



1 Meeting Logistics

Item	Oral Health Plan Advisory Group Meeting
Date	Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Time	10:00 p.m.to 12:00 p.m. ET
Location	Online via Zoom: Online via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6862025443
Purpose/Focus	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).
Notetaker	Amy Tice, PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH)

Desired Meeting Outcomes

By the end of the meeting, attendees will have:

- an increased knowledge of the current population-based 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.

2 Agenda

ID	Description	Owner	Time
1	Welcome and Logistics	Oral Health Program, Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH): Dr. Jonise McDaniel, Public Health Dental Director, and Jan Miller, Oral Health Program Administrator	10:00 - 10:10
2	OHPAG Member Sharing		10:10-10:35
3	Current Priorities and Progress Update Member Polls	Helen Hawkey, PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH) and Dr. McDaniel (DOH)	10:35 - 10:45
4	Evaluation	BESST Learning Group	10:45-10:50
5	Breakout Rooms	All Members	10:50 - 11:15
6	Member Discussion	All Members	11:15 - 11:45
7	Meeting Summary and Closing Remarks	Dr. Jonise McDaniel, DOH	11:45 - 12:00

3 Notes

Welcome and Logistics

- Dr. McDaniel welcomed everyone to the spring Oral Health Plan Advisory Group (OHPAG)

meeting.

- Dr. McDaniel outlined the agenda and meeting objectives as well as meeting logistics.
- Dr. McDaniel reviewed updates from the Department of Health (DOH) Oral Health Program (OHP).
 - The Building State Capacity for Integration Learning Collaborative has wrapped up. This collaborative focused on integrating oral health into prenatal care and included distributing resource kits and launching a pilot program.
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant is ongoing. The team has exceeded targets for school-based sealant programs.
 - The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) workforce grant is in the final year with ongoing dental and community health worker training efforts.
 - The DOH has launched recruitment for new OHPAG members to start July 1. An information session is scheduled for May 12 at 1pm via Zoom. Applications will be due May 19th, with member notifications taking place in early June. Onboarding and orientation will take place in July and new members will attend their first meeting in Harrisburg this August.
 - Dr. McDaniel recognized the OHPAG members with terms expiring this summer. Those members are encouraged to reapply if they are interested in continuing to serve on the OHPAG.

OHPAG Member Sharing

- Dr. Moni shared her experiences from the Berks Community Health Center. She discussed initiatives including early childhood caries detection through integration between pediatrics and dental departments, periodontal disease screening for patients with diabetes, and increased walk-in appointment slots. Dr. Moni expressed gratitude for the support she received from colleagues at DOH, PCOH, and OHPAG. She emphasized the value of collaboration within the group.
- Kristie Lenze discussed her organization's progress in improving dental services access, including successful recruitment of local dental graduates and collaboration with UPMC to provide services to underserved patients.
- Kristi Matzella from Pivot Point Leadership shared with OHPAG members about her new Emerging Manager Accelerator Program, designed to provide leadership training for new and emerging managers in dental practices, particularly in nonprofit settings.
- Andrea Moore informed the group on Quality Insights' efforts to integrate oral health into dialysis centers, highlighting significant gaps in provider knowledge about dental clearance requirements for transplant patients.
 - Helen added that PCOH should consider developing or sharing a pocket guide or informational packet for dialysis providers and patients about dental clearance requirements for transplant.

Current Priorities and Progress Updates

- Helen provided updates on the selected OHPAG action steps. These are outlined in the slides and will be shared out with members. This update included progress on dental access coordination, workforce policy advocacy, curriculum integration, and water fluoridation efforts. Helen drew attention to ongoing challenges with community debates over water fluoridation.
- Helen elaborated on funding updates, noting that while federal HRSA grant coverage may end August 31st, state funding for school sealant programs remains secure with additional support from Delta Dental for a new round of the basic screening survey.

- Dr. Verber raised concerns about West Shore School District discontinuing their certified school hygienist program, which Helen acknowledged while emphasizing the importance of supporting school hygienist programs through public-private partnerships.
- OHPAG members participated in a brief survey poll. Workforce challenges were identified as the biggest issue, with policy and advocacy, and strengthening partnerships identified as areas where the most impact could be made.

Evaluation

- Dr. Hanson shared slides that will be included with the notes. He presented an evaluation of the Pennsylvania Oral Health Plan 2020-2030 (Plan). The evaluation is still in the data collection and preliminary analysis phase, with the goal of documenting progress, measuring outcomes, and providing recommendations. Dr. Hanson outlined key areas being evaluated, including the state surveillance system, diverse and sustainable coalition maintenance, cross-governmental partnerships, and essential services capacity. The evaluation aims to complete its report within the current calendar year, with a particular focus on assessing how well these systems are being implemented and maintained.
- Dr. Hanson presented findings from an assessment of DOH and PCOH, highlighting favorable results in areas like assessment and monitoring, investigation and diagnosis, and reducing barriers to care. The assessment identified gaps in policy development and ensuring a culturally competent workforce, while noting strengths in partnerships and surveillance systems. Dr. Hill confirmed these were preliminary results and invited questions or further discussion via email.

Breakout Rooms

- The group participated in breakout sessions focused on access and workforce.
 - Access Room
 - Dr. Goodman reported that the access group discussed Geisinger's mobile dental unit, which sees 28 pediatric patients daily and provides preventive services, exams, and connects patients with local dentists for treatment. The group also addressed challenges in rural dental practices, including outdated equipment like outdated x-rays and lack of teledentistry implementation.
 - Workforce Room
 - Lia reported on the workforce group's discussion about hygienist shortages, noting that while there's strong interest in entering hygiene as a career, there aren't enough training programs to meet demand, leading to salary disparities and potential workforce loss if the dental compact is adopted.

Member Discussion

- Dr. Verber highlighted the need to increase hygienists' scope of practice to retain them in the field longer. He proposed a three-tiered model for expanding hygienists' roles and discussed working with legislators on potential solutions.
- Dr. Mountain provided an update on Family First Health's programs and electronic health record changes.
- Dr. Burkhardt shared Project Home's experiences with their new patient portal and workforce challenges.
- The group discussed concerns about upcoming changes to the Medicaid renewal processes and

the potential impact on quality metrics and funding for dental programming.

- Darcie reminded the group of the upcoming Mission of Mercy (MOM-n-PA) event on May 29th-30th in Allentown.
- Helen will send the 2025 workforce report as soon as it is ready to be shared publicly.

Meeting Summary and Closing Remarks

- Nomination forms and guidelines will be sent out with the notes. OHPAG members are asked to share the registration link for the upcoming informational session with any interested colleagues.