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## Member Newsletter



### Coalition News

## Coalition Receives Healthy People 2020 Grant **Mobilizing Families to Improved Nutrition and Oral Health**

The Michigan Oral Health Coalition has been awarded a Healthy People 2020 Community Innovations Project grant. The Coalition will receive \$10,000 to implement its project "Mobilizing Head Start Families and Teen Parents to Improved Nutrition and Oral Health." The project is designed to increase healthy behaviors within an at-risk population. Awardees included 170 non-profit, community organizations across the country.

## 2011 Fall Member Meeting **Registration Now Open!**

The 2011 Fall Member Meeting, scheduled for Friday, December 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., is a great learning and networking opportunity where we will be discussing topics such as:

- Social Media in Public Health: Utility, Application & Best Practices
- Coalition Update: Advocacy, Education and Grant Partnerships
- Healthy Kids Dental: A National Model
- State Oral Health Plan Update
- Networking Luncheon
- Medicaid and State Exchanges: A Road Map to 2014
- Reinventing Oral Health: A Coalition Member Spotlight

For full registration packet, click [here](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

## 2011 Member Survey Results Are In **What's Important to Members Like You?**

First, we would like to thank those of you who completed the survey. According to the results, the top three most valued topics in member communications are 1) legislative and policy information; 2) oral health data and reports, 3) and features on innovative programs. We will work hard to make sure you are getting information that is important to you.

Additionally, we would like to congratulate member Robert Dennison DMD from Health Delivery, Inc. Dr. Dennison is the lucky winner of a \$50 Barnes and Noble gift card for completing the survey!

November 14, 2011

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### Quick Links

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## Stay Involved with the Coalition

### Renew Your Membership Today!

The membership renewal process is well underway for the Coalition and as we look ahead, we hope you will continue your involvement. It will be an exciting, and challenging year as we advocate to expand Healthy Kids Dental and implement the State Oral Health Plan. As always, you may pay your dues by check or credit card. If you have any questions about membership, contact Karlene Ketola, executive director, at 517.827.0466.

## Three-Part Tobacco Webinar Series

### Upcoming Dates November 15, December 6, 4-5 p.m.

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 upcoming dates for the webinar series are 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.

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### State News

## 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 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](#).

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### National News

## Social Media Used to Promote Oral Health

### Kool Smiles Donates a Toothbrush for Every "Like"

In celebration of donating \$12.5 million in free dental services to communities in need, Kool Smiles is launching a new Facebook page where for every person who "likes" it, one toothbrush will be donated to an underserved child. Kool Smiles is a dental health provider dedicated to increasing access to dental care for underserved communities and they are prepared to provide up to a million toothbrushes in this new campaign. Read the full [press release](#) for more information and "like" their [Facebook page](#) today!

## Grant to Support Oral Health Initiative for Kids

### MetLife Awards Children's Health Fund with \$500,000

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### Board of Directors

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The Children's Health Fund was awarded \$500,000 from MetLife Foundation to help support its *Healthy Kids, Healthy Smiles* oral health initiative. This funding will be used to support oral health care for low-income and homeless children and families in New York City, Los Angeles, Dallas and Washington DC via mobile dental clinics. Due to this grant, the CHF expects to increase services by 65% from the previous year. For the full press release, click [here](#).

#### Staff

**Karlene Ketola**  
*Executive Director*

**Alexandra Yeadon**  
*Healthcare  
Communications  
Intern*

## United Nations Recognizes Oral Health **Connection with Non-Communicable Diseases**

At a side event to the first United Nations Global Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases, delegates were educated on the relationship between oral diseases and heart disease, cancer, respiratory disease, and diabetes. At the end of the event, all 193 Member States adopted the declaration and the World Health Organization was charged with establishing targets and indicators and relating them to common risk factors including sugar, sodium, trans and saturated fat, tobacco, and alcohol.

## Support for Mid-Level Dental Providers? **Majority of Americans Believe They Will Expand Access**

A survey conducted by Lake Research Partners for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation found that 41% of Americans report that they or someone in their household has delayed dental care due to cost. With close to 50 million Americans living in federally designated dentist shortage areas, several states are considering bringing mid-level dental programs to their communities. The survey shows that 76% of respondents support the training of mid-level providers, such as dental therapists, to help those lacking in dental care. For the full W.K. Kellogg Foundation press release, click [here](#).

## AGD Speaks Out Against Mid-Level Providers **Response to W.K. Kellogg Foundation Survey**

As a response to the survey conducted for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation mentioned above, the Academy of General Dentistry says that respondents may have been confused as to what was being asked due to the phrasing of the question. They are concerned that mid-level providers without the direct supervision of dentists will be putting the patient's oral health at risk. For more information on why the AGD is concerned with the survey results, click [here](#).

## Topical Fluoride Use for Caries-Prevention in Adults **Proven to Be Moderately Effective**

While there have been many studies about the use of fluoride for caries prevention in children, there is a lack of information about fluoride use in adults. In order to begin to fix this problem, the Journal of Public Health Dentistry recently completed a [systematic review of research studies](#). Their findings show that low strength NaF rinses, 1.1% NaF pastes/gels, and fluoride varnishes are moderately effective in high caries risk adults. For more information about the review, click [here](#).

## Poor Oral Health in Hispanic Population **Affected by Lack of Oral Health Care and Misconceptions**

A national survey conducted by the Hispanic Dental Association found that oral health care for the Hispanic population in the U.S. could be greatly improved upon with an increase in Spanish-speaking dentists and hygienists, and by correcting common misconceptions about oral health. According to the survey, 30% of respondents said they believe cavities go away on their own with brushing. And with more than half of Hispanics lacking dental insurance, more than one-third said they had experienced oral health problems that affected their daily lives in the last year. For more information, click [here](#).

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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