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## Member Newsletter



## Coalition News

### MOHC Member Town Hall Meeting

#### Join Us October 9 in Lansing

According to the 2009 Member Survey, members ranked INFORMATION as being the Coalition's most important member service. You are cordially invited to attend the MOHC Member Town Hall Meeting. The meeting is scheduled Friday, Oct. 9, 2009 (9 a.m. to 12 p.m.) in Lansing. This is the perfect opportunity for you to connect with fellow oral health advocates statewide, hear the latest news impacting the profession and help guide the Coalition's future activities. There is no fee to attend. To RSVP, please email Karlene Ketola, executive director at [kketola@mohc.org](mailto:kketola@mohc.org).

### "What Oral Health Providers Need to Know"

#### Coalition Set to Release Free Booklets on Abuse and Neglect

The Michigan Oral Health Coalition with funding from a Verizon Wireless Abuse Prevention, Education and Awareness Grant is set to release its three "What Oral Health Providers Need to Know" booklets. A professional collaboration of policy specialists, social workers and hygienists created these booklets to educate oral health professionals on how to respond if they suspect abuse or neglect in a patient. To pre-order copies of the "What Oral Health Providers Need to Know" about domestic violence, elder abuse and child abuse and neglect booklets, call 517.381.8000 today.



### Farewell and Thank You!

#### Project Coordinator, Melissa Christensen

My year as project coordinator with the Michigan Oral Health Coalition has come to a close and I will be leaving MOHC on Sept. 30, 2009. I'd like to take a moment to thank the MOHC community for all of your help and support. My year at MOHC has been a great and challenging experience. Not only did I coordinate over a dozen projects out of the HRSA



September 17, 2009

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#### Upcoming Events

September 25, 2009  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
MOHC Board Meeting  
Okemos

October 2, 2009  
10 to 11 a.m.  
Osteonecrosis  
of the Jaw Webinar

October 9, 2009  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
MOHC Member  
Town Hall Meeting  
Lansing

November 6, 2009  
10 to 11 a.m.  
Diabetes and Periodontal  
Disease Webinar

November 16, 2009  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Medicaid Billing and  
CHAMPS Update Webinar

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workforce grant with the Michigan Department of Community Health, I was also the lead organizer for the annual conference. In addition, I served the Coalition as interim director during our executive director transition.

I'd like to thank the MOHC Board of Directors. I am grateful for your collective knowledge during this past year. Thank you to Jill Moore and Sheila Vandebush at MDCH for their support and respect. I am so proud of the projects the grant allowed us to produce.

Lastly, thank you to all of the Coalition partners who offered their assistance to a committee or advisory group. I couldn't have pulled off such a comprehensive body of work without you!

Respectfully Yours,  
Melissa 'Mel' Christensen

## Coalition Kicks Off 2009-10 Education Calendar **Opportunities to Learn, Network and Earn CEs**

New for 2009! The Michigan Oral Health Coalition will offer monthly opportunities for members to learn, network and earn CEs. Mark your calendar for our first course scheduled Oct. 2 from 10 to 11 a.m. via webinar. The topic is Osteonecrosis of the Jaws (ONJ) with faculty Junu Ojha, B.D.S., M.S., Assistant Professor, University of Detroit Mercy, Department of Diagnostic Sciences. Participate from the comfort of your office or gather your team in a conference room--no travel required! Each registration comes with access to the archived version of the program and the materials for six months. Registration materials are forthcoming. Member Price: \$40 per location

### **Upcoming Education Events**

Osteonecrosis of the Jaw  
October 2, 10 to 11 a.m.  
Webinar

MOHC Member Town Hall Meeting  
October 9, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Lansing

Diabetes and Periodontal Disease  
November 6, 10 to 11 a.m.  
Webinar

Medicaid Billing and CHAMPS Update  
November 16, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Webinar

### **Education Events Archive**

[Special Care Dentistry: Free Webcast](#)

[Beyond the Dental Office: Free On-line Course](#)

[Treating Pregnant Women: Free Webcast](#)

Do you have an idea for an upcoming course or an interest in teaching? Would your organization like to collaborate with MOHC, then contact Karlene Ketola, executive director at 517.381.8000.

## State News

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### Budget...No Good News for Adult Dental **Legislative Action Needed!**

Reports show that an agreement has been reached between House Speaker Andy Dillon (D-Redford Township) and Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop (R-Rochester) to avoid addressing the need for revenue and use the Senate target figure of cutting \$1.2 billion dollars from the revised executive budget. This means that the adult dental Medicaid benefit will continue to be on the chopping block.

#### **Action Needed**

Since the elimination of the adult dental Medicaid benefit took effect July 1, many Medicaid providers and thousands of Michigan residents have felt the real pain of this cut. The time is now. Make it a point to contact your local Representative, Senator and Governor Granholm and discuss the impact your clients, clinics and staff have experienced with the elimination of the adult dental benefit. Below are some additional talking points to assist you.

[Contact Governor Granholm](#)

[Contact My Senator](#)

[Contact My Representative](#)

#### **Talking Points**

1. While eliminating the Medicaid adult dental benefit will save the state \$2.9 million upfront, it will end up costing taxpayers more in the long run.
2. Restoring the Medicaid adult dental benefit makes wise use of Michigan's limited resources.
3. We should learn from the past. Elimination of the Medicaid adult dental benefit in October 2003 led to an 11% increase in Medicaid emergency room visits in the first six months following elimination, compared to the same six-month period the previous year.
4. People with untreated dental disease don't just go away-they end up in hospital emergency rooms, which cost far more than seeing a dentist. Plus, emergency rooms can't treat dental problems-all they can do is treat the person's pain and send them to a dental professional.
5. Dental disease is almost entirely preventable-it makes economic sense to provide preventive care because it's much cheaper than restorative care.

Please contact Karlene Ketola, executive director, at 517.381.8000, Ext. 218 with any questions. The Coalition will continue to keep you updated on the budget process.

### A Plea to Reinstate Medicaid Adult Dental **Adult Foster Care Provider Addresses Governor**

*The following is an excerpt from a letter we received by Shirley Waffle, an adult foster care provider, in northern Michigan. Shirley shares the impact the adult dental benefit has had on her residents.*

"Dear Governor Granholm,

I have owned and operated an Adult Foster Care (AFC) facility in Antrim County for 44 years, caring for individuals with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness who are over the age of 18. Several years ago dental service was discontinued for this population, and reinstated after a long absence. After the long absences of dental care the residents in my 12 bed facility required extensive cleanings, fillings and extractions. Has this population been forgotten? Many of the individuals in this population cannot brush their teeth adequately, and need regular dental cleanings to maintain disease control and prevention. Do not cast these individuals aside while trying to balance the state's budget when there are many other ways to cut costs..."

To view this letter in its entirety, go to [www.mohc.org/files/Foster\\_Care\\_Letter.pdf](http://www.mohc.org/files/Foster_Care_Letter.pdf)

## Are Providers and MDCH Ready for CHAMPS? Official Go-Live Date is September 18

Tomorrow, Medicaid will make its official switch to the Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System or "CHAMPS." This October, Medicaid Provider Outreach will begin a series of CHAMPS "Go-Live" sessions. The CHAMPS sessions will cover topics such as: domain issues, managing your Provider Enrollment applications, instructions on how to use the Eligibility, Prior Authorization, and Claims subsystems. Billing information will NOT be available. Dental Provider Sessions will be held in the Lansing area on Oct. 7 and 14. To register click [here](#). On Nov. 16, the Michigan Oral Health Coalition will be hosting a webinar on Medicaid Billing and a CHAMPS Update.

### Do You Have Questions?

1. Providers may access CHAMPS reference materials and implementation updates that are posted on the MDCH website at the following address: [www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch) then click on the CHAMPS logo, which will take you directly to the CHAMPS web page.
2. Providers may submit questions or concerns via e-mail to [CHAMPS@michigan.gov](mailto:CHAMPS@michigan.gov).
3. Providers may call the CHAMPS Help Line at 1-888-643-2408 to speak to a CHAMPS representative.

## MDCH Water Fluoridation Request for Proposal Attention City, Township and Village Officials and Local Health Departments

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Oral Health program is looking to promote community water fluoridation by offering to reimburse Michigan communities currently not fluoridating for fluoridation equipment purchases for the sole purpose to initiate community water fluoridation in their community. Approximately \$60,000 is available from a generous gift from Delta Dental of Michigan. For more information or to receive the RFP, contact [Susan Deming](#) with MDCH.

## 2009 Community Mini-Grant Program Delta Dental "Call for Applications"

The Delta Dental Foundation is pleased to announce a "Call for Applications" for its 2009 Community Mini-Grant Program. A total of

\$70,000 will be awarded to assist in addressing the oral health needs of children in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. Community-based oral health programs in the tri-state area are encouraged to apply for grants up to \$5,000 for programs designed to improve oral health. Special consideration will be given to those applicants whose programs focus on improving the oral health of low-income children, however, all grant submissions will be considered. For further information, please refer to the [Community Mini-Grant Program Contribution Request](#) information sheet.

To be considered for the 2009 program, the Delta Dental Foundation must receive completed contribution request applications no later than October 16, 2009. Grant recipients will be notified by the end of the year.

## Blue Care Network Buys PHP of Mid-Michigan **Deal Expected to Close by End of Year**

Blue Care Network has announced the acquisition of the membership of Physicians Health Plan of Mid-Michigan from Lansing-based Sparrow Health System for an undisclosed amount. Pending approval from the Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation and state Department of Community Health, Blue Care expects the deal to close by the end of the year. Southfield-based Blue Care is the managed care part of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. **Source:** Jay Greene, Crain's Detroit Business, September 15, 2009

### **National News**

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## Engaging Medical Providers in Oral Health **Webcast on Primary Care and Children's Oral Health**

The Pew Center on the States and the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) invites you to attend the Sept. 24 (2 to 3:30 p.m. EDT) webcast entitled "Keeping Kids Healthy-Engaging Medical Providers in Children's Dental Health" which will highlight two state approaches to engaging primary care medical providers in children's dental health. The findings of a new NASHP publication titled, Engaging Primary Care Medical Providers in Children's Oral Health, will be presented on the webcast. To register, visit <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/865006914>

## October is National Dental Hygiene Month **A Healthy Smile Lasts a Lifetime**

The American Dental Hygienists' Association encourages dental hygienists, other dental professionals and supporters across the country to get involved with "National Dental Hygiene Month" this October. The month is designed to increase public awareness of the oral health-total health connection and the importance of educating the entire family on situations which impact their oral health. It is imperative to start early with a daily oral care routine to help prevent cavities and periodontal disease. NDHM is the perfect time to spread that message even more-while celebrating the profession of dental hygiene! [ADHA Online](#)

## CDC Names New Oral Health Director **Dr. William G. Kohn Appointed**

Dr. William G. Kohn, who has served "with distinction"



in military and Public Health Service dental leadership, was named director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) division of oral health effective Sept. 8. Dr. Kohn has played a lead role in the development of CDC recommendation documents on fluoride use, dental office infection control and dental sealants.

## HHS Announces \$33 Million in ARRA Funds **Six Programs to Address Workforce Shortages**

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has announced awards totaling \$33 million to expand the training of health care professionals. The funds are part of the \$500 million allotted to HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to address workforce shortages under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The six programs are as follows:

1. Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students
2. Centers of Excellence
3. Public Health Traineeships
4. Health Careers Opportunities
5. Nursing Workforce Diversity
6. Dental Public Health Residency Training

To view the programs listed by State visit: [Online](#)

## Videos and Health Reform **Six Programs to Address Workforce Shortages**

The Kaiser Family Foundation has issued three new reports and a video that collectively examine the range of health care needs and costs that people face today against the backdrop of the scope of health coverage that may be available to them under health reform.

- [Children and Health Care Reform: Assuring Coverage Meets Their Health Care Needs](#)
- [Individuals With Special Needs and Health Reform: Adequacy of Health Insurance Coverage](#)
- [Oral Histories: Report from a Dental Fair for Uninsured Adults](#)

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.

### ***Michigan Oral Health Coalition***

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