

## Member Newsletter



### Coalition News

## Reinventing Michigan! The New Mantra for Michigan

Dear Coalition Members,

Reinventing Michigan! This has been Governor Rick Snyder's mantra for Michigan since his first day on the campaign trail. However, what residents from across the state want to know is this. Will there be true bi-partisanship in Lansing? Will there be a budget in place by May 31? And of course, how does reinventing Michigan personally impact me? Last Thursday, Governor Snyder issued his FY 2012 executive budget and a 2013 projected budget that brings Michigan's budget into structural balance without any one-time funding fixes.

In his presentation, Snyder reflected how his Administration has made the difficult, but necessary decisions which will result in a shared sacrifice for a stronger Michigan. In the budget, Medicaid eligibility, provider reimbursement rates and optional services (adult dental) will be preserved. This is good news for oral health advocates, but not the time to sit idle. Governor Snyder's budget also included a number of controversial changes and cuts that will not go quickly through the Republican-controlled House and Senate.

The Governor has promised the elimination of the Michigan Business Tax, to be replaced with a flat Corporate Income Tax set at 6 percent. The Republican Senate Caucus is developing its own proposal. Snyder's budget also looks to broaden the taxpayer base by including those earning private and public pensions. In addition, the plan would eliminate the Earned Income Tax Credit; create a 1 percent health care insurance assessment on all paid medical and dental insurance claims as well as replace the current revenue sharing payments for cities, villages and townships with an incentive-based program.

Now is the time to become engaged in the budget process. With the Governor's May 31st deadline of having the 2012 budget in place, the Legislature will be working diligently in response. I encourage you to attend the Coalition's March 15 Legislative Action Day. Your legislators need to hear about the value your programs and people bring to their local communities as it relates to better health outcomes and jobs. The Coalition will continue to keep you updated as the budget debate continues. For more advocacy resources, visit the Coalition

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### Quick Links

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### Upcoming Events

March 15, 2011  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Legislative Day  
Downtown Lansing

March 18, 2011  
12 to 1 p.m.  
Xylitol and Probiotics:  
More Guilt Free  
Options to Providing  
Oral Health Webinar

April 29, 2011  
12 to 1 p.m.  
Severe Mental Illness  
and Oral  
Health Webinar

June 9-10, 2011  
Annual Conference  
Lexington Hotel  
Lansing

website.

Thank you for your continued support of the Coalition. I hope to see you in Lansing next month.

Best Regards,  
Karlene Ketola, MHSA  
Executive Director

## 2011 Check-Up on Oral Health: A County Profile Coalition Releases New Report

Oral health is essential to overall health and quality of life. Left untreated, dental diseases can result in infection and severe pain, an inability to perform daily activities, and in very rare cases, death. In 2008, more than 1,000 Michigan residents were hospitalized due to emergency conditions related to the teeth and jaw—all of these considered avoidable hospitalizations.



The "2011 Michigan Check-Up on Oral Health: A Michigan County Profile" outlines key economic and oral health indicators for each Michigan county. The [Report](#) covers the demographics of each county's population, dental providers and the dramatic need of the uninsured and Medicaid enrollees. To order a book for \$28, click [here](#).



## 2011 Legislative Action Day Mark Your Calendar for March 15

Being a good advocate starts with active participation. Join us March 15 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) in downtown Lansing for the Coalition's 2011 Legislative Action Day. Discuss the critical issues facing oral health in Michigan, and most importantly, discover how you can make a difference in Lansing. [Register now](#). For more information, contact Karlene Ketola, executive director at 517.827.0466.

## Coalition Education Calendar

### Opportunities to Learn, Network and Earn CEs

The Michigan Oral Health Coalition offers monthly opportunities for members to learn, network and earn CEs. Mark your calendar for our next course scheduled March 18 from 12 to 1 p.m. via webinar. Participate from the comfort of your office or gather your team in a conference room--no travel required!

### Upcoming Education Events

Xylitol and Probiotics: More Guilt Free Options to Providing Oral Health  
March 18, 12 to 1 p.m.  
Webinar | [Register Now](#)

Severe Mental Illness and Oral Health: Schizophrenia,  
Bipolar, Depression  
April 29, 12 to 1 p.m.  
Webinar | [Register Now](#)

### Board of Directors

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### Staff

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

Do you have an idea for an upcoming course or an interest in teaching? Would your organization like to collaborate with us, then contact Karlene Ketola, executive director at 517.827.0466.

## State News

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### MDCH Director Reviews Department's 2012 Budget House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees Meet

On Tuesday, the House and Senate Appropriation Subcommittees on Community Health met and received an overview of the Governor's MDCH budget by Director Olga Dazzo. For a copy of the presentation, click [here](#).

## National News

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### New Resource on Community Water Fluoridation Website Offers Compilation of Court Decisions and Laws

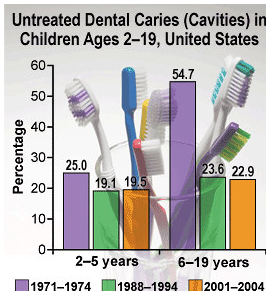
The Children's Dental Health Project (CDHP) has announced the release of the Fluoride Legislative User Information Database, the first publicly available database on the legal status of community water fluoridation in the United States. A comprehensive on-line compilation of court decisions, laws, and policies related to community water fluoridation, the database contains information from all 50 states and U.S. territories.

"FLUID is a versatile and easy-to-use tool that will allow states and municipalities to research and compare their current or proposed policies with others across the country and make informed decisions based on legal fact," stated CDHP Executive Director Catherine Dunham. "It provides policy makers with critical information they need to make thoughtful and informed decisions."

The database, which can be accessed at [www.fluidlaw.org](http://www.fluidlaw.org), was developed through a partnership between the Children's Dental Health Project and the American University Washington College of Law.

### Untreated Cavities in Children CDC Releases New Data for Children's Dental Health Month

In recognition of National Children's Dental Health Month, the Centers for Control and Prevention (CDC) is highlighting data about untreated dental caries in children ages 2-19, during three time periods: 1971-1974; 1988-1994; and 2001-2004. While percentages of untreated cavities have declined from 1971-1974 (25.0% in children ages 2-5 and 54.7% in children ages 6-19), data for the most recent time period still show high levels of untreated cavities: 19.5% in children ages 2-5 and 22.9% in children ages 6-19. [See Release](#).



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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