

Member Newsletter



Coalition News

Legislative Update on MDCH Budget

**Senate Appropriation Committee Accepts Budget Proposal
House Appropriations Subcommittee Hearings Continue**

Coalition members and staff continue to advocate for the reinstatement of Medicaid adult dental. Yesterday, the full Senate Appropriations Committee accepted its Subcommittee's proposal on the Michigan Department of Community Health budget which fully reinstates adult dental. The estimated cost would be \$5.25 million General Fund, which would bring in \$14.3 million in federal match. As this is only the beginning of the budget process, the Coalition will continue its advocacy efforts.

Earlier this week, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Community Health held its first hearing on the budget. Board Chair Patti Ulrich testified on behalf of the Coalition. The Subcommittee's next public hearing is scheduled March 22 (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.) at Grace-Sinai Hospital located at 6071 W. Outer Drive in Detroit. Member Janice Harbin-Joseph, DDS of Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion and Karlene Ketola, executive director are set to testify. If you are interested in testifying or attending, please contact Karlene Ketola at 517.381.8000, Ext. 218.

Medicaid Billing and CHAMPS

Webinar Scheduled April 19

With Medicaid's switch to "CHAMPS" or the Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System, many dental providers are still experiencing issues related to claims and reporting. The Michigan Oral Health Coalition invites you and your staff to participate in a CHAMPS webinar. Join us April 19 from 12 to 1 p.m. for "Medicaid Billing and CHAMPS." The program is a great opportunity for the entire dental office staff to learn firsthand about the CHAMPS system and get answer to those nagging billing questions. Fee: \$25. To register, click [here](#).

Join Us on FaceBook

Coalition Fan List Continues to Grow

Our "fan list" continues to grow! Do you have friends, family or colleagues that would benefit from periodic news on issues impacting oral health? Visit www.facebook.com and search "Michigan Oral Health Coalition."

March 18, 2010

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Upcoming Events

April 19, 2010
12 to 1 p.m.
Medicaid Billing and
CHAMPS Webinar

May 7, 2010
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Oral Health and
the Caregiver
Webinar

June 10-11, 2010
Annual Conference
Downtown Lansing

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Marine City Resumes Fluoridation

Report from *The Voice Newspaper*

Several local dental professionals, residents and a representative from the health department showed their support for water fluoridation at the Feb. 18 Marine City Commission meeting. St. Clair County Health Department Medical Director Dr. Annette Mercatante named fluoride as "one of the most important health components in the community."

Mercatante said during her extensive research, she found "no real scientific controversy" with fluoride administered in the proper quantities. Resident Kim Turner said she was opposed to fluoridating city water, pointing out the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's warning on toothpaste to keep it out of reach of children. Turner said she has avoided fluoride and has had no problems with tooth decay.

Mayor Bob Lepley presented a list of more than 100 national and international organizations that recognize fluoride as a health benefit in preventing tooth decay. Lepley said his research led him to take a pro-fluoride position. He made a motion to take steps aimed at getting another fluoridation unit for the water plant to resume the practice of treating city water.

Commissioner Jim Turner asked that the issue be tabled until the city could get more feedback from residents, but did not receive support. The vote was 5-1 for fluoridation, with Turner the dissenting vote. Finding the money for new equipment is the next challenge before city officials. According to Tetra Tech, the city's water plant operators, the estimated cost is \$20,000. Marine City Manager John Gabor recommended the city apply for funding through a grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health.

"Replacement costs of this equipment are unfunded at this point and would require a subsidy for the general fund," stated Gabor in his report. "If successful in obtaining the grant, the equipment would have to be installed between June 1, 2010 and Sept. 30, 2010."

Source: Jeri Packer, jeri.packer@voicenews.com.

MDCH Seeks RFP Reviewers

Member Volunteers Needed for Fluoridation Grant

The Michigan Department of Community Health-Oral Health Program seeks volunteers to serve on its water fluoridation equipment competitive grant review team. Approximately \$60,000 in grants are available from a generous gift from Delta Dental of Michigan. If you are interested in serving on the review team, please contact Susan Deming at demings@michigan.gov. The review team will meet Friday, April 23 from 1 to 5 p.m. in Lansing.

"Miles for Smiles" Event Scheduled April 17

Member CACS Head Start Announces Annual Fundraiser

Member Capital Area Community Services, Inc. Head Start is hosting its 4th Annual "Miles for Smiles" event. Join them April 17 at Hawk Island Park in Lansing. The event is a 5K walk where participants raise money to

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Karlene Ketola
Executive Director
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help pay for desperately needed urgent and acute dental treatment for local Head Start parents who lack adequate insurance and financial resources. For more information, contact (517) 482-1504.

Business Leaders Issues Benchmarking Report Group Assesses Michigan's Economic Competitiveness

Business Leaders for Michigan released a comprehensive benchmarking report that assessed Michigan's economic competitiveness on more than 100 factors important to job creation. The report is based on an extensive fact-based analysis of Michigan's performance compared to peer regions using both input and output factors over a nine-year period.

The Business Leaders for Michigan report reached the following conclusions:

1. Michigan's economic performance has eroded significantly, with both GDP growth over the past 18 months and unemployment last among the 50 states.
2. The state's business costs are uncompetitive, with the cost of doing business 4% above the national average - driven by high corporate taxes and total labor costs.
3. Michigan is delivering average to above average results from innovation and entrepreneurship, but additional work is needed to become a leading state.
4. The state's quality of life has strong fundamentals, but has a very poor perception.

For more information, click [here](#).

National News

Latest Kaiser CHIP Tip

Examining Improved Children's Oral Health Benefits

A new [issue brief](#) from the Kaiser Foundation's Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (KCMU) examines a new requirement under the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) that state CHIP programs cover comprehensive dental benefits. CHIPRA also allows states with separate CHIP programs to offer a dental-only plan for children who have other health insurance but lack adequate dental benefits. Other oral health improvements in the law include education for new parents, better access to benefit and provider information and enhanced reporting on the quality of dental health services in Medicaid and CHIP. The issue brief is the sixth in a series of implementation briefs called "CHIP Tips," which examines new opportunities for covering children following the CHIP reauthorization. The series, which explores a range of topics, is jointly produced by KCMU and the Center for Children and Families at the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute.

School-linked Oral Health Services

Resources from Maternal and Child Oral Health Center

The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) is pleased to announce the availability of two new resources addressing school-based and school-linked oral health services for children and adolescents developed for health professionals, program administrators, and policymakers.

Pain and Suffering Shouldn't Be an Option: School-Based and School-Linked Oral Health Services for Children and Adolescents ([fact sheet](#)) provides information about the importance of good oral health during childhood and adolescence. Topics discussed include school readiness, disparities, oral trauma, nutrition, dental sealants, fluoride varnish, and school-based and school-linked services.

Better Care and Lower Costs

Webcast Explores the Promise of Patient Engagement

Engaging consumers more directly in their care may improve health outcomes and help control the costs of care. A webcast, co-sponsored by the Alliance for Health Reform and the AARP Public Policy Institute, focuses on the potential for changing consumer behavior to promote the use of effective interventions and discourage unnecessary care. It also addresses questions such as: How promising are consumer engagement techniques such as patient self-management, shared decision-making and value-based insurance design? What changes in the health care system are likely to empower consumers versus creating new barriers to care? To access the webcast or podcast, click [here](#).

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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