

## Member Newsletter



### Coalition News

#### Coalition Receives \$100,000 Planning Grant Chosen to Participate in Oral Health 2014 Initiative

For those of you who did not see the most recent Member Alert, Michigan Oral Health Coalition has some very exciting news. In order to support the work of MOHC and to address the lack of access to dental health services for the underserved in Michigan, the Coalition will receive \$100,000 in funding as part of DentaQuest's Oral Health 2014 Initiative. With this funding, Michigan Oral Health Coalition will join non-profit partners in 19 other states to become part of a national movement to reverse profound oral health disparities in the United States.

#### Coalition Welcomes Alexandra Yeadon New Healthcare Communications Intern from MSU

The Coalition is pleased to welcome Alexandra Yeadon as its new Healthcare Communications Intern. Alex is currently a senior at Michigan State University with a double major in Professional Writing and Spanish, and a focus on editing and publishing. With her creativity and writing experience, Alex is a great addition to the Coalition team and will be with us through May 2012.

#### Ketola Testifies Before Kansas Legislative Budget Committee Speaks About Medicaid Adult Dental

On Monday, October 10, 2011, Karlene Ketola, Executive Director of the Michigan Oral Health Coalition, shared the story of how Michigan funded Medicaid Adult Dental in front of the Kansas Legislative Budget Committee. During her testimony, Ketola explained how, even in difficult financial times, Michigan was able to fund a comprehensive Medicaid Adult Dental benefit, partly by the state implementing a claims tax. By sharing Michigan's story of maintaining Medicaid Adult Dental and expanding Healthy Kids Dental, we can only hope to serve as a model for other states to do the same.

October 31, 2011

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#### Quick Links

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**SAVE THE DATE: FALL MEMBER MEETING**

December 9, 2011 | 9:30 am to 3 pm  
Okemos, Michigan (Lansing area)

## School Dental Sealant Program Webinar

**November 9, 2011, 10-11 am**

In a free webinar on November 9 Lois Havermans, RDH, CHES will discuss a model for school-based dental sealant programs based on her experience with the successful program in the Ottawa County Health Department. Dental sealants for children in elementary and middle schools can go a long way in preventing tooth decay, so register today to learn the keys of implementing a successful program. (Registration Deadline: November 7, 2011) Click [here](#) for more details.

## Healthy Kids Dental Launch Education Workshop

**November 11, 2011, 12:30-2 pm**

Michigan Oral Health Coalition invites west Michigan dental professionals to participate in a FREE luncheon and workshop on the Healthy Kids Dental launch in Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo and Oceana counties. Thank you to our event sponsors Delta Dental and Michigan Dental Association. As a dental professional, this is your chance to learn more about the program; steps to implementation and an opportunity to ask questions. The Coalition is pleased to announce representatives from Delta Dental and Michigan Department of Community Health as our faculty. Senator Geoff Hansen will also join us as our special guest. Space is limited. Register today! (Registration Deadline: November 3, 2011) Click [here](#) for more details.

## Three-Part Tobacco Webinar Series

**October 25, November 15, December 6, 4-5pm**

The Michigan Oral Health Coalition, along with the Michigan Primary Care Association, will be hosting a free, three-part webinar series on ending a patient's dependence on tobacco. The dates for the webinar series are October 25, November 15, and December 6, from 4 to 5 p.m. Jill Loewen, a certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist and board member of the Michigan Dental Foundation and the Michigan Oral Health Coalition, will be discussing tobacco dependence treatment, how to talk tobacco with dental patients, and how to implement the treatment services. Register today for one, two, or all three sessions! Click [here](#) for more details.

### State News

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## Promoting Community Water Fluoridation

**Grants Being Offered to Michigan Communities**

By offering approximately \$100,000 in grants supported by Delta Dental Foundation for community water systems, the Michigan Department of Community Health Oral Health Program is helping to advance community water fluoridation. Through its Fluoridation Equipment Grant initiative, grants will be awarded to communities that are either without current fluoridation systems or that need to replace equipment in already existing systems. While Michigan already provides close to 90 percent of its

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### Staff

**Karlene Ketola**  
Executive Director

population with fluoridated drinking water, these grants will help expand water fluoridation even further in addition to ensuring its continuation. For full grant proposal guidelines, please click [here](#).

**Alexandra Yeadon**  
*Healthcare  
Communications  
Intern*

## Survey Conducted on Children's Oral Health Care **Many Children Off to Poor Start**

In May of this year, the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health surveyed parents about dental health care for their children aged between 1 and 5. Despite recommendations that children start seeing dentists by age 1, only 23% of 1-year-olds have begun oral health care. Survey results show an increase to 44% for 2-year-olds, 64% for 3-year-olds, 86% for 4-year olds, and 95% for 5-year-olds. While the percentage of children who receive oral health care increases as they get older, many children are not receiving the recommended care from an early age.

## Governor Focuses on Reforming Healthcare **Move Toward Patient-Centered Model**

One of Governor Rick Synder's Top 10 Guiding Principles for Reinventing Michigan is a reformation of our healthcare system. Synder wants to introduce a more patient-centered model, which will save Michigan money while promoting wellness and improving the quality of healthcare service. It will focus on healthy lifestyle choices, prevention, and early identification of health problems. In addition to this, his plan emphasizes the value of local community pilot projects, public-private partnerships, and federally qualified health centers as more cost-effective ways for uninsured or under-insured people to receive care.

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### **National News**

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## Missouri MOM Dental Clinic a Success **Free Dental Care Provided to Low-Income Adults in Missouri**

On September 23-24, the Missouri Mission of Mercy (MOM) held a charity dental clinic in Springfield, MO that provided dental care for low-income adults and children. The event hosted a total of 1,046 dental and general volunteers who, along with donors and sponsors, donated more than \$1.1 million dollars in free dental care. The charity dental clinic was a huge success and supplied care to 1,856 low-income patients by providing 1,447 fillings and 2,922 extractions. Missouri MOM is eager to repeat the success of their charity dental clinic throughout the state, and has already started planning for their next event.

## NY Study Confirms Water Fluoridation Benefits **Caries-Related Medicaid Claims Correlate to WFS Coverage**

A study carried out in New York used the New York State Medicaid program to determine if the number of caries-related claims by children varies by county water system fluoridation coverage. The study focused on the claims of children under 21 instead of adults because their residential history is usually less varied, and because tooth extraction in children is used mainly for caries treatment. Results of the study show that there is a correlation between county fluoridation coverage and the mean number of restorative, endodontic, and extraction procedure Medicaid claims. In less fluoridated counties, the mean number of claims was 33.4% higher than in

fluoridated counties, which further confirms the benefits of water fluoridation systems.

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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