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Member Newsletter



Coalition News

Coalition Needs Your Time and Talents

[A Letter from the Executive Director](#)

Have you ever heard the quote... "A business has to be involving, it has to be fun, and it has to exercise your creative instincts?" Well, the same is true for your Coalition. Thank you to all who participated in last Friday's Member Town Hall Meeting. From the evaluations, members agreed it was a great opportunity to network and discuss the Coalition's future activities. At the event, members were introduced to past board chairs, current board members and new board member Jackie Balcom, RDH, MEd from Muskegon County Health Department. A hearty thank you to member Cheryl Gildner, Ingham County Health Department for hosting the event.

Members received a "Four-Month Checkup," which provided an opportunity to learn more about me and my goals for the Coalition. I also shared four immediate issues of concern: 1) meeting the expectations of the CDC Grant which provides half of our operating budget; 2) identifying what makes the Coalition different (in programs and services) from the MDA, MDHA, MDAA or even the Department of Community Health; 3) discussing the need for focus as it relates to which groups we collaborate with and lastly, 4) growing a diverse membership.

Next, members Bonnie Nothoff, Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association and Caroline Ruddell, Michigan Dental Association updated members on the current state budget, predictions for the 2010 elections and advocacy tips. Consultant Gary M. Woodbury wrapped up the meeting with "Understanding MOHC," which focused on our governance and structure. Gary also facilitated small group discussions related to advocacy, relationships with other coalitions and associations; focus and priorities.

Thank you again for participating! It is a privilege to serve as your executive director and I look forward to an exciting year. Stay tuned for future volunteer opportunities as we need all members' time and talent. If you have a question or comment, please contact me at 517.381.8000, Ext. 218.

Sincerely,
Karlene Ketola, Executive Director

October 15, 2009

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Upcoming Events

November 6, 2009
10 to 11 a.m.
Diabetes: Oral Care What's In There? Webinar

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

December 4, 2009
10 to 11 a.m.
Oral Care and the Patient with Autism Webinar

January 15, 2009
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Time for an Infection Control Check-Up? Webinar

Staff

Karlene Ketola
Executive Director
517.381.8000
Ext. 218

Michigan Grant to Support Workforce Activities

FY 2008-09 Project in Review

Last fall, the Michigan Department of Community Health in collaboration with the Michigan Oral Health Coalition received a Health Resources and Service Administration Grant to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities (T12HP10742). The grant concluded in August 2009 and resulted in the following research and outreach activities. Click on the below links to learn more about the Department and Coalition's efforts in access to care and workforce development.

[Meeting the Oral Health Care Needs of the Underserved](#)
[Oral Health Needs Survey Report 2009](#)
[Addressing Dental Workforce in the State of Michigan](#)
[Access Programs in Oral Health Research Report](#)
[Incentive Programs in Oral Health Research Report](#)
[Dental Education Curriculums for Treating Persons with Special Needs](#)
[Mentorship Program Report](#)
[An Introduction to NYS OMRDD Training Modules](#)

Diabetes: Oral Care What's in There? Webinar

November is Diabetes Awareness Month

Periodontal (gum) disease has been called the sixth complication of diabetes (in addition to eye, kidney, nerve, foot, and cardiovascular complications) because so many people with diabetes have it. Having high blood glucose raises the risk of developing periodontal disease, and periodontal disease tends to raise blood glucose levels. So clearly, making an effort to brush, floss, and have regular dental checkups is important when you have diabetes. Join us Nov. 6 (from 10 to 11 a.m.) to familiarize yourself with the techniques to treat a patient with diabetes. Although brushing and flossing are important, there are other ways to achieve oral cleanliness using insightful advances in dental materials.

November is American Diabetes Month. With nearly 24 million Americans living with diabetes; and an additional 57 million Americans at risk-- providers must familiarize themselves with the systemic and oral aspects of the disease. Diabetes is not merely a condition- it's an epidemic disease. [Register now.](#)

"OBGYN 101 for Dental Professionals" Webcast

Join Us November 19 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Michigan Oral Health Coalition, in collaboration with the New York State Task Force on Special Needs Dentistry and the Michigan Department of Community Health, will present "OBGYN 101 for Dental Professionals: Management of Pregnant Women." This FREE webcast is scheduled Nov. 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. and offers two CE credits. For more information, please contact Jill Moore at 517.373.4943.

**Funding for the Michigan/New York Special Needs Conference speakers was partially provided by the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Service Administration Grants to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities (T12HP10742). The Contents of this conference are solely the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official view of HRSA.*

"What Oral Health Providers Need to Know"

Coalition Releases Free Booklets on Abuse and Neglect

The Michigan Oral Health Coalition with funding from Verizon Wireless has released its three "What Oral Health Providers Need to Know" booklets. A professional collaboration of member policy specialists, social workers and hygienists created the booklets to educate oral health professionals on how to respond if they suspect abuse or neglect in a patient. To 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.



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. Participate from the comfort of your office or gather your team in a conference room--no travel required!

Upcoming Education Events

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Webinar

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Webinar

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

Michigan Dentist Appointed ADA President-Elect

American Dental Association News

Raymond F. Gist, D.D.S., who practices general dentistry in Flint, was recently appointed as president-elect of the American Dental Association (ADA). Gist will assume the ADA presidency in October 2010 and will be the ADA's first African-American president. Gist has also served as past president of the Michigan Dental Association, the Genesee District Dental Society and the Mid-State Dental Study Group. His numerous awards and honors include a State of Michigan Legislative Tribute, the Michigan Dental Association Public Relations Award and a United Negro College Fund Outstanding Participation Award. Dr. Gist earned his dental degree from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force before entering private dental practice.

A Tragic Event; Adult Dental Medicaid Cut

Health Department of Northwest Michigan Press Release

A woman with severe mental impairment died in northern Michigan this week from a dental infection that was left untreated because she lost virtually all oral health insurance coverage when the Adult Dental Medicaid Benefit was eliminated by Executive Order and was not restored in the new State budget. As of July 1, only emergency treatment for dental extraction is covered for people who qualify for the Adult Dental Medicaid Benefit.

The woman, who required hospitalization to remove her infected teeth due to her disabilities, was scheduled for surgery late in June, before the cuts to the Adult Dental Medicaid Benefit were to take effect on July 1, 2009. The day her surgery was scheduled, doctors recommended postponing the procedure until she recovered from a minor illness. By then, she no longer had Medicaid coverage for the surgery.

Dental Clinics North dentists planned to donate their services for surgery, but the Medicaid program determined it would not cover \$5,000 needed for hospital costs.

"We developed a very effective and efficient system of care to provide needed oral health services to vulnerable people from northern Michigan," said Gerald Chase, Health Officer for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, which organized the first Dental Clinics North locations in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. "With cuts to the adult dental benefit, that system is disappearing. I think we owe the most vulnerable members of society more."

"This woman had a chronic dental infection that ultimately killed her. If the infection had been but a dental infection, Medicaid would have paid for treatment, including hospitalization," said Thomas Veryser, Executive Director of Dental Clinics North. "We predicted cuts to the Adult Dental Medicaid Benefit would cost lives and now it has."

News from CHAMPS

Eligibility Change to Benefit Plan Data

Since the Sept. 18 implementation of CHAMPS, the eligibility scope and coverage codes have been replaced with MDCH Benefit Plans. With this new format, providers must use the Benefit Plan data indicated in the eligibility response to determine the coverage for the date of service (DOS), this includes dental coverage.

For example: Healthy Kids Dental (HK-Dental) is the only benefit plan that specifically indicates dental coverage. If the beneficiary does not have HK-Dental, but has MA (Full Fee-for-Service Medicaid), HK-EXP (Full Fee-for-Service Healthy Kids Expansion), or a TMA-PLUS (Full Fee-for-Service Transitional Medical Assistance Plus) Benefit Plan and are under the age of 21, the beneficiary will have Fee-for-Service Dental coverage.

On Nov. 16, the Michigan Oral Health Coalition will be hosting a webinar on Medicaid Billing and a CHAMPS Update. Registration materials are forthcoming.

Michigan's September Jobless Rate Increases

Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth Reports

Michigan's unemployment rate increased slightly to 15.3 percent in September, according to data released by the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth. The national unemployment rate for September was 9.8 percent. Michigan's jobless rate was 8.9 percent in September 2008.

Free Educational Coloring Books by Delta Dental **Online Resource for Providers, Teachers and Parents**

Delta Dental of Michigan has made a fun and educational coloring book available for download. Kids can color their way to oral health by following Happy Tooth's tips on taking care of teeth and practicing healthy dental habits. With tips written in English and Spanish, children can enjoy learning why every smile should be a healthy smile. To download and print the free coloring book, click [here](#).

National News

CDC Releases Guidance on Infection Control **Measures for 2009 H1N1 Influenza in Healthcare Settings, Including Protection of Healthcare Personnel**

On Oct. 14, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated interim guidance on infection control measures to prevent transmission of 2009 H1N1 influenza in healthcare facilities. The updated guidance applies uniquely to the current 2009 H1N1 pandemic and will be updated as necessary as new information becomes available.

The updated guidance expands on earlier guidance and includes: 1) criteria for identification of suspected influenza patients; 2) recommended time away from work for healthcare personnel; 3) changes to isolation precautions based on tasks and anticipated exposures; 4) expansion of information on the hierarchy of controls, and 5) changes to guidance on use of respiratory protection. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/ill-hcp.htm

Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program **Application Available for College Seniors and Recent Grads**

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation is accepting applications for the 2010 Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program. This intensive summer program provides college students with an opportunity to work on health policy issues in a congressional office and to engage in original health policy research and analysis under the guidance of Foundation research staff. College seniors and recent college graduates who have a strong interest in addressing racial and ethnic health disparities or who are themselves a member of a population that is adversely affected by racial and ethnic health disparities are eligible to apply. The application deadline is 5 p.m. ET on Friday, Dec. 4, 2009. Application materials and more information are available at <http://smtp01.kff.org/t/4152/356879/3735/0/>.

U.S. Oral Health Care Delivery System Study **HRSA Awards National Academy of Sciences Contract**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has awarded the National Academy of Sciences contracts worth \$2.4 million to conduct a wide-ranging study of oral health care in the United States and suggest ways it could be improved.

Working with the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Board on Children, Youth and Families and the Board on Health Care Services will establish two 15-member committees of experts in oral health and other health-related services to: 1) examine the oral health system of care in the U.S. as it currently exists; 2) explore its strengths, weaknesses and future challenges; 3) describe a desired vision for the oral health care system; and 4) recommend strategies to achieve that vision.

The IOM's final report will review elements of a national oral health initiative, propose ways the HHS Secretary, HRSA Administrator, and other HHS agencies can implement such an initiative, and recommend a strategy to improve the public's awareness of existing HHS oral health activities and the services available.

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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