

# Oral Health Plan Advisory Group Meeting

Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Oral Health Program

April 2, 2024  
10am-12pm

# Welcome and Logistics

- Welcome
- Oral Health Program Staff Introductions
- Agenda Review
  - Meeting Purpose
  - Desired Meeting Outcomes



## 01.

### Quick Polls

- 1) How familiar are you with the available Oral Health Plan outcome tracking data?
- 2) Rate how confident you feel in understanding and communicating about the purpose of the OHPAG.

## 02.

### Identified Priority Action Steps

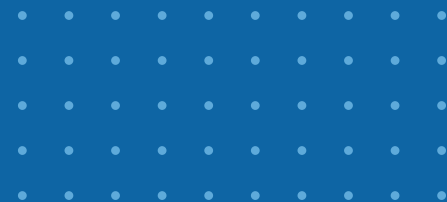
## 03.

### Update on Progress

## 04.

### Quick Polls

- 1) Rate how confident you feel in understanding and communicating about the Oral Health Plan (2020-2030).
- 2) Rate how confident you feel in understanding and communicating about your role in the OHPAG.
- 3) Do you feel your work/advocacy has contributed to the success of Oral Health Plan outcomes?





# IDENTIFIED PRIORITY ACTION STEPS

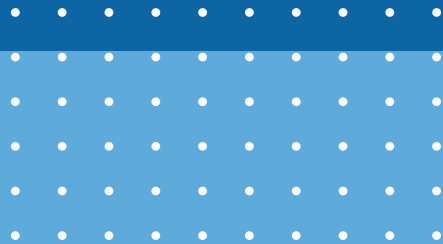
## 2023-2024

- Reduce total health care costs through policies and advocacy that enhance access to oral disease prevention and treatment services
- 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
- Reduce oral health disparities according to race, income, ethnicity age, geographic residence, disability status and education levels
  - Initiate a policy on Medicaid reimbursement for community health workers (and similar groups) for home visiting, education services, and appropriate referral to dental homes
- Advocate for mandated and increased level funding for the Medicaid fee schedule
- Identify and support pipeline program development to ensure a competent and diverse future oral health workforce
- Secure state and federal funding to implement, administer, and operate statewide dental health programs designed to enhance oral health equity.

02.

# UPDATE ON PROGRESS

2020-2030 State Oral Health  
Plan



Progress: Reduce total health care costs through policies and advocacy that enhance access to oral disease prevention and treatment services

- HB 1417 (Restoring adult benefits in Medicaid) is still sitting in the Senate; meeting with Senate committee members.
- PA Department of Human Services has submitted an application for funding to support schools billing for Medicaid services.



More Info:  
[www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag](http://www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag)



Progress: 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

- Teledentistry bill still remains in the Senate (no movement yet).
- Dental license portability webinar held to increase support of dental licensure compact legislation sitting in both chambers of the legislature.
- Act 55 has gone into effect as of February 14, 2024 - public health dental hygiene practitioners can now complete mandated school screenings and sign the forms.



More Info:  
[www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag](http://www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag)



Progress: Reduce oral health disparities according to race, income, ethnicity age, geographic residence, disability status and education levels

- Sending information to 52 Area Agencies on Aging in May on oral health resources.
- Partners are working with the Governor's office to officially recognize those with disabilities as a medically underserved population (MUP).
- Continue to promote fluoridation as a population health measure that benefits all in a community



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Progress: Initiate a policy on Medicaid reimbursement for community health workers (and similar groups) for home visiting, education services, and appropriate referral to dental homes

- Doulas are now recognized by Medicaid and CHWs will be recognized starting in January of 2025.
- PCOH submitted 4 more of our continuing education courses for credit for CHWs through the PA Certification Board.



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**Progress:** Advocate for mandated and increased level funding for the Medicaid fee schedule

- Pennsylvania is one of six states starting in an American Dental Association's project to increase Medicaid provider participation (established a goal of a 3-6% increase in providers by December 2025)
- HB 1300 - \$24 million in additional state funds will increase the dental fee schedule for 31 codes and send one-time payments to dental providers who already participate.
- DHS is considering adding payments for public health hygienist screenings to the fee schedule.



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**Progress:** Identify and support pipeline program development to ensure a competent and diverse future oral health workforce

- New EFDA program approved by the State Board of Dentistry (Central Penn College)
- Ongoing: Maintain HRSA Community of Practice group that lists this as a focus area
- Ongoing: Work with state and regional Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) to support 2 high school programs for career development
- Attended PA School Counselors Association meeting to share career information
- Need to focus on vocational/technical programs (currently at 22 in the state)



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**Progress:** Secure state and federal funding to implement, administer, and operate statewide dental public health programs designed to enhance oral health equity.

- DOH and PCOH attended and presented at the CDC grantee closeout meeting in March.
- DOH Oral Health Program has funding through August 31, 2024 for CDC state oral health grant (fluoridation, surveillance, and sealant programs).
- DOH Oral Health Program has funding through August 31, 2026 for HRSA state oral health grant (workforce).
- 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 4-year grant to start in July focused on medical/dental integration.



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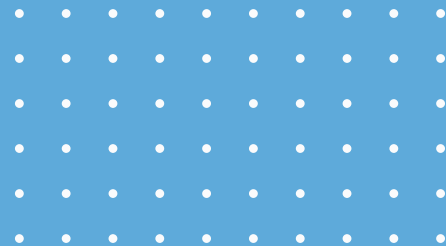


# OHPAG Member Sharing

- Stories from your agencies and organizations related to the 2023 – 2024 Action Steps

# Breakout Discussions

- 1) Do we have a gap in knowledge of the outcome tracking and oral health plan data? How could we make sure more people know?
- 2) What types of resources would be useful to utilize Oral Health Plan outcome tracking data in your work/advocacy? (Infographics, data dashboard, one-pagers, spreadsheets)



# Member Discussion

- Discussion



# Meeting Summary/Next Steps

- Summary
- Next Steps
  - ▾ Review notes
  - ▾ Visit [paoralhealth.org/OHPAG](http://paoralhealth.org/OHPAG) to review materials
  - ▾ Ongoing: Submit success stories
  - ▾ Send comments/additional materials to [info@paoralhealth.org](mailto:info@paoralhealth.org)