



1 Meeting Logistics

Item	Oral Health Plan Advisory Group Meeting
Date	Monday, January 26, 2026
Time	10:00 AM to 12:00 PM ET
Location	Online via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6862025443
Purpose/Focus	The purpose of the meeting is to convene the members of the Oral Health Plan Advisory Group (OHPAG) to discuss the group’s mission and strategies to implement the Pennsylvania Oral Health Plan 2020-2030 (Plan).
Notetaker	Amy Tice, PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH)

Desired Meeting Outcomes

By the end of the meeting, attendees will have:

- an increased knowledge of the current population-based oral health issues impacting the Commonwealth;
- a shared understanding of the vision of the Plan;
- a deeper connection to one another as members of OHPAG; and
- an opportunity to expand and strengthen the work of implementing the Plan.

2 Agenda

ID	Description	Owner	Time
1	Welcome and Logistics	Oral Health Program, Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH): Jan Miller, Oral Health Program Administrator	10:00-10:05
2	OHPAG Member Sharing	All	10:05-10:35
3	DOH Update	Jan Miller	10:35-10:50
4	Update on Progress	Helen Hawkey, PA Coalition for Oral Health	10:50-11:20
5	Surveillance/Evaluation	Helen Hawkey	11:20-11:35
6	Member Discussion and Q&A	All	11:35-11:55
7	Meeting Summary/Next Steps	DOH	11:55-12:00

3 Notes

Welcome and Logistics

- Jan introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the January Oral Health Plan Advisory Group (OHPAG) meeting. She shared the purpose of the OHPAG.
- She reviewed the meeting agenda and meeting expectations.
- She shared the current list of OHPAG members with their terms and the stakeholder groups they represent.

OHPAG Member Sharing

- OHPAG members were asked to share updates from their stakeholder groups.
 - Kristie Lenze from Keystone Rural Health Consortia represents community organizations as her stakeholder group for OHPAG. They are having issues with recruiting providers and are down two dentists. They have three offices open and operating. They have implemented screening all patients for any barriers to care, social need services, and gaps. They are linking them with community health workers who reach out and connect them with community resources. Examples include linking patients to primary care providers, connecting them with transportation providers, etc. They opened a food, clothing, and toiletry pantry. They've expanded that to include a maternal/infant pantry that has no income guidelines. It includes diapers, wipes, clothing, and big ticket items like highchairs.
 - Jess Rhodes asked if Kristie's organization hosted any community baby shower events.
 - Kristie has not, but the organization is interested in doing this in the future.
 - Kristie and Jess will connect offline.
 - Jess Rhodes from UPMC for You shared a success story of connecting members to additional supports during appointments. It helps members navigate the system and transition to pediatric care when the babies are born. Community baby showers focus on maternal and child health education and include giveaways and raffles.
 - Kelanie Yordy from the PA Association of Community Health Centers (PACHC) shared that PACHC is hosting their first Maternal Health Summit in Harrisburg this year. It will focus on maternal health and include dental, behavioral health, physical health, and other aspects of health. Everyone is welcome to attend and there will be an oral health session for maternity care providers. There will be continuing education credits available for dentists and medical providers.
 - Dr. Michael Verber from Verber Dental Group shared that Central Penn College, Verber Dental Group, UPMC, and some other organizations submitted a proposal to Senator Greg Rothman's office to start a Medicaid clinic. UPMC Foundation is also interested in supporting it. The clinic would serve as the clinic for future dental and hygiene programs for Central Penn College.
 - Also, the president at Central Penn College is a finalist for the presidency at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC). HACC is the largest community college in PA and there is interest in expanding their hygiene program to other campuses.
 - The Senate Majority Committee is doing more public hearings on access to care and workforce development.
 - Dr. Mark Wolff from Penn Dental Medicine shared that Penn is launching hemoglobin A1C testing practice and protocol for patients in their community health centers. Dental patients will be screened if they do not have a primary health care provider or regularly visit primary health settings.
 - In the next two months, they are launching a caregiver training video teaching caregivers how to care for individuals with disabilities, age-related, or development disabilities. There will be a series of 6–8-minute videos. These will be made available on the Penn Dental website.
 - They have an ongoing continuing education series for healthcare providers related to people with disabilities and there have been over a thousand new participants.
 - They launched hands-on training at two global locations to teach dentists how they can best accommodate individuals with disabilities.
 - They have launched an aggressive mobile dental program using mobile equipment in schools and community centers. They treat four times as many patients as they used to with the mobile van.
 - Dr. Jim Mancini shared an update on the Regional Training Center being built in Titusville. It will be part of the University of Pittsburgh's building and construction is moving forward. They will have five dental

hygiene students, three GPR students, a GPR director, and an EFDA. They should be operational by July or August. The centers in Bradford and Johnstown are just getting ready to start construction.

- The Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA) is hosting a leadership conference later this week where they will discuss speaking to your representatives, going to see representatives, and the message to take to them.
- Dr. Joe Mountain from Family First Healthy in southcentral PA shared that this is the first year they are recruiting a class for residents. They have the WellSpan residency under their umbrella with eight residents. They were able to recruit an incoming class. They are trying to convert dental students completing residencies to residents who want to be a staff dentist. This could potentially bring new dentists to the region.
- Dr. Janine Burkhardt from Project HOME in Philadelphia shared that they are back to pre-COVID times for dental assistant positions and applications. They still can't find EFDAs or dental hygienists.
- Dr. Michael Verber shared that Central Penn College has their next term starting in about 10 weeks. They will start another EFDA cohort. Delta Dental Community Care Foundation donated full scholarships. The didactic portion is online and there are 11 Saturday labs plus an externship. This is in the Harrisburg area, but there is a site in Scranton as well.
 - Dr. Verber should share the scholarship information with Jess Rhodes at UPMC to include in the newsletter.
- Jess Rhodes from UPMC for You shared that they had some changes in staffing as a former employee started working at PCOH. They are working to fill that position. They have regionally-based dental care managers, an adult care management team, and pediatric care management. Dana Shaffer has now taken over the role of Dental Care Manager. They are working to include the topic of oral health in all touches with the patient population. They connect it with adults, maternity care management patients, and the member services department. They are also looking for gaps in care that may exist for the patient population.
 - Patients are connected with PHDHPs for dental education and emphasize the importance of a dental appointment. This has helped the no-show rates stay low.
 - They continue to work with advocacy groups like PAMCO, PA Managed Care Coalition, and the PCOH Dental Directors meetings. They try to have good conversations with Dr. Kelley and Dr. Shamloo.
 - They excel in the community partnership aspect with community baby showers, community events, etc. Please reach out if you are hosting any community events and UPMC could attend.
 - They have a journal newsletter that goes out to their dental network. Please email Jess with anything you would like included.

DOH Update

- American Dental Association Medicaid Pilot Project
 - Jan gave a brief update on the project which concluded in November 2025. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS), and PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH), will continue building on what was learned from the pilot project.
 - PA was one of six states working to increase dentist participation in Medicaid. The Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA) and managed care organization (MCO) dental directors were also involved.
 - From 2023 to 2024, there was an increase in both enrolled and meaningful Medicaid dental providers. There was also increase in preventive services and medical providers applying fluoride varnish.
- Building State Capacity for Integration (BSCI) Learning Collaborative
 - This project is focused on integration between oral health and prenatal health care. Partners include the Department of Health Bureau of Family Health, the Oral Health Program, DHS, and PCOH. The project focuses on educating maternity care providers with oral health resources and runs through April of 2026.
- 100 Million Mouths Campaign

- Pennsylvania will be participating in 2026. This reinforces oral health as a core component in medical education.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - CDC work includes community water fluoridation (CWF) and public health communications.
 - CWF work has focused on protection and sustainability. DOH supported water systems with equipment grants. PCOH and DOH focus on strengthening relationships with local decision makers.
 - DOH executed a targeted communications campaign focused on reducing sugar sweetened beverage consumption among youth. The campaign generated 7.8 million impressions, more than 25,000 clicks, and over 23,000 visits to the landing page.
 - DOH and PCOH expanded oral health surveillance by requesting additional questions on the 2026 BRFSS. They also revised the oral health surveillance plan for the state and finalized a shared data agreement with DHS.
 - Dr. Verber added that a group started a lobbying group called the PA Alliance for Oral Health. It's a political action committee. DOH should connect if there is any way they can be helpful.
 - Additionally, 1,726 children in PA received dental sealants through the School Sealant Program.
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
 - The HRSA workforce grant focuses on strengthening and building the oral health workforce, especially in rural areas.
 - The 2023 Dentist and Dental Hygienist Workforce Survey Report was published this year.
 - Dr. Yang is working on the 2025 oral health licensure data report and has a draft prepared.

Update on Progress

- Helen shared slides that will be sent to OHPAG members after the meeting. There are active hyperlinks embedded in the slides that link to resources.
- Helen reviewed the 2030 goals for each of the measurable outcomes of the Plan in each of the three priorities.
- She reviewed the seven selected action steps for 2025-2026 and provided updates on each:
 - Increase access to oral health services for people residing in dental health professional shortage areas
 - Initiate policy(ies) to expand the oral health workforce in venues serving underserved populations to provide more opportunities for access to treatment, prevention and education services
 - Integrate information on oral disease prevention into health field undergraduate and residency curricula
 - Reduce total health care costs through policies and advocacy that enhance access to oral disease prevention and treatment services
 - Helen gave quick overviews of the three projects that were selected as recipients of Plan funding awards.
 - Increasing Access to Oral Health Care for Uninsured, Centre Volunteers in Medicine
 - Increase Access to Oral Health in Luzerne County, Volunteers in Medicine Wilkes-Barre
 - Health Ministries of Christ Lutheran Church Dental Clinic, Health Ministries of Christ Lutheran Church

Surveillance/Evaluation

- Helen introduced the new Plan evaluators Dr. Christopher Hill and Dr. David Hanson. They are from The BESST Learning Group LLC.
- Dr. Hill and Dr. Hanson shared slides that will be sent to OHPAG members after the meeting.
- They provided brief bios as well as their purpose for evaluating the Plan.
- They shared the theory of change in relation to the logic model in the Plan.
- They provided a midterm evaluation framework which included goals, evaluation questions, and key indicators or metrics.

- They shared their plans moving forward for engaging OHPAG members. This includes one-on-one meetings with OHPAG members which will be 20-30 minutes each.

Member Discussion and Q&A

- Members were asked to share any further updates.
- Dr. Malini Moni from the Berks Community Health Center shared that she is looking at teen vaping since it's increasing. They do individual counseling and talk to teens. They use a small questionnaire for their practice.
 - Any OHPAG member interested in discussing this further should reach out to Dr. Moni.
 - Jess Rhodes shared that UPMC has done some training and education for care management teams around the impact of vaping on oral health. There is an interesting approach to talking to teens about oral health and including things they should be doing such as learning how to make their own appointments, prescription safety, etc.
 - Dr. Moni has worked on medical integration within primary health care centers or FQHCs as well as focused on HPV prevention.
- Helen Hawkey from PCOH added that the State Board of Dentistry is looking at regulations surrounding mobile dental providers. Having a registry of traveling dental providers sounds like a good idea. There will be an opportunity to review draft regulations and offer feedback.

Meeting Summary and Next Steps

- Jan thanked everyone for the thoughtful questions and discussion.
- She shared the next meeting dates in April and August.
 - During the April Zoom meeting, the group will discuss recruitment for new OHPAG members. Some current members have terms expiring in July.
 - There will be a 30-minute info session on May 12th at 1pm for individuals interested in applying to be OHPAG members. Current OHPAG members will be asked to help recruit applicants.
- Notes and other materials will be sent out in the weeks following the meeting.