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Member Newsletter



Coalition News

New State Oral Health Plan for Michigan Plan Released to Stakeholder Groups

Released in June, Coalition members received the first look at the new State Oral Health Plan. The Plan document is structured to provide the reader with the updated prevalence of oral disease in the state followed by goals with action steps. The Coalition and Michigan Department of Community Health-Oral Health Program will continue their outreach efforts to oral health advocates and the public. The Plan is available [on-line](#).



Community Water Fluoridation Facts Did You Know?

...Grand Rapids was the first city in the nation to implement community water fluoridation. The year was 1945.

...The optimal level of fluoride to reduce dental decay is 1.0 ppm.

...Every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves \$38 in dental treatment costs.

Research shows water fluoridation reduces or eliminates disparities in preventing dental caries among different socioeconomic, racial and ethnic groups. Forsyth Township (Gwinn, Michigan) is the most recent community to review its continuation of water fluoridation. The Coalition along with its State Community Water Fluoridation Advisory Committee will continue its efforts to educate Forsyth Township council members and the public on the benefits of optimal fluoridation.

2010 Member Survey Coming Soon by Mail and Email

August 13, 2010

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Board of Directors

Chris Shea
 Chair
 Cherry Street

Coalition members will soon receive a 2010 Member Survey by mail and e-mail. Our goal is to identify which areas of information, personal and professional development, education and advocacy members are most interested in. The survey should only a few minutes to complete, but will be of great assistance to the board of directors and staff. Thank you in advance for your help. We look forward to hearing from you. For more information, contact Karlene Ketola, executive director at 517.381.8000, Ext. 218.

State News

"A United Voice for Oral Health"

New Report Offers Solutions to Dental Care Access Issues

Looking to help more Michigan residents get access to dental care, the 30-member Michigan Access to Oral Health Care Work Group issued a first-of-its-kind report outlining concrete strategies to help make sure people aren't forced to go without dental care.

"This brutal economy has heightened a long-standing problem - that when it comes to oral health care, many folks in Michigan simply can't get the care they need," said Norm Palm, DDS, MS, a Grand Rapids dentist who chaired the group, which was convened by the Michigan Dental Association. "Our aim is to offer workable solutions that reflect a broad consensus - we want change to happen." [See Report.](#)

Bernero to Face Snyder for Governor

Many New Faces in Michigan's

After last week's primary, the race for governor, along with nearly all candidates for the Michigan House, Michigan Senate, and U.S. House seats, are set for the Nov. 2 general election. The Democrat and Republican parties will hold their state conventions Aug. 28, where they will officially nominate their candidates for attorney general and secretary of state. Information on [Democrat Virg Bernero](#) and [Republican Rick Snyder's](#) positions on health care is available on their respective websites.

Sandbox Party Scheduled August 26

Event Highlights Interests of Michigan's Youngest Residents

Concerned that a key component of Michigan's economic turnaround may be lost amid election-year politics, children's advocates launched the Sandbox Party for Michigan's Youngest Learners. The Sandbox Party will hold a convention at Michigan State University's Breslin Student Events Center from 1 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 26, just days before the Michigan Republican and Democratic parties hold their conventions.

The convention is free and open to all - kids are especially encouraged to attend with their families. There will be family entertainment, exhibitors and special appearances by popular Michigan sports, music and news personalities. The gubernatorial candidates have been invited to speak and to bring their families. The Coalition will be exhibiting at the event to educate families on oral health.

Michigan Board of Dentistry Elects New Leadership

Health Services

**Janice Joseph,
DDS Chair Elect**
*Detroit Department of
Health & Wellness*

**Dennis Louney
Treasurer**
Delta Dental

**Jackie Balcom
Secretary**
*Muskegon County
Public Health*

**Patti Ulrich
Past Chair**
*MN Department
of Health*

Rebecca Cienki
*Michigan Primary
Care Association*

Jill Loewen
*University of
Detroit Mercy*

**Bill Piskorowski,
DDS**
*University of
Michigan*

Andrea Goodwin
*Smiles Across
Michigan*

Staff

**Karlene Ketola
Executive Director**
*Michigan Oral
Health Coalition*

Congratulations to Craig Spencer and JoAnne Hodder

Michigan Board of Dentistry met yesterday in downtown Lansing. Congratulations to Craig Spencer, DDS (East Lansing) and JoAnne Hodder, RDH, BS (Grand Rapids) for being elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively. The Board's next meeting is October 14 (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.) and is open to the public.

MDCH Releases Report on Uninsured in Michigan U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey

The Michigan Department of Community Health recently released the 2010 edition of "[The Uninsured in Michigan: A Profile](#)," which describes the demographic characteristics of the state's uninsured, as well as those who have employer-based, public, and individually purchased health insurance coverage in Michigan based on the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. **Source:** MPCA e-update, August 13, 2010

CHAMPS Provides Transparency and Accountability MDCH Reports New System Has Exceeded Expectations

Since going live with its major system components in September 2009, CHAMPS has exceeded expectations, handling millions of dollars a day in reimbursements for doctors, dentists, hospitals and nursing homes across the state. Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) reports the system has not missed a single payment cycle and is expected to process 56 million claims and encounters, totaling \$10 billion in payments on an annual basis for both fee-for-service and managed care recipients. [See Press Release](#).

Developmental Disabilities Council RFPs Applications Due October 4

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council is seeking RFPs for two projects: 1) A Working With Continuum of Care Bodies; and 2) Partners in Medicaid Policy. Eligible applicants include private non-profits, government agencies, and institutions of higher education that have, or can access, the skills and experience to carry out the projects. Complete applications on-line at <http://ddsuite.org/> no later than 5 p.m. on Oct. 4, 2010.

About the Projects

RFP #2011.A: Working With Continuum of Care Bodies will fund three (3) to five (5) local projects for three (3) years to support people with DD and their allies to be active in their local Continuum of Care Bodies, advocating and informing decision makers about the housing needs of people with developmental disabilities.

RFP #2011.B: Partners in Medicaid Policy will fund one state-level project to identify policy barriers to access and availability of comprehensive health care services for people with DD in Michigan; and develop and implement an advocacy plan for assuring that people with DD get the health care services they need.

National News

U.S. House Passes State Aid Bill

Michigan to Receive \$698 Million for Medicaid, Education

On Tuesday, the U.S. House of Representatives approved by a vote of 247-161 a \$26 billion state aid bill (the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act, HR 1586) that includes a 6-month, \$16 billion extension of enhanced FMAP rates. The bill also includes funding to hire or rehire teachers. Michigan will receive \$698 million (\$380 million for the Medicaid fund and \$318 million for education). President Obama signed the bill within hours of the House vote. This will relieve some of the pressure to cut the state's FY 2011 budget deficit, which currently stands at \$560 million. There is still no concurrence among the administration and legislative leaders on how much of the new money to use as it only prolongs the need to deal with the deficit. However, it may make the possibility of a budget agreement easier and earlier. **Source:** MPCA e-update, August 13, 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.

Michigan Oral Health Coalition

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