

## Meeting Logistics

<b>Item</b>	<b>Oral Health Plan Advisory Group Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	Friday, August 4, 2023
<b>Time</b>	10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET
<b>Location</b>	Best Western Premier, The Central Hotel, Harrisburg, PA
<b>Purpose/Focus</b>	The purpose of the meeting is to convene the members of the Oral Health Plan Advisory Group (OHPAG) to discuss the group's mission and strategies to implement the Pennsylvania Oral Health Plan 2020-2030 (Plan).
<b>Notetaker</b>	Amy Tice, PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH)

## Desired Meeting Outcomes

By the end of the meeting, attendees will have:

- a shared understanding of the vision of the Plan;
- a deeper connection to one another as members and roles of subject matter experts; and
- an opportunity to expand and strengthen the work of implementing the Plan.

## Agenda

ID	Description	Owner	Time
1	Welcome and Logistics	Oral Health Program, Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH): Dr. Jonise McDaniel, Public Health Dental Director Jan Miller and Sarah Welch, Oral Health Program Administrators	10:00-10:05
	Icebreaker, New member Introductions	Dr. Jonise McDaniel	10:05-10:30
2	Subject Matter Experts (SME)	- Dr. Shahram Shamloo, Chief Dental Officer, Department of Human Services - Dr. Jun Yang, Epidemiologist, Bureau of Epidemiology - Evelyn Chianelli, Division of Child Development and Early Education - Veronica Kell, Aging Services Specialist, Department of Aging	10:30-11:00

ID	Description	Owner	Time
3	OHPAG Member Sharing	Jan Miller	11:00-11:45
4	Lunch	All	11:45-12:30
5	Identified Priorities, Update on Progress, Baseline Indicators, and Progress towards Measurable Outcomes	Helen Hawkey, PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH)	12:30-1:00
6	Member Discussion/Identifying New Priorities	Sarah Welch	1:00-2:00
7	Meeting Summary and Next Steps	Dr. Jonise McDaniel	2:00-2:30

**Notes**

- Attendees: PCOH (Helen Hawkey, Amy Tice, Lia BenYishay), Department of Health Oral Health Program (Dr. Jonise McDaniel, Jan Miller), Dr. Harry Goodman, Darcie Schaffer, Kelly Braun, Kelly

*Dupler, Beth Frushon, Dan White, Dr. Shahram Shamloo, Dr. Dana Chianese, Dr. Malini Moni, Marisa Swarney, Susan Washinger, Veronica Kell, Evelyn Chianelli, Katriya Rodriguez, Dr. Jun Yang*

- Welcome and Logistics
  - Dr. McDaniel welcomed everyone to the August Oral Health Plan Advisory Group (OHPAG meeting.) She recognized the new members in attendance, including Dan White, Darcie Schaffer, and Beth Frushon.
  - Agenda Review
    - Dr. McDaniel reviewed the agenda for the meeting and logistics for the venue.
  - Member Introductions and Icebreakers
    - Dr. McDaniel introduced Jan Miller and Kelly Dupler from the Department of Health. Dr. McDaniel also introduced Helen Hawkey from the PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH).
    - Helen introduced the PCOH staff in attendance including Amy Tice and Lia BenYishay. Helen also introduced Dr. Harry Goodman, former Maryland Dental Director and current consultant for the Plan.
    - Dr. McDaniel asked each person to introduce themselves.
      - Amy Tice is the Operations and Communications Coordinator with PCOH.
      - Jan Miller is a Program Administrator at the Pennsylvania Department of Health Oral Health Program.
      - Dr. Jun Yang is an epidemiologist with the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
      - Dan White is a new member and a registered dental hygienist at the Wright Center in Scranton.
      - Veronica Kell works for the Pennsylvania Department of Aging.
      - Dr. Harry Goodman is a public health dentist and was the Public Health Dental Director in Maryland for many years. He is now retired and works as a consultant for this group.
      - Susan Washinger is with the PA Health Access Network (PHAN) and they work to increase health care access for all Pennsylvanians.
      - Kat Rodriguez works for Star Community Health.
      - Darcie Schaffer is a new member and the manager at Volunteers in Medicine in Wilkes-Barre.
      - Kelly Dupler is the Director for the Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction.
      - Dr. Dana Chianese works in pediatric private practice and works at Temple Hospital in Philadelphia.
      - Beth Frushon is a new member and works for SKYGEN. She is a registered dental hygienist with an interest in public health, education, and oral health promotion.
      - Evelyn Chianelli is with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. She works with communities statewide. Evelyn participates in the group to see how her department can overlap with oral

health. She also has several family members that were dentists and has a degree in health planning.

- Dr. Malini Moni is a public health dentist. Dr. Moni uses the Plan as her bible and follows the motto “treat the person, not the tooth.”
- Dr. Sean Shamloo is the newly appointed Chief Dental Officer for the Department of Human Services and looks forward to working with everyone.
- Kelly Braun is with the PA Office of Rural Health.
- Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)
  - Dr. Shahram (Sean) Shamloo, Chief Dental Officer, Department of Human Services
    - Dr. Shamloo gave an overview of the Department of Human Services and the Office of Medical Assistance (OMAP). The DHS serves over 3 million individuals through various programs. Advocating on behalf of the vulnerable population is a priority. The office purchases healthcare for 2.7 million Pennsylvanians and enrolls individuals. OMAP processes claims, establishes rates and fees, and contracts managed care organizations. Dental is included in this. Dr. Shamloo oversees the quality of dental care provided through DHS programs. Dr. Shamloo interacts regularly with the dental directors of the managed care organizations. Everything dental related in DHS goes through Dr. Shamloo. He also interacts with other DHS offices. His office is responsible for providing feedback on dental legislation and insight on implementation. He began his role in February 2023. OMAP is very complex, and Dr. Shamloo is working hard to learn the background of everything. DHS Secretary Val Arkoosh is very supportive of oral health. Deputy Secretary Sally Kozak is also very supportive of the programs. Dr. Shamloo has had regular meetings with Dr. McDaniel and PCOH. He wants to ensure they partner to meet goals and advance the cause since the goals are mutual. Dr. Shamloo wants a collaborative approach with the managed care dental directors as well. The goal is to improve as much as possible. Having a proper workforce in place is key. Dr. Shamloo looks forward to working further with Dr. McDaniel, PCOH, and the oral health stakeholders.
  - Jan explained the difference between OHPAG members and subject matter experts. Subject matter experts represent state departments but do not have voting rights in the OHPAG. Having subject matter experts in the room helps to address topics and answer questions as they arise.
  - Veronica Kell, Aging Services Specialist, Department of Aging
    - Veronica is the statewide volunteer coordinator and helps with the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Each state has a federally funded SHIP. They serve all 67 counties. Each county has its own program. Original Medicare does not cover dental, vision, hearing or many other services. Medigaps or Medicare supplemental insurance can be bought out of pocket to offset costs. The only time dental may be covered by Medicare is if it is done under Medicare Part A. This is when dental care is provided when a patient is in the hospital. Recently there has been a rise in Medicare Advantage plans. These may cover dental, vision, and hearing to some degree. It is projected that the advantage plans may be the leading insurance provider for Medicare in the future. Most people on Medicare also have Medicare Advantage plans as well. Not all health/dental providers

participate in the different plans. To make changes to Medicare, it takes an act of Congress. While there has been various legislation, this would take time.

Pennsylvania's older population has grown to 2.7 million in 2020. Pennsylvania has the fifth oldest population in America. By 2030, one in five Americans will be 65 or older. Veronica would like OHPAG members to look at the Master Plan for Older Adults and provide feedback.

- The information for the Master Plan for Older Adults will be included with the notes.
- Evelyn Chianelli, PA Department of Community and Economic Development
  - Evelyn is with the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development. Oral health is a huge factor in overall health. Medicare doesn't cover oral health and regular dental visits, which is a huge disconnect and needs to be improved. Evelyn would be happy to serve as a resource for the communities in PA. Her program works with local governments in all 67 counties. She can help spread information through the local governments and she has a personal interest in public relations.
- Dr. Jun Yang, Epidemiologist, Bureau of Epidemiology
  - Dr. Yang shared slides that will be sent out with the notes.
  - The Acting Secretary of Health, Dr. Deb Bogen has taken interest in the Basic Screening Survey project.
- OHPAG Member Sharing
  - Jessica Rhodes (sent prior to meeting): wanted to send along updates from the PHDHP Dental Care Managers at UPMC regarding some of their recent work:
    - Ongoing oral health awareness and mobile dental partnership events inclusive of events at Beaver Valley Mall, Logan Valley Mall, UPMC Community Center.
    - Partnerships with UPMC Cole as well Perfect Smiles to help with post pandemic backlog.
    - Assistance with OCYF and JPO in navigating oral health needs of children under the care and control of these entities.
    - Establishing care pathways with Hello Neighbor and Community Health Workers.
    - Development and launch of dental continuing education course for providers – topics approved at this time include age one dental visit and oral health in pregnancy and the first year of life.
    - Additionally, UPMC continues to pursue additional mobile dental programming to help expand the reach of our brick-and-mortar practices as well as help to support the ongoing adherence to oral health treatment plans.
    - On the horizon, hoping to run a survey for our providers to shed more light on the reasons that sealants may not be applied to the age-appropriate populations. UPMC is also exploring and hoping to reconcile the changes made to the MA Fee Schedule allowing for fluoride application by dentists and physical health providers beyond age 5 with what we can train out via the Healthy Teeth, Healthy Children

curriculum. Lastly, we will be looking to highlight work in the health equity space in 2024 related to oral health and care pathways.

- As always, UPMC is open to working with all of you in whatever way we can to help better the oral health of Pennsylvanians and hope to shape a more collaborative, whole person care model for all our work.
- Kat shared that Star Community Health has expanded their mobile unit. This will allow them to work in a new county. The dental hygienists have been double booked, which is possible with the help of assistants. There are three hygienists at each site. There is no nitrous in the vans. This is also a great opportunity to educate parents since parents are not in the schools when kids are being treated. They stay open one weekday until 7pm to be more accessible to parents. This has helped improve access to care for kids.
- Dan shared that the Wright Center for Community Health has two dental sites and a mobile unit. They are trying to go into schools to see kids. They are trying to expand into different communities and have been successful on the medical side. There are two dental sites and there will be another ten-chair facility in Wilkes-Barre. They have learned to be more flexible with patients coming in late because it is not the fault of the child.
- Dr. Moni shared that they have four dental sites plus a mobile unit. The team has been smaller since the pandemic, and they are looking for more staff. Dr. Moni has focused on two projects, the first being getting children a dental exam the same day as their well child visits. They have payment plans and a sliding fee scale. Educating patients is very important. Periodontal disease and diabetes are linked both ways. Dr. Moni will also be focusing on HPV vaccine promotion. Dr. Moni has used the HPV toolkit from PCOH. They have a pre-school program for dental screenings.
- Darcie shared that they do exams at the Pre-K counts for children to enter kindergarten. They examined 37 children, three of them had ten or more cavities and 14 of them had three or more cavities. Darcie works to follow up with parents but faces many issues.
- Helen shared there are about 60 free clinics across the state and about 20 provide dental services. They are completely free to patients who meet the income guidelines.
- Beth shared that she consulted with Maternal Family Health Services in Scranton to open a dental clinic. Young moms come in for appointments and can receive dental services at the same time. Beth had more success with getting parent forms signed at orientation day.
- Dr. Chianese shared that the pandemic has changed how providers provide care. In pediatrics, she has seen an uptick in teen issues. It is a tough demographic for providers. Since the pandemic, there have been more issues to dental access, home care, food and beverage choices, etc. for teenagers. Dental anxiety is more than it ever has been before. They require more advanced dental care and often nitrous and sedation. They teamed up with Special Smiles to treat special needs patients and others that aren't getting their needs met elsewhere.
- Helen shared that the state Medicaid program covers 1.5 million kids. About 50% of kids go to the dentist. Helen wants to focus more on the 10-14 age group. This may be a project focus in the fall.
- Susan shared that PHAN just published a network adequacy report that can be shared with the notes. PHAN has been focusing on medical debt. There is a forgiveness and hospital education aspect to the state budget. Prescription drug affordability is also a focus. This will be a focus going into the fall. Other states have been successful in getting prescription

drug affordability boards, including New Jersey. PHAN is also focusing on hospital care costs and how consolidation affects costs.

- Helen also shared that insurance companies are required by law to provide adequate networks. Helen shared that River Valley Dental Center has 3,000 adults on their waiting list at this time.
- Beth shared that managed care organizations are also supposed to help get patients to appointments; this includes transportation stipends as needed. This can include bus passes, ride sharing coverage, etc. A lot of the managed care organizations have a system where providers alert the managed care organizations when there are patient no-shows. Then the managed care organizations can follow up with the patient. Reasons often include transportation, childcare issues, etc.
  - Darcie shares that she has patients come in daily that have insurance, but no one will see them. She advises them to call the number of their card.
  - Managed care organizations are required to find a provider for enrollees within 30/60 minutes in network. If there is no one available, they should connect them with someone out of the network. The timeline is supposed to be within two weeks, depending on the type of provider.
  - Beth shared that Lackawanna County only has one oral surgeon that accepts Medicaid.
  - Kat shared that AmeriHealth gave Walmart gift cards to patients that showed up to their appointments and that was successful.
- Helen shared that the Oral Health Program is wonderful and growing. They have also brought in funds to PA to elevate oral health. They apply for federal dollars to implement programming. PA received the latest round of Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funding for the next four years. PA is finishing up the last year of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant funding and PA will be reapplying in the next few months.
- Helen shared that there was a large water system in Berks County that wanted to discontinue fluoridation. After activating stakeholders in the county, they decided it wasn't worth pursuing the process of discontinuing fluoridation. Support for community water fluoridation comes from the CDC grant. Jan shared that the next CDC grant will be more competitive.
- Identified Priorities, Update on Progress, Baseline Indicators, and Progress Towards Measurable Outcomes
  - Identified Priority Action Steps
    - Helen shared an overview of the structure of the Plan including priorities, action steps, measurable outcomes, and domains. Helen shared slides that will be shared

out with the notes. In 2020, the group focused on the first two domains and now the group will focus on the next three domains.

- There are 53 action steps the OHPAG members will be choosing between to prioritize in the next year. The measurable outcomes are the data points where there is data that can be measured and tracked. These have ten-year goals.
- The group will be choosing seven action steps of the 53 to prioritize in the next year; 4 of the action steps selected will be from priority A, 2 will be from priority B, and 1 will be from priority C.
- Update on Progress
  - The group previously reviewed the update [spreadsheet](#) on the first two domains as part of the meeting preparation homework. The current spreadsheet for the next three domains will be continuously updated. The [current version](#) will be added to the OHPAG webpage.
- Baseline Indicators
  - Helen shared the 2030 goals with the group. It is important to remember that the baseline indicators were composed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The data comes from state and federal sources. The goals also align with the Healthy People 2030 initiative.
  - Helen shared that in 2010, PA had an “F” from the Pew Center for an oral health report card. Most recently in 2018, PA had a “B” score.
- Progress Towards Measurable Outcomes
  - In many instances, data is only available every few years from certain sources. The group will be tracking the trends.
    - Dr. Chianese did a project in her education looking at general anesthesia and the incidence of increased anesthesia in the future. The results were astonishing.
    - Dr. Chianese asked if there are data available that break down the percentage of providers participating in Medicaid broken down by specialty (especially pediatrics.)
      - Helen and Jan shared stakeholders can request data from the Department of Human Services and can share the process after the meeting.
  - Helen reminded that group that the “Infrastructure” measurable outcomes mostly have “yes or no” updates rather than data/numbers.
  - Helen shared that Maryland State Department Oral Health Program has 16 full time staff while PA only has three.
- Member Discussion/Identifying New Priorities
  - Members participated in an activity where they selected three action steps for each priority to focus on in the next year. An official vote will happen in the next few weeks via a survey disseminated via email.
  - Helen asked the group to share any surprises or comments from the activity.
    - Beth said she was surprised to see medical dental integration as another action step. This has been discussed for many years, how has there been no progress?



Why is it so hard for patients and payers to understand that the mouth is part of the body? There continues to be a lack of communication.

- Dr. Shamloo agreed that there needs to be a continued focus on medical dental integration and improved communication.
- Beth shared a past project that partnered dental hygienists with nurses. It was a great opportunity for nurses to “buy in” to promoting oral health.
- Dr. Shamloo wants behavioral health to be integrated into both medical and dental as well.
- Dan shared that local anesthesia with dental hygienists was only allowed starting in 2010. At that time, dentists were on the fence about allowing hygienists to do that and now dentists don’t bat an eye. Incorporating medical dental integration into curriculum works.
- Helen added that the 2023 PA Oral Health Summit: Paving the Road to Equity will take place at this location on November 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Many of the topics discussed today will be presented on and discussed at the Summit. Registration will launch September 1<sup>st</sup>. If members are unable to attend the event, notes and recordings will be shared with stakeholders after the event.
- Beth asked if oral health codes are collected at emergency departments.
  - Helen shared that the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee also tried to get data, but Pennsylvania does not track this well. There is no box for diagnosis at the hospital for dental.
  - Beth asked a friend in the emergency department to track patients for dental and was told it was not possible since it is not coded that way.
  - Micah Gursky from St. Luke’s in Schuylkill County will be presenting on a similar project at the Summit.
  - Dan asked if other states are tracking dental emergency department data.
    - Many states participate in the national databases. Maryland even tracks returning patients that come back to the emergency department for the same tooth or issue.
  - Kelly B. shared a story about a pediatric patient who was taken to the hospital. There was no copay required at the emergency department, so there is no deterrent from going to the emergency department.
  - Helen also brought up that the number of patients going to the emergency department for urgent care has decreased in rural counties. However, this can be attributed to the surge of urgent care centers and the closures of rural hospitals.
  - Dr. Shamloo shared that there is a push to add two dental codes. One is for tracking pregnant patients and the other is for tracking patients with urgent care visits. These are both available for public comment currently.
    - Helen emphasized the importance of public comment periods. The Plan can be used to back up statements. The group is also encouraged to talk to legislators.
    - Jan added that asking questions is also important. You don’t need to ask for something but ask a question for clarification.
- Dr. Shamloo wants to focus on something positive as the meeting closes. There are a lot of exciting things happening with the oral health movement. There is a lot more happening

now than a year ago. There are legislators that are very supportive of prioritizing dental. There is a secretary that is now very supportive of the cause. Many dental graduates are supportive of public health. There is a Chief Dental Officer on the national level at CMS prioritizing oral health and adding prominence to the cause.

- Dr. Shamloo shared that the budget has passed and includes some dental items.

- Meeting Summary and Next Steps

- Dr. McDaniel thanked everyone for spending the day at this meeting.
- Amy will send out notes with the slides and other materials. This will also include the survey to select priorities.
- The next OHPAG meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on January 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm. A calendar invite will be sent out.
- The 2023 PA Oral Health Summit will be November 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> at this hotel (the Best Western Premier in Harrisburg). Registration will launch in the next month. There is an optional poverty simulation this year which is a new offering.