



# Leading Change for Oral Health in Pennsylvania

## Our Mission

Mission and Vision updated -

*During a recent meeting, PA Coalition for Oral Health members had an opportunity to provide feedback as we worked to refine the mission and vision of the organization. The Board of Directors is pleased to unveil the updated statements which serve to guide our collective action in improving oral health for Pennsylvania!*

### ***NEW!***

#### Our Mission:

To improve oral health for all Pennsylvanians by uniting stakeholders to advance advocacy, policy, education and innovative approaches.

#### Our Vision:

Essential to overall health and wellness, optimal oral health benefits ALL Pennsylvanians. By bringing together oral health advocates and professionals to share the best and most innovative approaches, PCOH serves as the dynamic leading voice to improve oral health across the Commonwealth.

## Meet our new Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH) is pleased to announce the appointment of Helen Hawkey, BSDH, PHDHP as the Executive Director of the organization effective March 1, 2017.

Helen comes to the position with 16 years of experience as an oral health advocate. Helen served on multiple Pennsylvania state committees as a pediatric oral health consultant and has worked in policy and oral health legislation through the state dental hygiene association.

Helen is certified as an organization trainer for the PA Family Support Alliance and a specialty Discipline Instructor with the PA Keys to provide education to childcare providers. In addition, she is an active presenter to dental colleagues, pediatricians, child care providers, and health and wellness specialists. Helen has worked for the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics at the University of Pittsburgh as a clinical research coordinator within the Center for Oral Health Research in Appalachia. For the last five years, she has served as the director of Healthy Smiles for Tomorrow, a prenatal and pediatric oral health education business.

Helen succeeds Lisa Schildhorn, DH, BS, MS as the Executive Director. Lisa will continue to support the coalition during the transition through May 31, 2017. We wish Lisa all the best in her retirement.

## Ongoing Activities

### 2017 PCOH Priority Areas:

- Supporting Pennsylvania Oral Workforce development
- Improving oral health coverage for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable populations
- Advancing implementation of the 2020 Oral Health Plan
- Advocating for community water fluoridation

### Join us at the PCOH Meetings!

We are on the road this year with meetings throughout the state. The purpose of our meetings is to:

**Inform** the membership of ongoing activities/actions

**Network** and engage with our partners, members, and supporters

**Share** current statewide initiatives

### 2017 PCOH Meeting dates & locations:

#### Friday, March 24, 2017

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Premier Dental

1710 Romano Drive

Plymouth Meeting, PA 19463

#### Friday, July 14, 2017

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Pine Barn Inn

1 Pine Barn Place

Danville, PA 17821

#### Friday, July 28, 2017

Pittsburgh, PA - Location TBD

#### October/November

Mechanicsburg - Location and date TBD

### New Oral Health listserv

As a result of the PA Oral Health Workforce Innovation Summit we have created a listserv email to exchange ideas and share events, initiatives, questions, and other oral health news among our members and others dedicated toward improving oral health across Pennsylvania. The listserv is open to anyone with a vested interest in PA Oral Health.

Subscribe today at <https://list.pitt.edu/mailman/listinfo/paoralhealth>

### POHCII

Thanks to the DentaQuest Foundation, the PA Coalition for Oral Health is a proud partner of POHCII - the Pennsylvania Oral Health Collective Impact Initiative. Check out our Year II video and see our exciting and important work in Pennsylvania. Video available at: <https://vimeo.com/189632214>

## February is Children's Dental Health Month

Children who receive early dental care are more likely to have better oral health as they grow. In February, we challenge you to join the ADA, ADA Foundation and many state organizations to celebrate national Children's Dental Health Month (CDHM). This year's theme is "Choose Tap Water for a Sparkling Smile." Community water fluoridation is safe and effective, and reduces tooth decay about 25 percent over a person's lifetime.

PCOH will be participating in two social media events that will recognize Children's Dental Health Month.

**When:** Tuesday, Feb. 14 (1-2 pm ET/10-11 am PT)

**What:** Twitter Chat

**Who:** Hosted by Salud Today, a Latino health promotion/research institute based at UT-San Antonio; co-sponsored by CDHP, Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors and Mayra Alvarez, a Latina health policy leader

**How:** Simply reply to any of the questions that are asked.

**Hashtags:** To make sure your messages are seen by all who follow this chat, please include **#SaludTues** and **#ilovemyteeth** somewhere in each tweet

**When:** Wednesday, Feb. 22 (2-3 pm ET/11-12 noon PT)

**What:** Twitter Chat

**Who:** Hosted by MomsRising; co-sponsored by CDHP

**How:** Simply reply to any of the questions that are asked.

**Hashtags:** To make sure your messages are seen by all who follow this Chat, please include **#WellnessWed** somewhere in each tweet

**View and download ADA's CDHM resource and get involved! Resource guide is available at:**

<http://www.ada.org/en/public-programs/national-childrens-dental-health-month>

*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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