



# 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.

## Fall 2015

PCOH is gearing up for a busy fall season. The coalition's priorities include planning the 2016 Fall Workforce Summit, community water fluoridation training, state oral health plan convening, and the development and implementation of a survey research project to be used for our workforce summit. **WOW!!!**

We had robust discussions about the adult dental Medicaid benefit during our previous meetings. As a result of your work, we will be developing our policy agenda to include expansion of the current adult dental Medicaid benefit. We will soon begin advocating for three process changes to the current benefit limit exception.

**Join us at our coalition meetings and help us achieve our goals!**

## Upcoming Dates

### Workforce Planning Summit

**Friday, October 2nd:** 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in Harrisburg at the Bravo Group

PCOH is planning for a workforce summit **next fall**. Our overall goal is to determine workforce initiatives that will increase access to care. The planning phase will include:

1. A workforce report that is currently in process by the Rand Corporation
2. Investigation of existing workforce models
3. Development of a stakeholder list for the summit
4. Development of the goals, outcomes and agenda

**Email Lisa at [paoralhealth@gmail.com](mailto:paoralhealth@gmail.com) if you are interested to be on the planning team**

### Community Water Fluoridation Training

We have a **few spots** left for our Community Water Fluoridation training to be held the evening of November 12th and all day November 13th in Harrisburg. Matt Jacob from the Children's Health Project will be our trainer. If interested in attending, please contact Lisa Schildhorn at [paoralhealth@gmail.com](mailto:paoralhealth@gmail.com) for more information.

## **ORAL HEALTH included within the STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN - "Healthy People, healthy communities, healthy Pennsylvania"**

In May, 2015, PCOH was invited to serve as a member of the primary care and preventive services task force for the 2015 -2020 Pennsylvania State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). The two oral health objectives in the plan are as follows:

1. *Reduce the numbers of federally designated geographic and population health professional shortage areas in PA from 153 to 148 (3%) by September 30, 2020.*
2. *Increase the percent of children enrolled in Medicaid, ages 1-20 (with at least 90 days of continuous eligibility), that have had a preventive dental service in the past year from 42.5% (FY2014) to 47% by September 20, 2020.*

PCOH and our state partners will be working diligently to meet the objectives by 2020.

### **Updating the State Oral Health Plan**

You may recall the Department of Health began strategic oral health planning in 2000. The result was a comprehensive Oral Health Strategic Plan for Pennsylvania. Unfortunately the plan was never funded.

A current PA HRSA Workforce Grant provides funding to convene a stakeholder group to update the plan. PCOH will be choosing stakeholders to assess needs, define objectives, and develop a new plan. More information will be forthcoming in the upcoming months.

### **AMY REQUA and a cadre of trainers build new culture in children's oral health**

Amy Requa, MSN, CRNP, the State Oral Health Coordinator for the PA Head Start Association, is on a mission to improve oral health outcomes for children and their families. As an oral health leader she has developed a cadre of trainers that are changing the culture to one of primary prevention with the perspective that children should be seen in a Dental Home by age one. The "Cavity Free Kids" and the "PA Age One Connect the Dots" programs are getting rave reviews with early child education advocates, dentists and dental hygienists in their practices and in local communities.

Thanks to Amy's dedicated presenters, 815 participants from across the state have been educated using the Cavity Free Kids program and 509 dental providers have been educated to provide "knee-to-knee" exams and preventive care for young children under age one through the "Connect the Dots" program. Special Kudos to Helen Hawkey, PHDHP, our western PA Training Coordinator for bringing many of these educational opportunities to underserved areas of our state!

For information about either program, Contact Amy Requa: [amyrequa@paheadstart.org](mailto:amyrequa@paheadstart.org)

## Other Updates

### DHS Medical Assistance Bulletin - Fluoride Varnish Code Update

DHS recently released a Medical Assistance Bulletin announcing the procedure code change from D1206 to 99188 for the application of topical fluoride varnish by physicians and CRNPs, effective September 1, 2015. This is fantastic news and will hopefully simplify and streamline reimbursement claims for medical providers moving forward. If you are a medical provider interested in scheduling a free, on-site oral health screening and fluoride varnish application training, contact Healthy Teeth Healthy Children at [hthc@paaap.org](mailto:hthc@paaap.org) or 484-446-3059.

### Oral Health Workforce Report

PCOH and the PA Department of Health have commissioned the Rand Corporation to provide an ORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE REPORT. The report will help us to understand the full context of our dental workforce needs. We anticipate the report to be completed this fall.

### Steering Committee News

Jenny Englerth, Vice Chair of our Steering Committee and ED of Family Health, York has been selected to join the DentaQuest state leadership group. Also, Deb Polk, PhD was elected to join our steering committee at our June meeting. Dr. Polk is an Assistant Professor of Dental Public Health, School of Dental Medicine University of Pittsburgh.

### DentaQuest Grant

The partners of our collaborative DentaQuest grant - PA Head Start Association, PA Academy of Pediatrics, PA Association of Community Health Centers, and PCOH - continue to work together to eradicate dental disease in children, ages 0-5. The four organizations meet monthly to enhance each other's activities. Recently, we worked together on the Medical/Dental Integration Conference sponsored by the PA Association of Community Health Centers.

### TIDBITS:

PCOH is a member of the American Network of Oral Health Coalitions. (ANOHC). The network provides insight about each other's activities, learns from each other and is a great resource. <http://anohc.org/>

***We are always searching for articles that will enhance our work. Feel free to forward publications, articles or promising initiatives to [paoralhealth@gmail.com](mailto:paoralhealth@gmail.com)***

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