Jenny Englerth, CEO of Family First, has been appointed as Vice Chairperson of the steering committee. Jenny will lead our strategic planning efforts - an important role in shaping the future of oral health in PA.

The steering committee has been actively guiding the coalition's direction. The members meet bi-weekly by phone and participate in bi-annual face-to-face meetings to discuss strategy and focus.

Voting for new steering committee members is a privilege of membership. Note that Dr. David Kilber of Delta Dental is on the ballot to fill a vacancy on our steering committee. Please join us for the March 24th meeting to cast your vote.

## **PCOH is a partner of the PA Oral Health Collective Impact Initiative funded by the DentaQuest Foundation**

PCOH has partnered with the PA Academy of Pediatrics, the PA Association of Community Health Centers and the PA Head Start Association with the goal to ERADICATE dental disease in children. Under a collaborative grant, we are partnering to address all facets of system change.....policy, preventive education, financing and workforce. PCOH's objectives and work plans include planning for a workforce summit, creating an oral health awareness media campaign, developing policy for increasing medical assistance benefits to pregnant women, and establishing a community water fluoridation speaker's bureau. During our March 24th meeting we will highlight the components of the grant and discuss opportunities for you to get involved.

For Children's National Dental Health Month, PCOH and its collaborative partners developed and delivered a webinar with the Department of Health. The slides can be found at the following link to our website: <http://www.pennsylvaniaoralhealth.org/important-articles-pages/2015/2/20/eradicating-dental-decay-in-children>

## **HRSA Workforce Grant moving ahead...**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction has hired Jan Miller as the oral health program manager. Jan's role includes the facilitation of the HRSA Workforce Grant recently awarded to Pennsylvania. Although the state dental director search continues, Jan is working with the coalition to organize the state oral health plan process. The first steps involve identifying and selecting a stakeholders group. We are excited to have Jan join us for the March 24th meeting, where she will update us on the various components of the HRSA grant and the progress being made.

## **Update: Streamlining the Credentialing Process**

For years, the dental community has been frustrated about the length of time it takes to become credentialed as a medical assistance provider. PCOH continues to keep our eye on the ball to find solutions for streamlining the process.

As a first step, Gina Espensheid, Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Operating Officer of the Children's Surgical Center, has provided PCOH a list of tips when submitting applications. This should help alleviate the high volume of applications that are rejected or delayed due to missing or incomplete application information. Watch our website for this information in the coming weeks.

Through our networking and advocacy to improve the credentialing process, we've met with several managed care organizations. These groups are supportive and are on board with the need for changes.

We are hopeful that meaningful progress will be made in the near future so that more PA citizens can receive much needed oral health care.

## Update on CHIP Re-authorization

PCOH has sent several letters of support for the CHIP re-authorization. Currently, both the US Senate and House have released bills to extend funding for CHIP beyond September 30, 2015. The bills approach the extension of CHIP quite differently and we will continue to monitor and advocate for funding extensions.

## Looking forward to seeing you on March 24th!

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