

Member Newsletter



Coalition News

2010 Legislative Action Day

Focus on Adult Dental, Healthy Kids Dental and Prevention

On March 2, more than 30 members came to the "Capitol City" for Legislative Action Day. Featured speakers included Jean Chabut, deputy director, Michigan Department of Community Health; Peter Ruddell, partner, Wiener Associates and Jan Hudson, senior planning research associate, Michigan League for Human Services. Legislative Workgroup Chair Caroline Ruddell reviewed our legislative priorities and shared tips on how to be an effective advocate.

**Legislative Priorities**

Adult Dental Medicaid: "The Michigan Oral Health Coalition requests that Michigan's most vulnerable—persons with disabilities; the elderly; the highly impoverished; and poverty-stricken pregnant mothers—receive an annual maximum Medicaid adult dental benefit of \$600." [See Policy Statement](#)

Healthy Kids Dental: [See Issue Brief](#)

Benefits of Water Fluoridation and Sealants: [See Issue Brief](#)

The Coalition welcomed 45 legislators to its mid-day Luncheon. Senator John Gleason and Rep. Gary McDowell were each presented an Oral Health Champion award for their service. Thank you to the Legislative Workgroup, which includes Caroline Ruddell, Chair, Michigan Dental Association; Rick Lantz, Delta Dental; Carol Lutey, Mott Children's Health Center; Becky Cienki, Michigan Primary Care Association; Charlyss Brandon, Michigan Department of Community Health; Andrea Goodwin, Smiles Across Michigan and Lisa Darrow, Michigan Dental Hygienists Association for their efforts in planning the day.



Coalition Testifies on Medicaid Budget

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing Held

March 4, 2010

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Upcoming Events

March 8, 2010
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Magic of Xylitol Webinar

June 10-11, 2010
Annual Conference
Downtown Lansing

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Last Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Community Health Subcommittee held its hearing on the Medicaid budget. Medicaid Director Steve Fitton discussed Governor Granholm's [FY 2011 budget recommendations](#) as well as the consequences of cutting Medicaid while the caseload continues to increase. Member Stephen Pittel, DDS of Ingham County Health Department and Karlene Ketola, executive director testified on behalf of the Coalition. Click [here](#) to read the testimony.

The Magic of Xylitol Webinar March 8
Coalition Partners with Michigan Dental Assistants Association for Recognition Week

The Michigan Dental Assistants Association and Michigan Oral Health Coalition are proud to celebrate National Dental Assistants Recognition Week March 7-13. This week recognizes the contributions and efforts of Dental Assistants and the vital role they play. Join us March 8 (11 a.m. to 12 p.m.) for a course on Xylitol for the entire oral health care team.

Xylitol is one of the hottest dental products to come down the pike. Nearly everyone in dentistry has heard of it, but few understand the far reaching benefits of this five carbon sugar and how it can impact dental disease in the next decade. [Register Now!](#)



Delta Dental

Caroline Ruddell
Treasurer
 Michigan Dental Association

Dennis Louney
Secretary
 Delta Dental

Jackie Balcom
 Muskegon County Public Health

Rebecca Cienki
 Michigan Primary Care Association

James Hayward
 Marquette County Health Department

Janice Joseph
 Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion

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The Benefits of Fluoride
Coalition and Department Exhibit at Water Works' Expo

With toothbrushes and fluoride facts in hand, member Susan Deming, education and fluoridation coordinator with the Michigan Department of Community Health and Karlene Ketola, executive director talked with water and wastewater professionals from across the state this Feb. 2 and 3. The two-day Expo, sponsored by the MI-American Water Works Association and the Michigan Water Environment Association, gave us the opportunity to discuss the benefits of fluoride, remind participants about the Department's fluoridation equipment RFP and share the Coalition's top initiatives.

Part of our exhibit included a quiz on fluoride facts. Congratulations to Jake Spedoske with Lansing Board of Water and Light. Jake was the lucky winner of an electric toothbrush and 2010 Coalition Membership.

Test Your Fluoride Knowledge!

- 1) Community water fluoridation is considered one of the top ten public health achievements of the 20th century: True **or** False
- 2) The optimal level of fluoride for dental decay reducing benefits in Michigan is: .7 ppm 1.0 ppm .5ppm 2.0ppm
- 3) The EPA maximum contaminant level goal for fluoride in water (MCL): 2.0 ppm .4 ppm 4.0 ppm .9 ppm
- 4) Community water fluoridation reaches all ages, all economic backgrounds, all ethnic backgrounds: True **or** False

Answers: 1) True; 2) 1.0 ppm; 3) 4.0 ppm; 4) True

State News

Provider Updates from CHAMPS

Help is as Easy as 1-2-3!

On Sept. 18, 2009, Medicaid made its official switch to the Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System or "CHAMPS." The following list includes resources members may find helpful.



1. Providers may access CHAMPS reference materials and implementation updates that are posted on the [CHAMPS web page](#).
2. Providers may submit questions or concerns via e-mail to CHAMPS@michigan.gov.
3. Providers may call the CHAMPS Help Line at 1-888-643-2408 to speak to a CHAMPS representative.

Kids Count in Michigan 2009 Report

County Profiles of Child Well-Being

Childhood poverty, abuse and neglect continue to rise in Michigan but child deaths are down dramatically, the latest *Kids Count* report finds. The *Kids Count in Michigan Data Book 2009* examines county-level trends in child well-being with a focus on rural, mid-sized and urban counties. The report ranks the 83 counties on 15 measures of child well-being with No. 1 ranking being the best in the state. [Read the report](#).

National News

Virtual Dental Home

Providing Care to Underserved Communities in California

Nearly 28 percent of California's children have untreated tooth decay, according to the 2006 California Smile Survey, *Mommy It Hurts to Chew*. Families with low incomes and people with complex medical conditions face considerable barriers to obtaining dental care and have significantly worse oral health than other segments of the population.

Now low-income children and adults at several California sites will be able to receive free dental care, thanks to a new telehealth project, the "Virtual Dental Home," created by the University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, with support from the California Dental Association Foundation, California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF), the Paradise Valley Community Health Fund of The San Diego Foundation and the Verizon Foundation.

"The 'Virtual Dental Home' Project is innovative and effective and will allow many children to improve their oral health care who would otherwise go without care," said Karma Bass, President & CEO, Alliance Healthcare Foundation and member of the Paradise Valley Community Health Fund Advisory Committee. [Read More](#).

Free Health Literacy Training Available CDC Launches Resources for Public Health Professionals

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has launched an on-line health literacy [training](#) for public health professionals. Continuing education credits in multiple disciplines are available. The training was designed to complement the Health Resources and Services Administration course targeting health professionals in clinical settings with a focus on contexts for public health communication.

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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