

2023 Pennsylvania Oral Health Summit:

Paving the Road to Equity

November 15-17, 2023

Harrisburg, PA

The 2023 Pennsylvania Oral Health Summit, hosted by the Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH), convened to gather oral health stakeholders from across Pennsylvania (PA) in-person for education, discussion, and networking. PCOH created an open space for open discussion and idea-sharing. The three-day event consisted of a poverty simulation, greetings from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, a keynote address, three panels, 15 roundtable presentations, and seven short presentations from PA stakeholders. Each presentation was followed by small group discussion guided by prompted questions. Takeaways were noted by written notes collected from tables, large group reflection, and formal evaluation after the event. The event was maxed out with nearly 140 attendees, staff, and presenters. Attendees hailed from seven different states and 31 out of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. In attendance, there were 77 first-time attendees. PCOH is grateful to all involved for making this event a success!

DAY 1 PROGRAM: POVERTY SIMULATION

The Eastcentral PA Area Health Education Center (AHEC) facilitated a poverty simulation experience for attendees on November 15th. The immersive experience was designed to help attendees begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive month to month. Volunteers filled roles such as a police officer, utility collector, pawnbroker, grocer, mortgage/rent collector, Quik Cash manager, social service worker, employer, child care worker, teacher, bank/loan collector, and more. Jenny Englerth, CEO of Family First Health, facilitated a discussion after the program where participants shared new insight and related their experiences back to the theme of the conference.



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Deputy Secretary Cindy Findley kicked off the main conference by offering greetings from the Pennsylvania Department of Health Office of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Secretary Findley thanked participants for attending the event and for prioritizing oral health in Pennsylvania and shared how oral health is often forgotten when talking about overall health. Oral health can be linked to other conditions and overall health and prevention is key to good oral health, especially for children.

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY

Ms. Tensae Getz from the Pennsylvania Department of Health Office of Health Equity offered greetings from her colleagues. Ms. Getz focused on tackling health disparities across the commonwealth and introduced the overall mission of the Office of Health Equity and their various task forces. She shared several tools created by the Office of Health Equity including the Culturally Linguistic Appropriate Standards Toolkit and the Implicit and Explicit Bias statewide training for healthcare professionals.

GREETINGS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Secretary Valerie Arkoosh offered greetings from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. She emphasized the importance of oral health to overall health, mental health, and general well-being and thanked participants for ensuring Pennsylvanians receive the oral health care they need to thrive. Secretary Arkoosh also touched on the impact that poor oral health can have in seeking employment. She shared more about her background as a physician and the experiences that have guided her work.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: REFLECTIONS IN EQUITY

Dr. Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew, the SVP/Chief Clinical Equity & Diversity Offer for Allegheny Health Network/Highmark and the Academic Chair of Obstetrics/Gynecology at Drexel University, delivered a keynote address focused on health equity. The keynote address covered why health equity was being discussed, policies and practices that reflect diversity, equity, and inclusion, defining diversity, equity, and inclusion, an introduction to the new inclusion quotient, inclusive habits and behaviors, and a group engagement activity featuring a word cloud. Dr. Larkins-Pettigrew was able to answer questions from participants following her address.



DENTAL PAIN IN THE ER - THE UNAVOIDABLE AVOIDABLE

Mr. Micah Gursky from St. Luke's University Health Network presented on the health network's experiences with dental pain in the emergency department (ED). He helped participants quantify avoidable ED dental pain visits, created a case for interventions and policies, and shared best practices to address systemic oral health inequities that result in avoidable ED dental pain visits. Mr. Gursky shared data from the St. Luke's University Health Network ED broken down by primary diagnosis. Included in the best practices, Mr. Gursky shared the St. Luke's University Health Network's referral workflow.

ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Ms. Vanessa Rastovic from Achieva, the ARC of Greater Pittsburgh, was featured in a pre-recorded presentation on dental access to care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ms. Rastovic shared how dental offices can accommodate patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as the legal guidelines set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

INSIGHTS FROM THE BASIC SCREENING SURVEY

Ms. Kelly Braun from the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health shared insights from the first-ever dental Basic Screening Survey (BSS) conducted in Pennsylvania in 2021-2022, a clinical survey of the dental disease status of third-graders. Ms. Braun shared background, methods and procedures, and data/findings from the BSS as well as her personal experiences as a screener for the program.

TRAUMA, WHAT IT IS, HOW TO RECOGNIZE IT, HOW TO PRACTICE TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Dr. Olivia Sheridan from the University of Pennsylvania identified trauma-informed care as well as provided guidance on how to recognize and practice it in dental settings. She covered the different types of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), as well as common physical and behavioral responses to trauma.

SUCCESSSES, CHALLENGES, AND IMPACT: THE PENNSYLVANIA SAFETY NET

Ms. Kristen Rapp from the Free Clinic Association of Pennsylvania facilitated a panel focused on the Pennsylvania safety net system. Panelists included Calvin Hoops from Esperanza Health, Dr. Janine Burkhardt from Project HOME, Jessica Brennan from St. Luke's University Health Network, and Darcie Schaffer from Volunteers in Medicine in Wilkes-Barre. The panelists defined the Pennsylvania safety net and introduced their individual clinics/health centers. They focused on the differences between the types of facilities as well as the partnerships within the communities served. Panelists shared ways that private providers and companies can learn from the safety net clinics to improve access to care.



DAY 1 REFLECTIONS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

The day began with opening remarks from PCOH Board Chair, Jessica Rhodes, and PCOH Executive Director, Helen Hawkey. The day featured greetings from state agencies, an engaging keynote address, several short presentations, and a panel. Following final discussion, attendees enjoyed beverages and appetizers with sponsors and colleagues in the exhibit/lunchroom.

GREETINGS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Dr. Jonise McDaniel, Public Health Dental Director, offered greetings from the Pennsylvania Department of Health Oral Health Program. Dr. McDaniel gave an overview of the Oral Health Program, emphasized the significance of oral health, provided an overview of the oral health landscape in Pennsylvania, gave a quick synopsis of the Pennsylvania Oral Health Plan 2020-2030, and shared about upcoming projects and grants within the program.



GREETINGS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Dr. Shahram (Sean) Shamloo introduced himself as the new Chief Dental Officer of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Dr. Shamloo then introduced Dr. David Kelley, Chief Medical Officer of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Drs. Kelley and Shamloo both expressed the Department's sincere commitment to improving oral health for the nearly 3 million Pennsylvanians enrolled in the medical assistance program.

MAKING THE INVISIBLE, VISIBLE IN ORAL HEALTH

Ms. Amanda Taylor-Gehman from the Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center (AHEC) presented on the role of social determinants of health in access to care. Ms. Taylor-Gehman helped participants recognize the key principles of health equity in decision making and examine how data can help make health disparities visible in Pennsylvania.

SHARED SOLUTIONS: BREAKING DOWN THE RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE IN ACCESSING ORAL HEALTH CARE

Dr. Sean Boynes from the Harmony Health Foundation facilitated a panel focused on rural and urban access to oral health care issues and shared solutions in pushing past them to care for patients and improve oral health outcomes. Panelists included Dr. Kari Hexem from Philadelphia FIGHT and Dr. Laura Dimino from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. Dr. Hexem shared her experiences from working at a clinic in urban Philadelphia while Dr. Dimino focused on rural counties in the commonwealth.



STANDING IN THE GAP: COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Ms. Jamie Santana led a lively presentation on the role of community health workers (CHWs) in Pennsylvania, opportunities that exist for CHWs to serve in the oral health sphere, and the ways that CHWs can advance oral health equity. Ms. Santana also shared best practices from other states that could be implemented in Pennsylvania as well as how dental providers and other participants can get involved in the Pennsylvania Community Health Worker Collaborative.

AN ASSESSMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL-BASED ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Ms. Jacqueline Pugliese shared insights from her research on school-based oral health programs in Pennsylvania. The presentation featured an overview of school-based and school-linked programs and the state and federal objectives from the Pennsylvania Oral Health Plan 2020-2030 and Healthy People 2030.

ADDRESSING WORKFORCE CHALLENGES THROUGH DENTAL EDUCATION: FROM PIPELINE TO PRACTICE

Dr. Joseph Greenberg facilitated an in-depth panel focused on workforce challenges in Pennsylvania and how different organizations and institutions are addressing these challenges. Panelists included Dr. Amid Ismail from the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry, Dr. Michael Verber from The Verber Dental Group, Dr. Joan Gluch from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, Ms. Kelly Wagner from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, and Ms. Ashleigh Osborne from the Venango Technology Center. Dr. Ismail



presented on the distribution of dentists in Pennsylvania, the dental school admission process, and the possible creation of a rural dental track at Temple University. Ms. Osborne focused on the opportunities available for high school students interested in dental careers at vocational schools. Ms. Wagner addressed how the University of Pittsburgh can enlighten dental hygiene students on the opportunities available in public health careers. Dr. Gluch discussed how dental schools can address barriers to the application process for Pennsylvania and rural students. Dr. Verber addressed the shrinking dental workforce and how his central Pennsylvania practice is tackling the issue.

ORAL HEALTH CHAMPION AWARDS

For the second time, PCOH presented awards to honor organizations and individuals who served as oral health champions in PA. The 2023 Innovative Oral Health Champion Individual Award was presented to Ms. Kelly Braun from Centre County. The 2023 Innovative Oral Health Champion Organization Award was presented to Micah Gursky and Jessica Brennan, representing St. Luke's Miners Campus & Hometown Health Center Team, a rural health clinic in Schuylkill County.



ROUNDTABLES

For the first time, PCOH offered roundtable sessions at the summit. Participants were able to choose three sessions to attend. Topics included addressing workforce challenges in dental shortage areas, a visual oral health screening system, community dental health coordinator national updates, dental office simulations, developing a dental-medical integration program, exploring oral health disparities in the LGBTQ community, a data system for tracking oral health in Pennsylvania, oral care for residents in long-term care facilities, an oral health advocacy update, Pennsylvania school sealant programs, recognizing and remediating risk in healthcare, strategies to promote oral health in the pediatric medical office, the SUN Smiles Program, tobacco/nicotine connective services and billing, and dental provider days.



DAY 2 REFLECTIONS

The day began with opening remarks from the incoming PCOH Board Chair, Dr. Joan Gluch. Following presentations and two captivating panels, attendees had the opportunity to participate in three roundtable sessions of their choosing. Following the roundtable sessions, participants engaged in a final reflection time where they discussed possible solutions as well as next steps for Pennsylvania oral health following the event.

NEXT STEPS

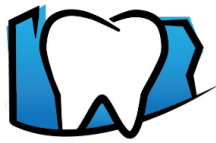
The Summit brought oral health stakeholders together to share ideas in an inclusive environment. PCOH is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this work, and attendees left the summit knowing their passions and interests will be the top priorities of the coalition moving into 2024 and beyond. The structure of the summit and its networking opportunities created space for new relationships and connections to develop, as well as prior ones to get reacquainted and strengthened. The connections that were created and strengthened pave the way for PA oral health stakeholders to work together to improve oral health for all Pennsylvanians.

PCOH sent an evaluation to all registrants, sponsors, and anyone else in attendance at the event. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and attendees were satisfied with the event. Participants chose health equity, addressing workforce challenges, Pennsylvania safety net clinics, and community health workers as their favorites topics and presentations. Moving forward, participants would like to see more focus on specific population groups such as older adults, veterans, and the LGBTQIA population, as well as more attention to teledentistry and workforce as a whole.



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

A special thank you to the 2023 PA Oral Health Summit Sponsors! This event would not have been successful without your support.



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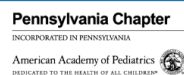
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