



MICHIGAN Oral Health COALITION

2006-2007 Annual Report



The Michigan Oral Health Coalition is nearing the end of its fourth successful year working to improve oral health in our state. If our previous years were marked by establishing sound infrastructure for the future, this past year has clearly been one centered on consolidation and growth. It has been a pleasure to both lead and share in this growth. The board of directors and membership have heard the call to become involved and have responded as true champions of oral health to meet the Coalition's needs and objectives.

The MOHC's present effectiveness and visibility would not be what it is today without the newly filled position of program coordinator. Kacie Wiersma keeps us organized, on top of the issues, and moving forward. Our list of accomplishments grows continually, and our workgroups remain focused on their objectives.

As the Chair's gavel once again changes hands, I gratefully acknowledge your continued support, dedication and energy. The Michigan Oral Health Coalition is entering its fifth year poised to see objectives advanced, legislators educated and programs supported to bring oral health care into mainstream awareness across the state. Let us re-double our effort in the coming year to, "Improve oral health in Michigan by focusing on prevention, health promotion, oral health data, access and the link between oral health and overall health."

Sincerely,

Robert C. Dennison, DMD
Chair



2006-2007 Summary:

Michigan Oral Health Coalition's Major Accomplishments

- Hired the first MOHC Program Coordinator
- Participated in a Bi-Partisan Education Day, allowing for contact with approximately 87 different legislators' offices
- Board Members participated in a Board retreat that provided learning opportunities for board communication and Coalition development
- Increased visibility of the Coalition by setting up vendor booths at the 2007 MDA Convention, The Head Start Association Vendor Fair, and the American College of Physicians' Associates Day
- Attended informational meetings on the ADA Proposed Community Dental Health Coordinator Project
- Sent a delegate to represent the Coalition on the Michigan Health Insurance Access Advisory Council
- Released information concerning oral health care during Halloween in the form of public service brochures and a media release
- Participated in the Coalition evaluation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Began collaboration with the State Sealant Advisory Committee to establish a school-based sealant program
- The Fluoride/Varnish Subcommittee developed a grant process to address the fluoride/varnish needs of the Head Start/ Early Head Start population
- The Michigan Geriatric Dentistry Coalition (a subcommittee of MOHC) developed a survey to identify providers of geriatric dentistry in the State
- The Data Workgroup helped in developing an initial annual licensing survey for both dentists and dental hygienists that was later adopted by members of MDA, MDHA, and MDCH
- Coalition input from Data Workgroup members will be included in the oro-facial cleft follow-up program currently being initiated by the Birth Defects program
- Coalition partners worked with agencies outside the Coalition on a Developmental Disabilities grant application aimed at improving oral health care for persons with disabilities as well as measuring the need for oral health care in this population
- Continuing to pursue 501c3 status

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The Michigan Oral Health Coalition's mission is to improve oral health in Michigan by focusing on prevention, health promotion, oral health data, access and the link between oral health and overall health.