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Member Newsletter



Coalition News

2010 Oral Health Conference a Success!

Advocates Come to Lansing for Education and Networking

Thank you for attending the 2010 Conference "Roadmap to Oral Health: Access, Prevention & Workforce" held June 10-11 in downtown Lansing. We hope you found the program both educational and enjoyable. This year, the Coalition partnered with the Michigan Department of Community Health to provide informative and challenging education sessions from leading national and local experts.

2010-11 Board of Directors

Coalition leadership for the next year was elected at the annual business meeting. Join the Coalition in congratulating the 2010-2011 Board of Directors.

Chris Shea, Chair

Cherry Street Health Services

Janice Joseph, DDS, Chair Elect

Detroit Dept. of Health & Wellness

Dennis Louney, Treasurer

Delta Dental

Jackie Balcom, Secretary

Muskegon County Public Health

Patti Ulrich, Immediate Past Chair

Oral Health Consultant

Rebecca Cienki

Michigan Primary Care Association

Jill Loewen

University of Detroit Mercy

Wilhelm Piskorowski, DDS

University of Michigan

Andrea Goodwin

Smiles Across Michigan



Jackie Balcom, Patti Ulrich, Andrea Goodwin, Chris Shea and Janice Joseph

Committees and Workgroups

Whether it's helping to lay the groundwork for a change in health policy, strengthening the vibrant link between providers and consumers, or bringing the latest news to members; there is always important work underway within our Committees and Workgroups. A networking lunch was held during the conference to share what the Continuing Education

July 1, 2010



Happy 4th of July!

The Coalition office will be closed July 5th in observance of Independence Day.

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Staff

Karlene Ketola

and Legislative Workgroups and Membership and State Fluoridation Advisory Committees are working on. To learn more or volunteer, please contact the Coalition office at 517.381.8000.

Executive Director
517.381.8000
Ext. 218

Outgoing Board Chair and Members

The Coalition also recognized Patti Ulrich for her leadership as board chair this past year. Under Patti's direction, the Coalition has redefined its focus and developed numerous collaborative relationships. Members Rick Lantz, Immediate Past Chair and James Hayward, DDS were also recognized for their years of service on the board. Thank you all!

Conference Sponsors

At the Coalition, connecting members to a welcoming and dynamic community of peers is one of our core benefits. Thank you to these organizations for their generous support of the 2010 Conference.



New State Oral Health Plan for Michigan Document Released at 2010 Conference

Participants at the Coalition's annual conference were offered a first look at the new State Oral Health Plan. The revised Plan document is structured to provide the reader with the updated prevalence of oral disease in the state. It is followed by the Oral Health Plan which introduces the action steps adopted by the Michigan Department of Community Health in alliance with its various partner organizations to meet these needs. The Plan is available [on-line](#).



State News

Farrell Named Oral Health Director Congratulations from the Michigan Oral Health Coalition

Christine Farrell, RDH, MPA has been appointed the new oral health director for the Michigan Department of Community Health's Oral Health Program. Farrell officially began her duties June 1 and was recognized at the 2010 Conference. Prior to joining the Oral Health Program, Farrell served 22 years in the Medicaid policy area of the Medical Services Administration. As oral health director, Farrell will be responsible for overseeing and promoting the state of Michigan's oral health program. Her

duties include ensuring the program effectively educates the public about oral health issues as well as implementation of preventive activities. Farrell received her bachelor's degree in dental hygiene and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Michigan.

The Coalition would also like to thank Orlene Christie for serving as interim oral health director for the past five months.

Mt. Pleasant to Reduce Fluoride Levels in Water **Coalition Submits Letter to the Editor**

Last month, Mt. Pleasant city commissioners voted to reduce the amount of fluoride added to its city water. The fluoride vote came in response to a recommendation from a task force that concluded that "artificial fluoridation of the city's water system represents an unnecessary risk to at least of the subgroups within our population." The following is a letter prepared by the Coalition, which was sent to *Central Michigan Life* and *The Morning Sun*.

Dear Editor,

According to its 2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, the City of Mt. Pleasant announced, "We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets all federal and State requirements." So it was quite a surprise when on June 15, 2010, the City Commission voted four-to-two to reduce the amount of fluoride added to the city's water.

While we appreciate the Commission and Mt. Pleasant Water Department's service "to provide top quality water to every tap," we are dismayed by the Mt. Pleasant Fluoride Task Force's recommendation to reduce the amount of fluoride from the optimal 1.0 ppm to 0.4 - 0.5 ppm. Both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Environmental Protection Agency recommend 0.7 - 1.2 ppm. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment has set Michigan recommended levels at 0.9 - 1.2 ppm.

It appears the final decision of the city commissioners was largely based on the American Dental Association recommendation to not use fluoridated water when mixing infant formula. What the Task Force failed to reveal was the fact that the only potential risk is mild dental fluorosis, which is not a disease but rather affects the way the teeth look. Most cases of fluorosis result in faint white spots that are not readily apparent to the individual or the casual observer.

We encourage the City of Mt. Pleasant to research the benefits of optimal water fluoridation. Taking steps backward with public health measures will result in increased dental decay and oral health care costs for the citizens of Mt. Pleasant.

*State Fluoridation Advisory Committee
Michigan Oral Health Coalition*

Delta Dental Community Mini-Grant Program **"Call for Applications" Due July 16**

The Delta Dental Foundation is pleased to announce a ["Call for Applications"](#) for its 2010 Community Mini-Grant Program. A total of \$100,000 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. To be considered for the 2010 program, the Delta Dental Foundation must receive completed contribution request applications no later than July 16, 2010. Grant recipients will be notified later this year.

Student Leadership Award

Delta Dental Foundation Honors New Graduates

The Delta Dental Foundation recently honored five graduates from dental schools in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana with its Student Leadership Award. The students are chosen based on academic performance, leadership and enthusiasm to serve their community. The recipients from Michigan are Lindsey A. Vogl, DDS of Corunna, a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and D. Andrew DeHaan, DDS of Royal Oak, a graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. In addition, the Foundation provides eight scholarships per school to undergraduate dental students.

National News

The Importance of Tooth Decay Prevention

Journal Article Focuses on Children Under Three

This [journal article](#) focuses on the role of public health interventions and early childhood professionals in improving oral health in young children. Topics include optimal exposure to fluoride, disparities in oral health and oral health care, and tooth decay prevention. Additional topics include using xylitol as a sugar substitute every day or in baking, choosing toothpaste for children, and applying fluoride varnish and other preventive therapies. The authors also discuss the importance of educating parents and caregivers about the oral health issues facing children with special health care needs and encouraging the establishment of a dental home.

Source: Oral Health Alert, Focus on Head Start, June 2010

Oral Hygiene Practices and Service Utilization

Study Investigates Disparities Among Pregnant Women

This journal article presents findings from a study of oral hygiene practices and oral health service use during pregnancy to provide a basis for developing policies to reduce disparities in oral health among women who are racial and ethnic minorities. Participant characteristics associated with a lack of routine oral health care use during pregnancy included the following: age 36 or older, Hispanic ethnicity, annual income less than \$60,000 and infrequent flossing. **Source:** Oral Health Alert, Focus on Head Start, June 2010

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.

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