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## Member Newsletter



### State News

## Creating a Healthier Michigan

### Governor Highlights Oral Health in New Health Initiative

On Wednesday, Governor Rick Snyder shared his vision for improving health and wellness across the state. The Governor presented his [Special Message to the Legislature on Health and Wellness](#) during a visit to the Heart of the City Health Center in Grand Rapids. Congratulations to member Chris Shea for hosting the governor. In Governor Snyder's remarks, he highlighted the connection between good oral health and overall health, and praised several oral health initiatives sponsored by the dental profession as part of his plan to make Michigan residents healthier. Snyder also encouraged legislators to consider expansion of Healthy Kids Dental to all of Michigan's 83 counties in the Fiscal Year 2013 budget cycle.

## Healthy Kids Dental Implementation Delayed

### Revised Medicaid Bulletin Issued

According to revised Medical Services Administration [Bulletin 11-41](#), the implementation of Healthy Kids Dental in Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo and Oceana counties has been delayed. Implementation will not occur before Jan. 1, 2012. The Coalition will continue to keep members updated.

## Delta Dental of Michigan Presents Major Grant

### to Michigan Department of Community Health

Delta Dental of Michigan presented a \$250,000 grant to the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) on Sept. 2 to further advance oral health initiatives across the state. Dr. Thomas J. Fleszar, president and CEO of Delta Dental, presented this grant to MDCH officials at a special pre-game ceremony during Delta Dental's Smile Day at Comerica Park.

The grant will help fund three key components of the MDCH's oral health program, which supports the Department's mission to improve health, health care, and access to health care while lowering costs for Michigan residents.

Programs to be supported by the grant are:

1. Michigan Water Fluoridation Project, to give more Michigan communities access to fluoridated water.

September 16, 2011

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

2. Maternal Infant Health Program, to train home-visiting nurses in infant oral health and the application of fluoride varnish to children's teeth.  
 3. SEAL! Michigan, to expand this dental sealant program to more schools in the state. This program, which last year reached more than 11,000 students across the state, is currently being reviewed as a best practice by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors.

## Dental-related Death of Ohio Man

### Sparks Active Discussion

The dental-related death of a 24-year-old, unemployed Ohio man has made national headlines and prompted intense discussion on listservs and blogs. Daily Kos, one of the nation's most visited political blogs, published a post about Kyle Willis' death that inspired more than 350 comments. Willis, who had no health insurance, sought relief for a toothache and visited an emergency room, where a physician prescribed him an antibiotic and pain medication. According to a relative, Willis couldn't afford the antibiotic he was prescribed, so he relied instead on medication to ease the pain. Eventually, the infection spread to his brain and killed him.

## Garcia Named New Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Department of Community Health

The Michigan Department of Community Health has announced the appointment of Karla Garcia as Legislative Liaison for the Department effective Sept. 26. Ms. Garcia will work on behalf of the Department with members of the Michigan House of Representatives, Michigan Senate, legislative staff, and representatives in Governor Snyder's office. She replaces Tony Stamas, who left the Department to become Chief of Staff to Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville.

## Summits Planned on Governor's Health Priorities

### Michigan Call to Action on Obesity and Infant Mortality

Join health care advocates from across the state this fall to two Summits related to reducing obesity and infant mortality. Coalition members are encouraged to participate as we look to identify ways to message the relationship between optimal oral health to obesity and infant mortality.

Michigan Obesity Summit  
 September 21, 2011  
 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Lansing Center, Lansing  
[Registration Form](#)

Michigan Infant Mortality Summit  
 October 17, 2011  
 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti at Eaglecrest, Ann Arbor  
[Registration Form](#)

## Head Start Seminars Focus on Age-1 Visits

### Head Start Dental Home Initiative Series

Michigan's Head Start Dental Home Initiative is offering a series of seminars during the next few months that will help teach dentists and

**Rebecca Cienki**  
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### Staff

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

hygienists how to treat young children at age-1 dental visits as well as managing the needs of Head Start children. The seminars are being conducted by Dr. Dan Briskie, former Coalition Board Chair and a pediatric dentist from Rochester Hills. The CE courses are free, with funding by a grant from the Office of Head Start. Each course begins at 8 a.m. and runs until 12:30 p.m., with four CE credits available for course completion.

The CE courses will be held:

Friday, Oct. 14 in Gaylord (location to be announced)  
Friday, Nov. 11 in Mason County (location to be announced)  
Friday, Jan. 13 at the MDA office in Okemos  
Friday, Feb. 10 in Kalamazoo (location to be announced).

For more information, contact the office of Dr. Jehan Wakeem, project director, at 586.773.4550. **Source:** Michigan Dental Association

## Coalition News

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### Your Opinions Count!

#### Participate in the 2011 Member Survey

The new program year is off to an exciting, and challenging start as we continue to advocate for increased access to oral health care and implement the State Oral Health Plan. On behalf of the Coalition, you are invited to complete the 2011 Member Survey available at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HLY59JG>. All responses will remain confidential and be used by the Board of Directors to set goals for the next two years. Please complete the on-line survey by Sept. 30, 2011. As an added bonus, all survey participants will be entered into a \$50 gift card prize drawing.

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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