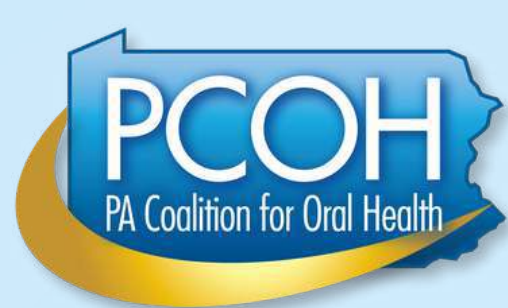




2025 IMPACT REPORT

 717.340.4004

 paoralhealth.org

 info@paoralhealth.org



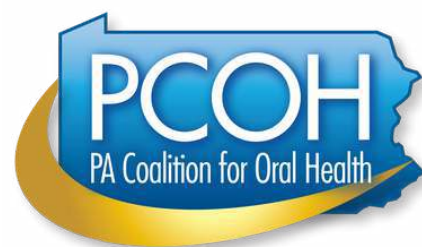
A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH) continues to be a dynamic voice in advocating and leading change in oral health in Pennsylvania. In 2025, PCOH hosted the successful summit, Transforming Systems to Strengthen Smiles, to gather oral health stakeholders from across Pennsylvania for education, discussion, and networking. The Summit provided an open space for over 130 stakeholders including legislators, policy makers, health care and oral health professionals to discuss and make recommendations on key issues. These issues included innovations in the oral health workforce, rural health, advocacy, and disability rights in providing oral health care to vulnerable and underserved populations.

Throughout 2025, PCOH continued, in collaboration with partner organizations, to lead work groups supporting family oral health, Medicaid adult dental benefits, oral health workforce, school sealant programs, and community water fluoridation. PCOH continued to emphasize key oral health prevention measures, by publishing a report with recommendations to integrate oral health in Pennsylvania schools, by developing an oral health continuing education course for school nurses, as well as continuing support for school sealant programs for 1,726 children in Pennsylvania. In addition, PCOH attended water operator association conferences, and partnered with local communities to ensure continued access to fluoridated water through advocacy meetings and media articles.

These activities demonstrate how PCOH continues to advance policy changes that strengthen oral health as the premier oral health advocacy organization in Pennsylvania. We thank the many talented staff, board members, and stakeholders who persist in advocating for optimum oral health for everyone in Pennsylvania. PCOH is a rising star among oral health nonprofit organizations, and it has been my privilege to serve as Board Chair in 2025.

Joan Gluch, PhD, RDH, PHDHP
2024-2025 Chair
PCOH Board of Directors



2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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Policy & Advocacy Coordinator

Lia BenYishay, MPH

Program & Evaluation Coordinator

Nora Lugaila

Dental Access Coordinator



ABOUT PA COALITION FOR ORAL HEALTH

Mission

To improve oral health for all Pennsylvanians by uniting stakeholders to advance advocacy, policy, education, and innovative approaches.

Vision

Essential to overall health and wellness, optimal oral health benefits all Pennsylvanians. By bringing together oral health advocates and professionals to share the best and most innovative approaches, PCOH serves as the dynamic leading voice to improve oral health across the commonwealth.

Priorities

- Advancing and advocating for oral health policy and infrastructure across all systems
- Improving oral health for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable populations
- Supporting Pennsylvania oral workforce development
- Advocating for community water fluoridation

1,171

PCOH
stakeholders

57

PA counties
with at least
one PCOH
stakeholder

\$969,225

2025
total revenue

80%

of funds were
used for direct
programming

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

Visionary Partners **\$50,000+**

CareQuest Institute for Oral Health
Delta Dental Community Care Foundation
McElhattan Foundation

Distinguished Partners **\$10,000 - \$49,999**

Highmark Foundation
Partnership for Better Health
Sun Life, DentaQuest

Leading Partners **\$5,000- \$9,999**

Aetna Better Health Kids
Avēsis
Geisinger Health Plan
Highmark Wholecare
Pediatric Dental Associates &
Children's Dental Management
Smiles 4 Keeps
United Concordia Dental
UPMC Health Plan

Connecting Partners **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Jefferson Health Plans
PA Health & Wellness
SKYGEN

Partners **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

American Fluoridation Society
Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association
Walmart Foundation

**PA Oral Health Summit support is recognized separately as event sponsorship later in the report.*

SUPPORTERS

Thank you for your support!

Your support means so much to us and we are profoundly grateful to have you by our side. Names appear as requested. Although we do our best to ensure our donor lists are error-free, we occasionally mess up. Please accept our heartfelt apology for any mistakes that might occur in our computer system. Thank you again, not only for your gift, but your understanding.

Alberta Landis
Amanda Dickson
Mrs. Amanda Kundrod
Amy Jo Pesci
Ms. Amy Requa
Anonymous (3)
BD Silverman Consulting
Benita Campbell
Bernie Logan
Brenda Bosworth
Christina Stephenson
Dana Shaffer
Darcie Schaffer
Deborah Polk, PhD
Donna Murray
Eve Kimball, MD
Dr. Fred Lally
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Joan Burke
Dr. Joan Gluch
Dr. Joseph & Mrs. Dyanne Greenberg

Dr. Julie Lentes
Julie Wiatrak
Katherine Mulligan
Kathryn Hunger-Sanders
Kristin Haegele Hill
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Morgan Plant
Nan L. Ryder
Nina Markovic
Peng Cheng
Richard L. Berkman
Sherri L. Meyers, RDH, MS, FADHA
Dr. Suzan Ly
Theodore J. Rockwell, DMD

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: IMPROVING ORAL HEALTH FOR PA'S MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Adult dental Medicaid workgroup met monthly to protect current adult dental benefits and advocate for legislation to increase coverage
- Awarded funds to three dental clinics totaling \$8,000, to support work across the state that advances the priorities of the 2020-2030 PA Oral Health Plan
- Worked with each of the state's managed care organizations to improve benefits for adult dental under Medicaid
- Collected data on the free and charitable oral health care that took place in 2024 which included care provided to nearly 12,000 individuals and services totaling \$3.9 million
- **Supported school sealant programs (SSPs) in providing 8,013 sealants to 1,726 students in 101 schools
- Provided oral health representation on many groups and committees, including the Coalition for the CommonHealth, PA Cancer Coalition/HPV Workgroup, PA Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, Thriving PA Children's Initiative, State Health Assessment, and State Health Improvement Plan
- Participated in the Arc's Disability Health Action Network and promoted improved access to dental care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Hired a part-time dental access coordinator to improve dental access for Pennsylvanians
- Presented and exhibited at the PA Rural Community and Public Health Conference
- Connected stakeholders with a student to develop materials on trauma-informed dental care for individuals that are victims of intimate partner violence (IPV)
- Awarded funding to conduct the 2026-2027 Basic Screening Survey, a caries study on third grade students in Pennsylvania
- Presented at the PA Charitable Healthcare Coalition Conference and shared educational materials with free and charitable dental clinic staff
- Presented at the Regional Rural Health Summit in Juniata
- Exhibited at the Office of Child Development and Early Learning grantees conference and distributed educational materials to more than 800 early childhood educators
- Assisted the American Dental Association in delivering toothbrush kits to PA elementary schools
- Presented educational resources at the annual PA Head Start Healthy Smiles Task Force meeting



ACCOMPLISHMENTS: ADVANCING AND ADVOCATING FOR ORAL HEALTH POLICY AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACROSS ALL SYSTEMS

- Participated in monthly conversations with leadership at the PA Department of Health and the PA Department of Human Services to improve dental care access and expand workforce
- Published a report on the possible expansion of school dental services and Medicaid billing, including working directly with school nurses
- PCOH was quoted in or contributed to 34 news articles about oral health advocacy across the commonwealth
- Monitored two bills in the House and Senate that would potentially ban water fluoridation statewide – neither bill gained traction
- House Bill 583 (restoration of adult Medicaid benefits) made considerable progress by passing through the full House of Representatives with bipartisan support, the bill went to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee but was not added to the calendar
- Presented testimony to the Senate Majority Policy Committee on rural dental workforce
- Worked with the American Dental Association (ADA) to create a blueprint to improve provider participation in Medicaid to effectively increase utilization of dental services for children and adults through a 6-state pilot program
- Celebrated the announcement that the PA Department of Human Services adopted the AAPD dental periodicity schedule
- Secured a Medicaid consultant for a policy recommendations report as part of a CareQuest Institute for Oral Health grant
- PCOH staff served as the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network State Lead
- Advocated for dentists and dental hygienists to be included in HB 157 a loan repayment bill for rural health care providers – the bill was accepted and passed out of committee
- Collected data for a school nurse pilot that includes how many student visited the school nurse's office in four different school districts
- Exhibited at the PA Nurse Family Partnership conference to share education materials
- PCOH staff spent two days in Washington, D.C. advocating for federal oral health legislation



ACCOMPLISHMENTS: SUPPORTING PA ORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Reached over 4,500 high school students in career pathway programs through presentations and events sponsored by regional Area Health Education Centers and local schools
- Completed 5 series of the Dental Assistant Radiology Training (DART) program to help dental assistants better prepare for the RHS Exam
- Exhibited and presented a poster at the Fourth Annual Community Health Worker Conference to promote oral health education and share resources
- Exhibited at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine Career Fair for a third time to educate graduating dental students on the career opportunities available in public health
- Staff and volunteers participated in several career days at high schools and community colleges across the state to educate students on dental career opportunities
- Exhibited at the Northeast Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center's Healthcare Career Exploration Event that was attended by over 450 students from Northeast PA interested in healthcare careers
- Started working to get dental occupations added to the state's "high-need occupations list" through the Department of Labor and Industry
- Worked with a dental student to update county-level dental ranking on the PCOH Workforce Dashboard
- Presented three live continuing education courses on minimally invasive dental care and public health
- Added a 3-hour continuing education course on minimally invasive dental care to our course portal
- Exhibited at the PA Association of College Admissions Counseling conference to educate counselors on dental careers
- Exhibited the annual Penn HOSA student leadership conference to talk to interested students about dental careers
- Awarded a grant from SunLife to continue promoting dental careers to high school students
- Formally launched the Dental Careers Speakers Bureau to connect PA dental providers to high school career events in their communities



Our support comes from federal and state grants, corporate sponsorships, individual and organizational donors, and private foundations. Our total revenue fluctuates each year due to special projects. As a public charity, the PA Coalition for Oral Health takes its obligation to operate in the public view and the public interest very seriously. Accordingly, we make available our federal tax return and our audited financial statements. Our IRS Form 990 may be viewed at www.paoralhealth.org and www.candid.org, and financial statements may be requested at info@paoralhealth.org.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: SUPPORTING PA ORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

- Conducted an environmental scan of dental assisting programs in PA to evaluate possible future projects
- *Continued our dental workforce pipeline program to reach high school students in underserved areas to encourage the consideration of dental careers
- *Administered a survey of certified community health workers in PA to gauge oral health information being provided and gaps in oral health education
- *Continued a "hot topic" workforce webinar series with quarterly webinars focusing on recruiting students to dental careers, recent dental career data, and methods for creating new dental career pathways.
- *Continued the third year of a four-year dental career pipeline project utilizing *Dying from Dirty Teeth* by Angie Stone to educate students on the disparaging condition of oral health care for older adults and spark interest in dental public health careers, which was completed by dental and dental hygiene students at 10 programs
- *In partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, published the "Emergency Preparedness Plan for Pennsylvania's Oral Health Workforce"
- *Aided the Pennsylvania Department of Health in creating and publishing a dental careers pipeline report and one page resource
- **Attended the Association for Dental Safety boot camp along with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to learn more about dental office infection control



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ACCOMPLISHMENTS: ADVOCATING FOR COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

- Continued Organized community water fluoridation advocacy efforts and addressed fluoridation rollbacks in 8 communities (Blairsville, Clearfield, Fleetwood, Red Lion, Selinsgrove, Somerset, Sunbury, and Tyrone)
- Continued to collaborate with state officials and public health specialists to ensure public information about fluoridated water systems is as accurate as possible
- Created and circulated a [fluoride support letter](#) with dozens of organizations signed on
- Continually updated the PCOH [fluoridation status map](#) of Pennsylvania in partnership with the Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory
- Hosted three “Let’s Talk Fluoride” conversational meetings with stakeholders to discuss current fluoride news and threats
- Led and coordinated communications for members of the statewide CWF Task Force
- Collected 12 months of fluoride data from 5 community water systems
- **Awarded a grant to Somerset Borough to update fluoridation equipment in their community water system
- **Guaranteed continued fluoridation for over 31,000 Pennsylvanians served by community water systems
- **Attended and exhibited at a statewide water conference and educated water system employees and decision-makers about community water fluoridation
- **Received updated Department of Environmental Protection data on water systems in PA, used this data to confirm fluoridation status of systems
- **Presented on the benefits and misinformation around community water fluoridation to a group of certified school nurses in Blair County
- **PCOH was featured in 14 media articles discussing fluoride
- 1,160 visits to the [fluoride resource page](#)
- 3,578 views of the [fluoridation map](#)



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OTHER SUCCESSES

- Exhibited and/or presented at 71 events, reaching over 8,000 people with oral health education
- Continued to support the PA Department of Health in facilitating the Pennsylvania Oral Health Plan 2020-2030 and the Oral Health Plan Advisory Group
- Continued support and leadership for the PA Family Oral Health Collective workgroup
- Hosted two webinar updates in June and December for stakeholders and individuals interested in learning more about PCOH
- Staff attended and presented at the National Oral Health Conference in Orlando, Florida in April
- Recorded a continuing education course for school nurses, approved for Act 48 credits
- In partnership with the PA Department of Health, launched a Sugar-Sweetened Beverage communications campaign focused on community organizations in 10 counties
- Started participation in the Building State Capacity for Integration (BSCI) Learning Collaborative in an effort on better integrate oral health care and prenatal care
- Reached out to 1,989 prenatal care providers to share oral health and pregnancy resources
- Planned and hosted the 2025 PA Oral Health Summit
- Disseminated nearly 1,400 pages of printed oral health educational materials through the Request Materials page
- Started a new three-year grant with the Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Executive Director Helen Hawkey received the M. Dean Perkins Distinguished Service Award at the National Oral Health Conference in Orlando, FL



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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GRANTS

We are excited to continue our partnership with the PA Department of Health Oral Health Program on various important projects and initiatives. The PA Department of Health Oral Health Program received funding from CDC (2024-2027) and HRSA (2022-2026) grants to support work in Pennsylvania. PCOH is a key partner in these grants and works on numerous projects as a result of this partnership.

Innovative Programs to Address Oral Health Workforce Needs Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) 2022-2026

Funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant T1246099: Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

*Accomplishments on previous pages marked with one asterisk indicate HRSA funding was used.

Promoting Strategies to Advance Oral Health in Pennsylvania Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2018-2024

Funding for this project is through the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant NU58DP007897: Promoting Strategies to Advance Oral Health in Pennsylvania and administered by PCOH.

**Accomplishments on previous pages marked with two asterisks indicate CDC funding was used.



The Pennsylvania Oral Health Plan Advisory Group held their annual in-person meeting in Harrisburg in August.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: 2025 PA ORAL HEALTH SUMMIT TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS TO STRENGTHEN SMILES



The 2025 Pennsylvania Oral Health Summit convened to gather oral health stakeholders from across Pennsylvania for education, discussion, and networking. PCOH created an open space for open discussion and idea-sharing. The theme of the two-day event was “Transforming Systems to Strengthen Smiles” and consisted of a keynote address, greetings from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, 20 individual presentations, and three Q&A sessions with presenters. Takeaways were noted by large group reflection, electronic submission, and formal evaluation after the event. The event was maxed out with nearly 140 attendees, staff, sponsors, and presenters. PCOH is grateful to all involved for making this event a success!



EVENT SPOTLIGHT: 2025 PA ORAL HEALTH SUMMIT TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS TO STRENGTHEN SMILES



**2025 PA ORAL HEALTH SUMMIT:
TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS
TO STRENGTHEN SMILES**

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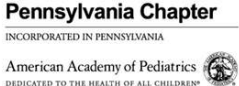




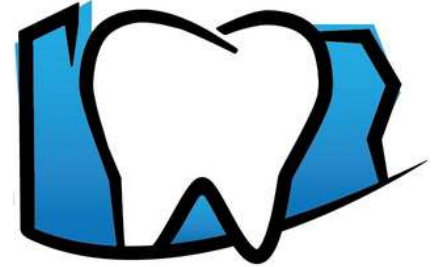








THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



As part of the PA Oral Health Summit, PCOH presented three stakeholder awards. The 2025 Oral Health Awards were presented to the following:

- Alice Valenta, Oral Health Champion (Individual)
- Kids Smiles, Inc., Oral Health Champion (Organization)
- Central Penn College Dental Programs, Oral Health Changemaker



UPCOMING PROJECTS IN 2026

- Collect data for the eighth year of our charitable work tracking for free dental services
- Continue to implement the goals and action plans of the Pennsylvania Oral Health Plan 2020-2030
- Offer dental continuing education credits in tobacco/nicotine cessation, HPV prevention, serving people with disabilities, community water fluoridation, and more
- Continue to motivate legislators to reintroduce and support legislation that would increase access to oral health care for Pennsylvanians
- Add additional school sealant programs (SSPs)
- Support the start of the 100 Million Mouths campaign in Pennsylvania and assist the champion as needed
- Maintain the percentage of Pennsylvanians who have access to optimally fluoridated drinking water by investigating new partnerships that promote drinking tap water and healthier beverage choices by all residents
- Serve as a participant in a national power building training series offered by Community Catalyst
- PCOH staff will be attending and presenting at the National Oral Health Conference in Oklahoma City
- Award additional community water fluoridation grants to water systems to initiate or update their fluoridation practices
- Aid the PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics in community dental projects in Berks County
- PCOH was asked to present and exhibit at the first ever PA Association of Community Health Centers Maternal Health Summit
- Continue to offer free resources to oral health advocates and providers on the PCOH website, "Request Materials" page
- Promote the development of dental assisting careers across the commonwealth by reviewing and revising current pathways
- Partner with water systems that fluoridate to collect data to include in the Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS)
- Host an Oral Health Advocacy Day at the Capitol in Harrisburg in March
- Commence planning for the 2027 PA Oral Health Summit scheduled for November 2027 in Harrisburg
- PCOH and the Pennsylvania Department of Health are hopeful to apply for the next round of workforce funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

