



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.

Winter 2015

2015 has been an exciting year! The acknowledgement of oral health as a component of overall health is gaining momentum. We are building a PA oral health movement by developing relationships, collaborating on initiatives, sharing best practices and constantly networking.

Thanks to all who participated in our meetings and/or worked on the initiatives this past year. Your input has been invaluable. Best regards for a Healthy Happy New Year!!

2015: Our accomplishments

Our work within the state agencies resulted in:

- Two oral health objectives on the State Health Improvement Plan.
- Development and facilitation of a Department of Health webinar (Eradicating dental decay in children)
- A dental workforce study, funded by the DOH, using the Rand Corporation
- A dental provider credentialing tip sheet in collaboration with the Department of Human Services
- Successfully advocating for dental hygienists to receive PA Primary Care Practitioners Loan Repayment
- Meetings with the new Deputy Secretaries and the governor's office.

Promotion of oral health prevention initiatives:

- As a partner of the Pennsylvania Oral Health Collective Impact, several preventive programs are gaining momentum throughout the state.
- 18 Community Water Fluoridation Advocates have been trained

Strengthening our Network:

- We are learning together as we spark the oral health movement in PA. We had 4 great meetings. Thanks to our 35-50 participants at each meeting, we identified three Medicaid process outcomes to change Medical Dental Adult Benefits. We also established a comprehensive data base of oral health initiatives from across the state.

As one Pittsburgh PCOH Meeting Participant said, "The meeting was very interactive and networking was awesome. All speakers were very versed in their discipline."

2015: Our accomplishments (continued)

In progress: Strengthening the Oral Health Workforce

- PCOH is currently working on a semi-structured research study to learn why providers work in underserved area. Look forward to this report in early 2016.
- Planning has started for a 2016 workforce summit. Members will learn how to get involved during upcoming meetings and updates.

2016: Moving Forward

Our 2016 Priorities- Looking forward to:

- Partnering with statewide groups to advocate for a comprehensive adult dental Medicaid benefit.
- Developing a Community Water Fluoridation toolkit for the 2015 participants across the state who are trained in the CWF debate
- Planning and implementing a workforce summit scheduled for November 15-16, 2016
- Convening stakeholders to develop a comprehensive state oral health plan

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! 2016 PCOH Meeting & Event Dates

- **January 29th**
 - * Conference Call - Go To Meeting
 - * 2:30 - 4:00 pm
- **April 1st**
 - * PCOH Spring Meeting (MECHANICSBURG)
 - * 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
- **July 29th**
 - * PCOH Summer Meeting (PITTSBURGH)
 - * 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
- **October 14th**
 - * PCOH Fall Meeting (HERSHEY)
 - * 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
- **November 15th and 16th**
 - * Workforce Summit (HARRISBURG)
 - * More information to follow in January
- **December 2nd**
 - * Conference Call - Go To Meeting
 - * 2:30 - 4:00 pm

2016 Membership Renewals

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

The application is on our website at www.pennsylvaniaoralhealth.org/join-pcoh

Did you know?

PCOH is one of the 43 Oral Health Coalitions in the United States.

We now have a cadre of Community Water Fluoridation advocates thanks to DentaQuest Foundation and Matt Jacobs from The Children's Dental Health Project. Matt trained 18 Community Water Fluoridation advocates on November 13th. Our advocates came from all regions of the state with the goal to learn how to debate the issues.

The Pennsylvania Primary Care Career Center matches primary care providers (including dentists, dental hygiene public health dental practitioners), with organizations that provide primary care in Pennsylvania. For info contact Judd Mellinger-Blouch, Director at www.paprimarycarecareers.org

PCOH is a partner of the Pennsylvania Oral Health Collective Impact Initiative (POHCII). Our partners - PA Head Start Association, The PA Association of Community Health Centers and the PA Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics collaborate to integrate our work with the goal to eradicate dental disease for children. Funded by the DentaQuest Foundation, we are working towards system change in policy, literacy, funding and workforce.

Volunteer Opportunity - Mission of Mercy Initiative in Pittsburgh

Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Hygiene Public Health Practitioners, EFDAs and Dental Assistants – the MOM project needs you on June 3rd and 4th to treat 2000 underserved patients at the David Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh.

Go to www.mom-n-pa.com to learn more about volunteer opportunities. Online registration opens February 1, 2016.

Steering Committee update

Thank you to Dr. Bernie Dishler for Chairing the Steering Committee the past two years. Also, thanks to Dr. Kilber for his participation this past year.

Jenny Englerth will be leading our 2016 Steering Committee as Chairperson. The committee is comprised of Amy Requa, Secretary; Dr. Bernie Dishler; Deborah Polk, PhD; Dr. Alicia Risner-Bauman; Dr. Eve Kimball; Dr. Richard Celko; Ann Marie Healy; Michele Mummert; and Lisa Schildhorn, Executive Director of PCOH.

Thank you to our sponsors!



We are always searching for articles that will enhance our work. Feel free to forward publications, articles or promising initiatives to paoralhealth@gmail.com