



2016 Accomplishments

Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits

PCOH has taken the lead to partner with the Pennsylvania Dental Association, the Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association, ACHIEVA, the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers, Put People First! PA and the Pennsylvania Health Access Network to enhance the Adult Dental Medicaid Benefit. The partnership developed a policy brief and met with the Department of Human Services, The Governor's Budget Secretary and the Governor's Policy Secretary in preparation for the budget process. A second policy paper is in draft to plan for legislator visits.

PCOH submitted comments at the Managed Care Delivery System Subcommittee (MCDSS) to advocate for increased and accessible dental services for Medicaid enrollees. As a result, The MCDSS has proposed a recommendation for the Department to convene and facilitate a Dental Stakeholder Workgroup.

The PA Department of Health

PCOH participated in the PA State Health Innovation workgroups (Health Innovation Plan). Oral health is one of the five priorities for the plan. Also, PCOH participated in workgroups with the result of two oral health priorities in the SHIP Plan (State Health Improvement Plan).

PCOH provided comments to advocate increased funding for Oral Health in the Preventive Health Services Block Grant funded in the Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction. A meeting with the bureau was convened and further conversations are in progress.

Several members of PCOH provided input for the Dental/Dental Hygiene Licensing Survey. The survey provides necessary data about the PA oral health workforce.

Promotion of Community Water Fluoridation

PCOH secured technical assistance funding to help organizing for Meadville, PA.

PCOH sent letters of support and worked with dental community advocates to help areas where water fluoridation was challenged.

PCOH developed a community water fluoridation tool kit with information for sharing with community partners.

Increase the Oral Health Workforce:

Assuring a Sufficient and Effective Oral Health Workforce

The planning and convening of PA Oral Health Workforce Summit was a significant initiative for PCOH in 2016. With the goal of a sufficient and effective oral health workforce, the two-day PA Oral Health Workforce Innovation Summit convened on November 15th and 16th. The 120 Summit attendees included health professionals, advocates and policy makers, as well as representatives from payers, human service organizations, community health foundations and industries dedicated to oral health.

The work leading up to the summit was inclusive and forward-thinking. The core and coordinating teams identified leading-edge workforce models to study, interviewed state leaders and spearheaded forums about the workforce issues. The summit outcomes resulted in the launching of promising, scalable model prototypes that will be increase access to oral health care and ultimately impact the underserved individuals and families.

The PA 2020 State Oral Health Plan

PCOH convened three meetings to provide input for the 2017-2020 State Oral Health Plan. The plan will be completed in 2017.