



*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.

## **Spring Update - 2015**

It's a new season- the flowers are arising and spring is in the air. Our state government is also blooming with a new governor. Governor Wolf has chosen leaders for the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services that have potential for real change in the state. We can look forward to learning about new models of innovative payment and care, updated state infrastructure and education reform. Also, the government is communicating actively and providing more information on the government website.

Jenny Englerth and I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Rachel Levine, the Physician General, to secure the presence of oral health within the Department of Health. Also, we have been keeping an eye out to assure adult dental benefits will not be reduced.

Governor Wolf enacted a simple traditional Medicaid Expansion upon his inauguration. The Department of Medicaid has been actively making the changes necessary for a smooth transition from Healthy PA, to HealthChoices, which will provide greater health care coverage in a streamlined manner. Of note, Ted Dallas, Secretary, Department of Human Services, has sent a memo to stakeholders detailing a new provider enrollment process that will be automated by October. As a result, the Medicaid provider enrollment process will be streamlined (finally!)

This year we will be building the case to enhance our limited adult dental benefit. We promise it will be an exciting year to move the oral health agenda forward! Our July 24th meeting will focus on policy and legislative awareness.

PCOH's next meeting is in Pittsburgh on May 19th. Feel free to join us and/or connect us with oral health advocates in the western part of the state.

Enjoy the spring,  
Lisa Schildhorn, Executive Director

# PCOH Spring Quarterly Meeting

## **PCOH quarterly meeting and the Head Start Oral Health Taskforce**

Pittsburgh, PA

May 19th, 2015, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Allegheny Intermediate Unit: 475 Waterfront Drive East, Homestead, PA 15120

RSVP: paoralhealth@gmail.com

Speakers: Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Allegheny Health Department and Annette Fetchko, Catholic Charities free healthcare center, Allegheny Intermediate

## Other Upcoming Meetings

### **PCOH quarterly meeting**

Mechanicsburg, PA

July 24th, 2015

Policy and Advocacy

### **The PA Association of Community Health Centers (PACHC)**

#### **Medical-Dental Integration Summit**

Hershey, PA

July 30th - 31st, 2015

### **Workforce Planning Group**

Harrisburg, PA

September 18th, 2015

## Highlights from our March Meeting

Thank you to the participants of the PA Head Start Oral Health Task Force for sharing our meeting. It was a great opportunity to network and learn about each other's initiatives and common objectives.

### **OUR SPEAKERS**

Mark Singel (The Winter Group) - "State of the Commonwealth - a new administration" and Jan Miller (PA Department of Health) - Introduction to our state oral health program coordinator.

### **PA Oral Health Collective Impact Initiative- Funded by DentaQuest Foundation**

The grantees: The PA Association of Community Health Centers, The Head Start Association, PA Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics and PCOH are working together with the goal to eradicate dental disease in children. Each group shared their deliverables. PCOH's activities include a media campaign, plans for a workforce summit, and legislative activity.

### **POLICY DISCUSSION**

Jenny Englerth facilitated a policy discussion in preparation for our July policy meeting. The following discussions were started:

1. Advocacy for reinstatement of a comprehensive dental benefit under Medical Assistance - discussion of challenges and other alternatives such as comprehensive coverage for pregnant woman as a first step.
2. Advocacy increasing provider reimbursement rates.
3. Other strategies to positively impact increased numbers of participating providers.

There was strong agreement from participants to prioritize and continue discussions.

### **PCOH LEADERSHIP ADDITIONS**

Dr. David Kilber was voted to the steering committee of PCOH. Dr. Kilber is the Dental Director of Professional Relations at Delta Dental.

## **Oral Health in our State**

The MOM Project is around the corner. MOM-n-PA, a dental outreach event coordinated by Mission of Mercy, needs volunteers. On May 29th & 30th, they expect to treat 2,000 underserved patients at the Harrisburg Farm Show facility. Lay volunteers can help with nonclinical responsibilities like computer input and hosting patients. To register: go to [www.MOM-n-PA.com](http://www.MOM-n-PA.com) and click on [Volunteer Information](#) then click on the gold colored CLICK HERE prompt. An experience of a lifetime awaits you.

The Pennsylvania Rural Health Magazine highlights oral health in their Spring Issue. The link will be on the PCOH website or view the link on the [PORH home page](#). Check out the Spring 2015 publication by clicking [HERE](#).

Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Planning, highlights statewide health initiatives through its bimonthly Health Improvement Partnership Program (HIPP) bulletin. Send PCOH your initiatives and we will place your initiatives in their bulletin.

MA Providers: A document has been developed in collaboration with PCOH, Gina Espensheid (New Age Surgical Management), Dr. Paul Westerberg, and the OMAP Enrollment staff to help navigate provider enrollment. The document can be found on the PCOH website: [CREDENTIALING TIP SHEET FOR PROVIDERS](#)

## **Important News**

### **Community Water Fluoridation - New Recommendations**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the final Public Health Service (PHS) recommendation for the optimal fluoride level in drinking water to prevent tooth decay. The new recommendation is for a single level of 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water. It updates and replaces the previous recommended range (0.7 to 1.2 milligrams per liter) issued in 1962.

The change was recommended because Americans now have access to more sources of fluoride, such as toothpaste and mouth rinses, than they did when water fluoridation was first introduced in the United States. As a result, there has been an increase in fluorosis, which, in most cases, manifests as barely visible lacy white marking or spots on the tooth enamel. The new recommended level will maintain the protective decay prevention benefits of water fluoridation and reduce the occurrence of dental fluorosis.

### **CHIP Re-authorization**

Thank you for sending letters on behalf of this effort. The funding has been extended through September 30th, 2017. For more information about the legislation, please contact Lisa Schildhorn at [paoralhealth@gmail.com](mailto:paoralhealth@gmail.com).

### **Acting Secretary, Ted Dallas, announces changes with Medical Assistance Provider Enrollment**

Electronic Enrollment will be available by the fall of 2015. He acknowledged the "provider enrollment backlog and time consuming paper intensive manual process" needs to be changes. Of importance, the following link will provide important information about PROVIDER REVALIDATION. The link is [www.dhs.state.pa.us/](http://www.dhs.state.pa.us/) provider and click on the provider Enrollment and Screening link.

## Have you sent in your membership?

Your membership dues support our policy and advocacy work. Our quarterly meetings are a platform for sharing ideas, initiatives, and connections as we move oral health policy forward in Pennsylvania.

The application can be found on our [website](#) by clicking Join PCOH.

## Looking forward to seeing you on May 19th!

Questions? Contact [Lisa Schildhorn](#)

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