

## 1 Meeting Logistics

<b>Item</b>	<b>Oral Health Plan Advisory Group Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	Friday, January 19, 2024
<b>Time</b>	10 a.m. - 12 p.m. ET
<b>Location</b>	Online via Zoom: New <a href="#">Link Here</a>
<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 challenges

By the end of the meeting, attendees will have:

- an increased knowledge of the current population-based dental oral health issues impacting the Commonwealth;
- a shared understanding of the vision of the Plan;
- a deeper connection to one another as members of OHPAG; 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
2	Review of Identified Priorities and Update on Progress	Helen Hawkey, PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH)	10:05-10:20
3	OHPAG Member Sharing	Sarah Welch, DOH	10:20-10:50
4	Baseline Indicators and Progress towards Measurable Outcomes	Helen Hawkey, PCOH	10:50-11:05
5	Member Discussion and Q&A	Helen Hawkey, PCOH Cathy Kassab, Oral Health Plan Evaluator	11:05-11:45
6	Meeting Summary and Next Steps	Dr. Jonise McDaniel, DOH	11:45-12:00

## 2 Notes

- Welcome and Logistics
  - Dr. McDaniel welcomed the group to the January meeting on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Health. She went over meeting logistics and introduced Oral Health Program staff. She reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.
- Review of Identified Priorities and Update on Progress
  - Helen Hawkey reviewed the identified priorities and action steps chosen by the OHPAG members. Helen shared slides with progress updates on each of the selected action steps.

- Reduce total health care costs through policies and advocacy that enhance access to oral disease prevention and treatment services.
  - House Bill 1417 (Restoring adult benefits in Medicaid) was passed by the House with bipartisan support in December 2023. It's currently in Senate committee, with interest to pick up issue in Spring 2024.
  - Continuous coverage for children for one year in Medicaid was already passed, but now a waiver is being submitted to extend to age 6.
  - The "Dream Care" initiative is re-launching to ensure there are no uninsured children.
- Initiate policy(ies) to expand the oral health workforce in venues serving underserved populations to provide more opportunities for access to treatment, prevention, and education services.
  - House Bill 1585 (Teledentistry bill) was passed by the House with bipartisan support in December 2023; it now sits in the Senate. PCOH has planned meetings to discuss importance of bill.
  - PCOH is hosting a dental license portability webinar to increase support of dental licensure compact legislation sitting in both chambers of the legislature.
  - House Bill 1478 passed into law, allowing public health dental hygiene practitioners (PHDHPs) to perform mandated school screenings in districts without a school hygienist. (Effective 2/14/24)
  - Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is now an allowable code for physicians.
- Reduce oral health disparities according to race, income, ethnicity, age, geographic residence, disability status, and education levels.
  - DOH and PCOH are establishing new partnership with Area Agencies on Aging to address senior oral health care gaps.
  - Partners are working with the Governor's office to officially recognize those with disabilities as a medically underserved population (MUP).
  - PCOH and DOH continue to promote fluoridation as a population health measure that benefits all in a community.
  - PCOH hosted a poverty simulation at the 2023 PA Oral Health Summit to increase the knowledge of providers around the social determinants of health.
- Initiate a policy on Medicaid reimbursement for community health workers (and similar groups) for home visiting, education services, and appropriate referral to dental homes.
  - The Department of Human Services is working on a federal plan amendment that would allow Medicaid reimbursement for community health workers (CHWs), with a goal of 2025.
  - The PCOH Summit in November 2023 featured CHWs and shared information on this process.
  - Medicaid now covers nicotine cessation counseling, oral hygiene instruction, and the program is actively working on increasing dental referrals from medical homes.
- Advocate for mandated and increased level funding for the Medicaid fee schedule.
  - Pennsylvania is one of six states starting an American Dental Association's project to increase Medicaid provider participation.
  - House Bill 1300 (Fiscal code) passed in December with \$24 million in additional state funds to increase the dental fee schedule and send one-

time payments to dental providers who already participate. This should include federally qualified health centers as well.

- Identify and support pipeline program development to ensure a competent and diverse future oral health workforce.
  - PCOH hosted a Statewide Dental Workforce Strategy Session in August 2023.
  - PCOH and DOH maintains a HRSA Community of Practice group that lists this as a focus area.
  - PCOH works with state and regional Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) to support two high school programs for career development.
  - PCOH attended a PA School Counselors Association meeting to share career information.
  - Pitt/Allegheny County are continuing a new dental assisting program.
- Secure state and federal funding to implement, administer, and operate statewide dental public health programs designed to enhance oral health equity.
  - The DOH Oral Health Program has funding through August 31, 2024 for CDC state oral health grant (fluoridation, surveillance, and sealant programs).
  - The DOH Oral Health Program has funding through August 31, 2026 for HRSA state oral health grant (workforce).
  - The DOH Oral Health Program will apply for next CDC grant that runs from September 1, 2024-August 31, 2027.
  - State oral health stakeholders (PACHC, PCOH, PORH, and more) applied for a four-year grant to start in July focused on medical/dental integration.
- OHPAG Member Sharing
  - The Facilitation Team asked members to come to the meeting prepared to share
    - Dr. Sean Shamloo
      - Dr. Shamloo shared that DHS recently added services for street medicine. This can help address oral health disparities. This allows for healthcare delivery for individuals that are unhoused or without shelter. They will now be able to receive services and providers will be reimbursed. This is important and addresses equity and disparities.
        - Dr. Shamloo reviewed the new codes covered for dental providers. Dentists were not initially part of the list of providers for street medicine but have now been added. The codes that are limited oral evaluation D0140, oral evaluation for patients under 3 is D0145, topical application of fluoride varnish is D1206, and D1310, 28, 21, and 30 are for nutritional counseling, tobacco counseling, and counseling for prevention of adverse oral-behavioral systemic health effects, and oral hygiene instructions.
      - PA DHS is also part of a collaborative with MSDA. They received a grant for the Special Olympics through the CDC to address inclusive health. It is to help states establish tools to help states to treat individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The first phase will be to establish baseline and look at tools that can be implemented in the next phase.
      - Regarding the new PHDHP bill that is now law, Dr. Shamloo would like to add some codes around it, specifically assessment codes. This would further support this bill and PHDHPs.
    - Beth Frushon

- Beth shared her perspective from her work with SKYGEN, an insurance benefits company. They work with teams that work with specific MCOs. Last year, they started an initiative to bring together dental directors from MCOs since they had been in transition. They began offering quarterly meetings for the MCO dental directors. This moved from an internal meeting to inviting all MCOs. This team has the same goals and has been able to identify issues in the system. Dr. Shamloo was a guest speaker on one of the meetings. The dental directors now feel that there is open communication between the MCOs and DHS and that they can work together to come up with resolutions. Bringing people together working towards the same goal has been beneficial.
- Dr. Moni
  - Dr. Moni shared updates from her community health center
    - Reduce total health care costs through policies and advocacy that enhance access to oral disease prevention and treatment services.
      - The center has a triage system where they see emergency cases every day. The system helps patients be seen who need urgent care.
    - Initiate policy(ies) to expand the oral health workforce in venues serving underserved populations to provide more opportunities for access to treatment, prevention, and education services.
      - They have engaged in a relationship with a local community college to help train and recruit dental assistants to the center.
    - Reduce oral health disparities according to race, income, ethnicity, age, geographic residence, disability status, and education levels.
      - Patients are seen regardless of their ability to pay since the center is an FQHC.
    - Initiate a policy on Medicaid reimbursement for community health workers (and similar groups) for home visiting, education services, and appropriate referral to dental homes.
      - This is a group activity. The center does have a mobile unit purchased that is not yet in use due to staffing.
    - Advocate for mandated and increased level funding for the Medicaid fee schedule.
      - Dr. Moni is an advocate and enjoyed participating in the Oral Health Advocacy Day last April. That event was beneficial, and Dr. Moni encourages everyone to participate.
    - Identify and support pipeline program development to ensure a competent and diverse future oral health workforce.
      - The center staff takes diversity training so that they are aware of the population they are serving.
    - Secure state and federal funding to implement, administer, and operate statewide dental public health programs designed to enhance oral health equity.
      - Dr. Moni is passionate about public health and specifically medical-dental integration. Dr. Moni continues to use the HPV toolkit provided by PCOH. Dr. Moni is struggling to staff dental hygienists currently.
    - Dr. McDaniel added that DOH enjoyed visiting the center this past

fall and appreciated the medical-dental initiatives in place.

- Evelyn Chianelli
  - Evelyn doesn't work directly in healthcare or dental. She works in the Department of Community and Economic Development.
  - Community Water Fluoridation
    - Evelyn emphasized speaking with local governmental officials about fluoride in the water. Evelyn was shocked at the number of systems that do not optimally fluoride their water.
  - Aging
    - Evelyn works with the Department of Aging workgroup for their ten-year plan.
    - Evelyn is also on the council in Dauphin County focused on aging.
    - Evelyn has been in conversation with the Center for Rural PA and the Office of Rural Health to address oral health disparities.
- Jess Rhodes
  - Reduce oral health disparities according to race, income, ethnicity, age, geographic residence, disability status, and education levels.
    - UPMC has been working with the Allegheny County Office of Developmental Programs to better educate caregivers and service groups to understand the best practices for oral health in homecare. They have also been identifying gaps in care providing by the office. They are also looking to partner with their behavioral health plan to offer further training and education for dental providers.
- Dr. Fredrick
  - Dr. Fredrick shared updates from the PA Area Health Education Center (PA AHEC).
    - Initiate a policy on Medicaid reimbursement for community health workers (and similar groups) for home visiting, education services, and appropriate referral to dental homes.
      - PA AHEC representatives are serving on the CHW Collaborative's Sustainability Committee that is working with the PA Dept of Human Services on a state plan amendment to allow billing/payment for CHW services through Pennsylvania Medicaid starting in 2025.
      - PA AHEC worked with other State Health Improvement Plan partners (including PA Coalition for Oral Health) to submit questions for inclusion in the CHW Collaborative's next employer survey (coming out soon) about CHWs supporting integrated physical, oral, and behavioral health care.
      - PA AHEC's CHW training program includes a module on oral health care developed by Kelly Braun in the PA Office of Rural Health and Helen Hawkey in the PA Coalition for Oral Health.
    - Identify and support pipeline program development to ensure a competent and diverse future oral health workforce.
      - PA AHEC is exploring ways to allow dental students to spend more time learning in rural and underserved communities. Tioga County may serve as a pilot community with a variety of stakeholders interested in supporting

dental student rotations there and dentists willing to serve as regional faculty for a dental school.

- PA AHEC has held an annual virtual SEARCH Academy session for high school students on oral health careers for the past 3 years in collaboration with the PA Coalition for Oral Health.
- Kristi Mattzela
  - While I recently left CVIM, I can update what they have been working on. They have a strong relationship with the local dental assistant program for both high school students and adults. The students come to our office 2 days a week and learn hands-on assisting and gain practical office experience. We have to date hired 2 of their students. They are also collaborating with the Lion Mobile Clinic to bring triage and emergency care to the rural areas of our county. We would like to see SDF, fluoride application, and screenings provided on the unit by one of the CVIM hygienists. That relationship is on-going. We also have a strong partnership with the State College School district to help uninsured children access medical and dental care. Finally, CVIM has implemented a large training program for trauma-informed care.
  - Personally, I'm very interested in water fluoridation and would be happy to join any initiatives on that. I'm also continuing involvement with the Free Clinic Association of PA and will be helping to evaluate action steps for the association in terms of oral health moving forward.
- Katie Noss
  - PACHC has an integration summit coming up April 8 and 9, 2024, I invite everyone to submit proposals related to dental integration!  
<https://pachc.org/upcoming-events/>
- Kristin Haegele Hill
  - The PA AAP Healthy Teeth Healthy Children program continues to provide our Oral Health in Your Office training for medical providers across PA to integrate oral health education and preventive care (including application of TFV) at child well visits. This year we are working to develop/adapt resources for adolescents to reflect the expansion of TVF application coverage.
  - Healthy Teeth Healthy Children (HTHC) is also in Y2 of a multi-year project (OHFT) with a goal of developing virtual solutions to equitably spread validated oral health prevention messages to improve oral health literacy and reduce ECC. This year our focus is on validating existing resources and developing new/adapted resources through pilot projects. Please reach out to me if you're interested in learning more or getting involved in our work! [khaegelehill@paaap.org](mailto:khaegelehill@paaap.org)
- Baseline Indicators and Progress towards Measurable Outcomes
  - Helen shared the 2030 goals under each priority with the status of each under access and workforce. See slides for data.
    - If OHPAG members know anyone in the Brackenridge area of Pittsburgh, please contact Helen as there is a community water fluoridation rollback happening with the water system.
  - Evaluation
    - Cathy Kassab is the evaluator for the Oral Health Plan.
      - Cathy shared the importance of evaluation including the purpose, how it

is implemented, and results.

- Evaluation results should help determine program decision-making and direction.
- Cathy shared the methods being used to assess progress on the priority areas in the Plan. The group documents accomplishments relevant to the Plan. Progress is assessed in the priority areas through pre-established measurable outcomes. An independent evaluation is conducted annually at this point.
- Summit Evaluation Outcomes
  - Helen shared some of the results of the evaluation from the 2023 PA Oral Health Summit from November 2023.
    - Networking opportunities and the desire to gain new knowledge/skills were the top reasons for attending the Summit.
    - Health equity, addressing workforce challenges, PA safety net clinics, and community health workers were the topics attendees found most interesting.
    - Attendees hope to see the future topics of oral health specific population groups (older adults, veterans, LGBTQIA), teledentistry as a tool to bridge equity gaps, and workforce.
  - Helen asked those that attended the Summit what they want to hear more about or see more resources about. What does the group need?
    - Jess Rhodes would like to see more ideas on how community health workers can be operationalized since billing is going live for dental. Once the services are billable, everyone should be ready to go. Where do you hire a CHW, how do you ensure they include oral health in their discussions with patients? Doulas should also be part of this conversation. Doulas will also see changes as a billable service provider and should be brought into this oral health space.
    - Dr. Shamloo shared that medical dental integration will be crucial moving forward. It is important to bring the dental voice to the medical world, especially when discussing doulas and CHWs. Dr. Shamloo and Helen both presented on a recent series through the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. Dean Wolff will be presenting to the Centers for Excellence in June focusing on treating patients with OUD.
      - Katie Noss shared that the PA Association of Community Health Center is hosting a [Medical Dental Integration Summit on](#) April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. OHPAG members are invited to submit proposals related to dental integration.
    - Dan White shared that Dan shared an idea to help expand the workforce. If the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), DHS , and DOH could get together and make a training program for radiology it would be much easier to do in office training even if there was a nominal fee associated with it.
      - Helen shared that there has been rumbling at the State Board of Dentistry (SBOD) meetings that there could be desire for the SBOD to regulation/certify dental assistants again. This would require an act of legislation and additional funding to the SBOD. If anyone knows a legislator interested in pursuing this initiative, please contact Helen.
- Member Discussion and Q&A
  - Dr. Moni asked Dr. Shamloo for clarification around the street medicine update. The

1310 series can only be used in conjunction with exam codes.

- Dr. Shamloo shared that these codes could be used independently of the exam codes. The codes mentioned on the current dental fee schedule are listed on Place of Service 27. They are not tied to each other and street medicine.
- The codes Dr. Shamloo mentioned are on the [current dental fee schedule](#). These can be billed independently of each other and are not tied to street medicine.
  - Kelly Braun asked Dr. Shamloo if community health centers including rural health centers can bill for street medicine using the T1015 modifier.
    - Dr. Shamloo believes that to be true but will find out for Kelly.
- Kristin Haegele Hill
  - Kristin introduced herself as the newest OHPAG member. She served previously as the evaluator for the Plan.
  - Kristin asked for more clarification about the PHDHP bill. Once the PHDHPs providing exams in admissible, how will this be tracked? With this newly empowered workforce addressing disparities, what will this look like?
    - Helen and DOH shared that Division of School Health has not made any announcements. There is a chance that PHDHPs are added to the mandated school guidelines and will be utilized the exact way dentists currently are. As more information becomes available, PCOH will inform the group and stakeholders.
- Dean Wolff
  - The University of Pennsylvania will be hosting a [National Academy of Science meeting](#) on Whole-Person Oral Health Education in February. This will be a hybrid event.
    - PCOH will share this event with OHPAG members and in their newsletter.
    - There is another event being sponsored by FDI that Dean Wolff will share with OHPAG members.
- Jess Rhodes
  - Jess recently met with the [Remote Area Medical \(RAM\)](#) clinics in the Pittsburgh areas. If anyone is interested in volunteering in these events, please consider doing this. There are RAM events scheduled across Pennsylvania in 2024.
- Helen Hawkey
  - Helen was on another call this morning where interpretive services came up as a major issue. It was suggested that there should be a resource page for interpretive and translation services. This is a question included on the licensure survey. Only 20% of dental providers in PA are offering these services. Having a resource list for dental offices would be a great idea.
    - Jan shared a list of languages that DOH has identified for translation services. This list does not include Russian which should probably be included.
- Meeting Summary and Next Steps
  - Dr. McDaniel thanked everyone for attending the meeting and gave a summary overview of the meeting.
  - **The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am-12pm via Zoom.**
  - **The next in-person meeting will be Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am-3pm in Harrisburg.**