



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

The May 19th quarterly meeting, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Head Start Association, was a first for PCOH. Our goal was to build relationships, learn about the many oral health initiatives in the western part of the state and provide opportunities to continue our oral health work together. Dr. Hacker, Director of the Allegheny Health Department, set the stage for the meeting by sharing Allegheny's public health issues. We successfully built new relationships through the work of our members and supporters. Thank you to Dr. Richard Celko, (UPMC); Helen Hawkey (PA public health dental hygiene practitioner), Nancy Murray (Achieva), and Annette Fetcko (Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh) for helping us meet the many oral health advocates in Western PA. We had a great group of 48 participants.

The meeting evaluation highlighted the value of networking and the sharing of ideas, initiatives and resources. When asked what was learned at the meeting, one participant shared "There are so many people out there interested in improving oral care in PA." Suggestions for maintaining our networking included frequent local meetings, on-line forums and video conferencing.



Our next quarterly meeting will be in Mechanicsburg on July 24th. Join us for our policy discussions about adult dental benefits, the upcoming workforce summit planning, community water fluoridation education, and the initiatives shared at our Pittsburgh meeting.

Enjoy the summer!

Policy News

PCOH supported Oral Health America's sign-on letter for the Older Americans Act Re-authorization (OAA). The Act (S.192) includes Oral Health screening provisions. The provision allows the aging network to use funds they already receive for disease prevention and health promotion activities. The letters were sent to Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid. We will continue to follow this project's progress closely.

Changes in Medicaid Coverage for Denture limits and Examination Limits

On February 9, 2015, Governor Wolf announced his intent to transition to a simplified, traditional Medicaid expansion plan. As a result, the Department and Managed Care Organizations implemented the new Adult benefit package on April 27, 2015. Information of the adult dental benefit can be found in the Medical Assistance Bulletin 99-15-05 by clicking [HERE](#).

Background: In 2011 the Department of Human Services implemented a "one set per lifetime" limit on Medicaid coverage for dentures. The limit remains in place, but the change under the Wolf Administration to the new 4/27/15 Adult benefit package allows for a reset.

Implications: The reset enables for a past recipient of Medicaid to receive another denture if needed and as deemed necessary by the healthcare provider. Please send this information to your networks of dentists and patients that may benefit from the reset.

PCOH - Advocating for oral health in PA

PCOH submitted comments to the Department of Human Services (DHS) HealthChoices Program Request for Information. The information will be used by DHS to assist with the development of a Request for Proposal to be released in the future. The Department was interested in ideas and approaches to achieve the Triple AIM (better health, better care, lower cost). PCOH's comments focused on the integration of oral health into primary care models, care coordination, workforce models and improving consumer access.

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Planning's **State Health Improvement Plan** is currently in development. Let's keep our fingers crossed that oral health and dental care will be included in the plan.

New Reports

Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY) is pleased to share its newest report - ["Fulfilling Pennsylvania's Promise to Cover All Kids - Closing the Health Insurance Gap for Children"](#) - that makes the case for expanding CHIP coverage to children who are undocumented. You can view the article by clicking [HERE](#).

Our Next Meetings

PCOH Quarterly Meeting

July 24th, 2015: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
PA child Welfare Training Resource Center
403 E. Winding Hill
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Purpose: Policy Development - Adult Medicaid Benefit and Planning for workforce summit and Community Water Fluoridation Training program

2015 PACHC Medical-Dental Integration Summit

July 30-July 31st at the Hershey Lodge
Registration: <http://www.pachc.org/>

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 forward in Pennsylvania.

The application can be found on our website by clicking on Join PCOH.

Thank you to our sponsors!

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