

2021 ORAL HEALTH SUMMIT:

NAVIGATING A NEW ERA

November 11-12, 2021

Harrisburg, PA



The 2021 PA Oral Health Summit, hosted by the Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH), convened to gather oral health stakeholders from across PA in-person for education, discussion, and networking. PCOH created an open space for open discussion and idea-sharing. The two-day event consisted of three keynote addresses and twelve 15-minute presentations from PA stakeholders. Each presentation was followed by fifteen minutes of small group discussion guided by prompts. Takeaways were collected using Google Jamboard and post-it notes left at tables.

DAY 1 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: DR. DENISE JOHNSON

Pennsylvania Physician General Dr. Denise Johnson kicked off the 2021 PA Oral Health Summit with a keynote address detailing the status of oral health in PA. She reminded attendees that oral health is a window to overall health and affects many aspects of a person's wellbeing. She first focused on access to oral health care for Pennsylvanians and shared current data for the state. Dr. Johnson then gave a quick overview of community water fluoridation in PA, including current data and promotional efforts. Finally, she shared an overview of the PA Oral Health Plan 2020-2030.



STATE OF THE STATE: DR. JONISE MCDANIEL

Dr. Jonise McDaniel introduced herself as the new Public Health Dental Director for the PA Department of Health. Dr. McDaniel reviewed the roles and responsibilities of state oral health programs and specifically detailed the priorities of the PA Department of Health Oral Health Program. She reviewed the current activities and successes of the program and discussed future opportunities for improving oral health in PA.

OUR HEROES AND ORAL HEALTH: BARBARA REIPRICH

Ms. Reiprich discussed her work at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Philadelphia, PA. It was made clear that veterans do not always have the information needed to receive services/care. Veterans need better education on oral health and its impact on other conditions. Attendees had questions about the benefits for veterans and how they can best make connections to care for their patients. It was noted that there were many VA participants at the Mission of Mercy events this past year. Attendees thought that dental coverage should match medical coverage for veterans. Overall, attendees were shocked at the complicated nature of the process and requirements for veterans to receive oral health care.

COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION IN PA: MERRILYNN MARSH

Ms. Marsh presented on efforts surrounding the promotion and protection of community water fluoridation in PA. She highlighted the new CWF map developed by PCOH and partners that helps residents know whether their water supply is optimally fluoridated. Attendees were curious to learn about the best ways to counter anti-fluoridation arguments. There were also questions about the best ways to promote tap water in a society plagued with bottled and flavored water trends.

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ORAL HEALTHCARE: MINDY DIGGAN

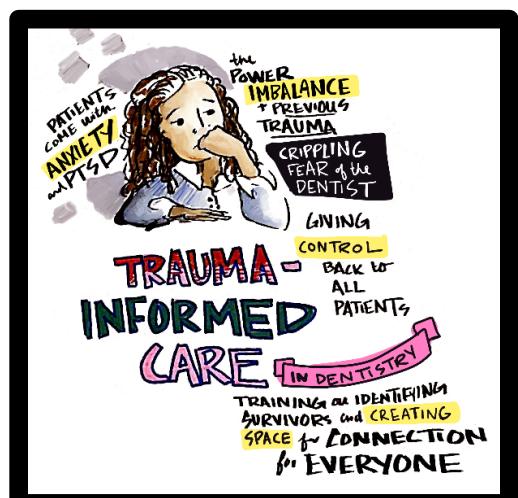
Ms. Diggan shared her experiences implementing behavioral health integration within her dental clinic, River Valley Health & Dental Center, in Williamsport, PA. She emphasized the importance of mental and behavioral health and that they are directly related to oral health. It was clear how siloed communication can be within the health care system. Attendees were impressed with the program and praised the clinic for breaking down medical silos in the best interest of patients.

MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS AND THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATORS: DR. LARRY PAUL

Dr. Paul discussed the relationship between managed care organizations and third-party administrators in the oral health care delivery and billing process. Attendees wanted to know how to make oral health care services more easily accessible for providers to find for billing and coding. They were interested in finding a point person at the Department of Human Services to help with licensure issues. The cost of dental care causes tension and the expansion of the adult dental benefit in Medicaid is a must. Practices are not getting adequate reimbursement for the care they are providing and patients are not able to find the care they need with the current system.

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE IN DENTISTRY

Attendees watched a video about trauma-informed care in dentistry. The video was well-received by attendees. There were requests for more information and more time to discuss trauma-informed care in dentistry at future educational events.



HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS RELATED OROPHARYNGEAL CANCER: DR. MANA MOZAFFARIAN

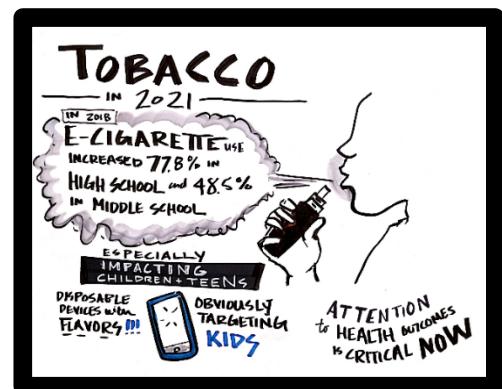
Dr. Mozaffarian presented on HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer and prevention. There was a focus on promoting the HPV vaccine as a means of prevention. Dr. Mozaffarian asked attendees to think of dentists as “physicians of the oral cavity” for perspective. PCOH also announced that there will be a Dental Provider Toolkit for Oropharyngeal Cancer Prevention coming soon in the spring.

ADDRESSING HEALTH EQUITY AND BARRIERS TO CARE: DR. MARK WOLFF

Dr. Wolff discussed the new Penn Dental Medicine Care Center for Persons with Disabilities. He emphasized that all dental providers could do their part to make the issue of access to care for individuals with special healthcare needs less burdensome. Other providers noted that the financial model needs to change so that there is reimbursement for desensitization. The overall goal should be broad-based, community care. General dentists should be trained to provide care for patients aged one through the lifespan, including patients with special healthcare needs.

TOBACCO IN 2021: DR. KAR-HAI CHU

Dr. Chu shared about the tobacco industry, social trends, and new and existing products in the tobacco-nicotine sphere. It is important for stakeholders to work together to disseminate information about new products for educational purposes and promote cessation. Attendees expressed anxiety about what is to come regarding tobacco and nicotine in the future.



DAY 1 REFLECTIONS

The day began with opening remarks from PCOH Board Chair, Dr. Deb Polk. The main part of the day concluded with an open group discussion about the presentations. Following final discussion, attendees enjoyed beverages and appetizers with sponsors and colleagues in the exhibit/lunchroom.



DAY 2 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: REAR ADMIRAL TIMOTHY RICKS

Rear Admiral Ricks gave a brief overview of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and his role as the Chief Dental Officer. He gave attendees an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the USPHS and oral health. He reviewed the former U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health and presented the top three oral health issues to focus on in this new era. Finally, RA Ricks thanked and gave a salute to all veterans in attendance in honor of Veterans Day.

HOW A BILL REALLY BECOMES A LAW: TED MOWATT

Mr. Mowatt emphasized the difference between lobbying and advocacy. One of the best ways to promote oral health advocacy is to be a resource for local legislators. Attendees agreed that one of the best ways to advocate is to make sure the right information gets to the right people at the right time. Legislative topics discussed at tables included extending loan forgiveness to foreign-trained dentists and providers treating persons with disabilities, allowing PHDHPs into schools, and requiring dental care for school admission.

DEVELOPING AN ORAL HEALTH CURRICULUM: DR. STEPHANIE GILL

There are many lessons to be learned to tie Dr. Gill's oral health curriculum for medical students into other programs. Attendees discussed barriers to integrate oral health education into medical school curriculum.

There could be a lack of current medical providers that value oral health and a lack of willingness to "take on" oral health on the medical side. Providers often struggle to see beyond the fee schedule.

Attendees applauded the concept of promoting oral health to medical students to educate the next generation of oral health champions.



ORAL HEALTH'S IMPACT ON DENTISTRY: DR. SEAN BOYNES

Dr. Boynes delivered a unique presentation noting the apparent that technology is becoming a catalyst for change in the oral health world. Attendees saw the value in using technology to reduce administrative tasks and decrease overhead costs. However, it is important for medical and dental EHR systems to work together, which can be a barrier to care. A lack of broadband connectivity also continues to be a major issue in many parts of rural PA.

ORAL HEALTH ACCESS AND WORKFORCE PLANNING IN PA: KELLY BRAUN

Ms. Braun shared about the current workforce issues in PA and what is being done to combat the issues. Workforce pipeline strategy starts in young students. Engaging high school and middle school clubs to explore dental careers is a great way to steer them toward a future in oral health. Students in dental and dental hygiene programs could have more experience with public health settings in the form of volunteer hours or other public health clinical experience. There was discussion about allowing foreign-trained dentists to serve patients in underserved areas with limited licenses. There may be retired dentists willing to work in rural areas part time due to the benefits of the area (hunting, fishing, etc.)

DAY 2 REFLECTIONS

The day began with opening remarks from incoming PCOH Board Chair, Lisa Davis. Following the presentations, attendees shared their questions and ideas in the Google Jamboard. In summary, there are a lot of activities that can occur in a dental office such as conversations about HPV prevention and vaccination, oral cancer screening, tobacco cessation, and treating patients with special needs. Oral health is essential to overall health and should not be siloed from the rest of the body.



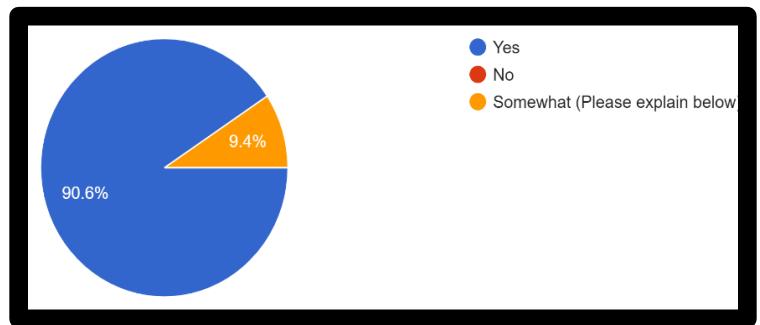
For the first time in PCOH history, PCOH presented three awards to honor organizations and individuals who served as oral health champions in PA. The 2021 Innovative Oral Health Champion Individual Award was presented to Dr. C. Eve Kimball, FAAP, from Berks County. The 2021 Innovative Oral Health Champion Organization Award was presented to Darcie Shaffer, representing Volunteers in Medicine, a free health clinic in Luzerne County. The 2021 Community Water Fluoridation Champion Award was awarded to Dr. Thomas Regan, a newly retired dentist from Lancaster County.

Throughout the event, Chrissie Bonner from Illustrating Progress developed a graphic illustration depicting the key topics of discussion. The graphic provided a powerful visual representation of the topics presented and discussion items that stuck out most to attendees.

NEXT STEPS

PCOH sent evaluations to all registrants, sponsors, and anyone else in attendance at the event.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and attendees were satisfied with the event. When asked if attendees met their goal in attending the 2021 PA Oral Health Summit, over 90% responded that they had with just a small portion only “somewhat” meeting their goal.



Throughout the Summit, space was created to share ideas and a feeling of inclusiveness was felt by all. PCOH is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this work, and attendees left the summit knowing their passions and interests will be the top priorities of the coalition moving into 2022 and beyond. The relationships that were newly established and the ones that were refreshed during the event will allow all PCOH stakeholders to work together and accomplish better oral health for all Pennsylvanians.



For more information on the PA Coalition for Oral Health, visit paoralhealth.org.

A special thank you to the 2021 PA Oral Health Summit Sponsors! This event would not have been successful without your support.

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Lisa Schildhorn



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