

Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health Honors 2021 Oral Health Champions

At the PA Oral Health Summit in Harrisburg on November 12, 2021, the Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH) presented three awards to honor organizations and individuals who served as oral health champions in PA. Awards were presented by Helen Hawkey, executive director of PCOH.



The **2021 Innovative Oral Health Champion-Individual Award** was presented to Dr. C. Eve Kimball, FAAP, from Berks County. Dr. Kimball was one of the first physicians in the U.S. to fully realize the benefit of integrating a dental component into a medical practice, and worked tirelessly on oral health promotion, even after retirement. Dr. Kimball is a leader at a national level for physicians placing fluoride varnish. Her pediatric practice was first in the state to incorporate hygienists and public health dental hygiene practitioners as dental navigators within her medical practice. Her accomplishments are realized every day in medical and dental practices throughout the state.



The **2021 Innovative Oral Health Champion -Organization Award** was presented to Darcie Shaffer, representing Volunteers in Medicine (VIM), a free health clinic in Luzerne County. VIM opened 13 years ago and is the only full-time, full-service free clinic in all of northeastern Pennsylvania. VIM serves over 2,500 unduplicated patients each year and provides over 5,000 visits. The staff at the VIM dental center provide compassionate, quality care to all patients. The patients are working individuals with a low income and no access to healthcare services.



The **2021 Community Water Fluoridation Champion Award** was awarded to Dr. Thomas Regan, a newly retired dentist from Lancaster County. Dr. Regan began volunteering with PCOH as a community water fluoridation (CWF) advocate in 2019 when his hometown of Quarryville, PA initiated the process to discontinue their decades-long practice of providing optimally fluoridated water to the community. Although his valiant efforts to maintain CWF in his own community were ultimately unsuccessful, he has continued to advocate for CWF by educating the public about its health benefits, participating in the PCOH CWF Task Force, and by providing support to advocates in any community in PA that faces a threat to an existing fluoridation program.

PCOH formed in 2011 and achieved 501(c)3 non-profit status in 2017. The coalition works to improve oral health for all Pennsylvanians by uniting stakeholders to advance advocacy, policy, education and innovative approaches.

PCOH holds a statewide biennial summit, and the 2021 awards were the first presented at this event. To learn more about the Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health, visit www.paoralhealth.org.

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