



Pennsylvania  
Department of Health

01/26/2026 10:00AM-12:00PM

# Oral Health Plan Advisory Group Meeting

Oral Health Program

# Agenda

- Welcome and Logistics
- OHPAG Member Sharing
- DOH Update
- Current Priorities and Progress
- Surveillance and Evaluation
- Member Discussion
- Next Steps and Adjournment



# Welcome and Logistics

- Meeting Purpose
- Desired Meeting Outcomes



# OHPAG Terms/Roles

TERMS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2026



Name	Organization	Sector	Term Ends
Dr. Dana Chianese	Temple University School of Dentistry	Community Org	July 1, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Dr. Ben Fredrick	PA Area Health Education Centers	Education	July 1, 2026
Dr. Michael Halupa	Geisinger Health Plan	Insurance	July 1, 2026
Kristi Mattzela	Centre Volunteers in Medicine	Health Provider	July 1, 2026
Dr. Malini Moni	Berks CHC	Community Support	July 1, 2026
Andrea Moore	Quality Insights	Government	July 1, 2026
Darcie Schaffer	Volunteers in Medicine	Individual	July 1, 2026
Dr. Mark Wolff	University of Pennsylvania	Funder	July 1, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Kelanie Yordy	PA Assoc of Community Health Centers	Association	July 1, 2026

# OHPAG Terms/Roles

TERMS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2027



Name	Organization	Sector	Term Ends
Dr. Nyla Balakrishnan	Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine	Education	July 1, 2027
Kelly Braun	Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health	Government	July 1, 2027
Dr. Janine Burkhardt	Project Home	Community Support	July 1, 2027
Kristie Lenze	Keystone Rural Health Consortium	Community Organization	July 1, 2027
Dr. Jim Mancini	PA Dental Association	Association	July 1, 2027
Dr. Joe Mountain	Family First Health	Individual	July 1, 2027
Jackie Pugliese	PA Chapter, AAP	Association	July 1, 2027
Jess Rhodes	UPMC for You	Insurance	July 1, 2027
Dr. Michael Verber	Verber Dental Group	Health Provider	July 1. 2027

# **OHPAG Member Sharing**

# DOH Update

- Ongoing Projects
  - ADA Medicaid Pilot Project
  - Building State Capacity for Integration (BSCI) Learning Collaborative
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
  - State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) Funding



# **Current Priorities and Progress Update**

**Helen Hawkey, PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH)**

# Priority A: Access, Prevention, & Education

MEASURABLE OUTCOME	2030 Goal	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1. Increase percentage of people served by community water systems receiving optimally fluoridated water*	66%	64%	61%	63%	70%	72%	72%	
2. Increase preventive oral health care (dental visit) for children	53%	46%	40%	45%	46%	45%	46%	
3. Increase preventive oral health care (dental visit) for children with special health care needs	38%		32%	36%	35%	36%		
4. Increase preventive oral health care (dental visit) for pregnant women	55%	50%	44%	45%	49%	49%		
5. Increase preventive oral health care (dental visit) for adults	75%		70%		69%			
6. Reduce percentage of untreated decay in children	22.8%				25.8%			

# Priority A: Access, Prevention, & Education

MEASURABLE OUTCOME	2030 Goal	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
7. Reduce incidence of tooth loss in adults 18-64	29%	34%		31%		34%			
8. Reduce incidence of tooth loss in seniors 65+	65%	73%		70%		70%			
9. Increase the percentage of third grade children with dental sealants	41.7%					36.7%			
10. Increase the number of programs providing children ages 6-14 with dental sealants	122		61	31	81	91	90	101	
11. Increase the number of underserved children with an age one dental visit	23%		18%	16%	19%	20%	20%	22%	
12. Reduce the incidence of children receiving dental services under general anesthesia	1.5%			1.7%	2.01%	1.99%	2%		
13. Reduce the incidence of oral/oropharyngeal cancer (per 100,000)	12.7	12.7	12.5	11.5	11.8	11.4			

# Priority B: Workforce

MEASURABLE OUTCOME	2030 Goal	2019		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1. Increase the percentage of hygienists, general dentists, and specialists participating in the Medicaid program	26%	23%			23.5%		22.5%		
2. Increase the number of general dentists who bill \$10,000+ per year in the Medicaid program	1,181			1,073	926	876	828		
3. Decrease the number of DHP SA county-level designations	38	41				41	17	34	34
4. Increase the number of primary care medical providers who bill Medicaid for oral health services	1,500	636			1,025	991	1,050		
5. Increase the number of community health workers (or similar) providing oral health education to their clients either in community health centers or place of residence	73%				64%	44%	46%	58%	

# Priority C: Infrastructure

MEASURABLE OUTCOME	2030 Goal	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
1. Implement/maintain a comprehensive state oral health surveillance system (SOHSS) in accordance with the National Oral Health Surveillance System	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, New Plan	Yes
2. Foster and grow a diverse, sustainable, and collaborative state oral health coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
3. Evidence of effective cross-governmental partnerships with internal PADOH and external government entities to develop and partner on educational initiatives, data collection, analysis and reporting, policy initiatives, and program priorities										
4. Establish a robust state oral health program with the capacity to meet the 10 Essential Dental Public Health Services created from the CDC		1 staff	3 staff	3 staff & 1 PT epi	3 staff & 1 PT epi	3 staff & 1 PT epi	3 staff & 1 PT epi	3 staff & 1 PT epi	3 staff & 1 PT epi	2 staff & 1 PT epi

# Selected Action Steps 2025-2026

## Access, Prevention, and Education

- 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

## Workforce

- Advocate for mandated and increased base level funding for the Medicaid dental fee schedule
- Develop or revise financial assistance programs for dental professionals who practice in rural areas and/or dental health professional shortage areas

## Infrastructure

- Secure state and federal funding to implement, administer and operate statewide dental public health programs designed to enhance oral health equity



# UPDATE ON PROGRESS

**2020-2030 State Oral Health Plan**  
**August 2025-January 2026**



## Action Step #1

Increase access to oral health services for people residing in dental health professional shortage areas

- 100 Million Mouths Campaign – PA is now participating ([Link](#))
- Addition of Dental Access Coordinator at PCOH
- Barriers and Facilitators to Topical Fluoride Varnish Application in Well-Child Visits ([Link](#)); article by Dr. Stephanie Gill
- PAAAP scheduled their first free dental screening event in Berks County where they will connect families with dental providers
- Awarded Plan funding to dental clinics in Luzerne, Dauphin, and Centre Counties

## Action Step #2

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

- Successfully advocated for DHS to adopt AAPD Periodicity Schedule ([Link](#))
- RHTP project submissions; oral health workforce was prioritized in state application ([Link](#))
- Advocate for 99188; coverage of fluoride varnish for adults during pregnancy from medical providers under Medicaid
- Continued workforce hot topic quarterly webinar series
- Published an oral health workforce pipeline report ([Link](#)) and one pager ([Link](#))

## Action Step #3

Integrate information on oral disease prevention into health field undergraduate and residency curricula

- Dr. Mark Stephens named as PA champion - 100 Million Mouths Campaign ([Link](#))
- Advancing Interprofessional Primary Care through Research, Education, and Community - A Call to Action ([Link](#)); Article by Dr. Stephanie Gill
- Developed resources for providers and patients on the connection between oral health and diabetes (Provider [Link](#)) (Patient [Link](#))

More Info:  
[www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag](http://www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag)



## Action Step #4

- Reduce total health care costs through policies and advocacy that enhance access to oral disease prevention and treatment services
  - Water fluoridation reaffirmations in Blairsville, Somerset, Red Lion, and hopefully Fleetwood Borough (soon!)
  - Additionally, awarded funds to Somerset for continued water fluoridation efforts
  - Oral Health Advocacy Day to be held March 24, 2026 ([Link](#))
  - Published survey results for free and charitable dental work provided in Pennsylvania in 2024 ([Link](#))

More Info:  
[www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag](http://www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag)



## Action Step #5

- Advocate for mandated and increased base level funding for the Medicaid dental fee schedule
  - Submitted DHS program budget request to restore the adult dental benefit
  - Submitted funding request to Secretary Reber
  - Legislative engagement during PCOH Summit
  - Questions drafted for upcoming budget hearings
  - Secured a consultant to research and prepare policy recommendations through a CareQuest grant

More Info:  
[www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag](http://www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag)



## Action Step #6

- Develop or revise financial assistance programs for dental professionals who practice in rural areas and/or dental health professional shortage areas
  - Included ask for increased financial assistance in submission for the Rural Health Transformation Program funding
  - Offered 5 scholarships to rural dental assistants to take the radiology training offered by PCOH in the fall

More Info:  
[www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag](http://www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag)



## Action Step #7

- Secure state and federal funding to implement, administer, and operate statewide dental public health programs designed to enhance oral health equity
  - Rural Health Transformation project submissions
  - Conversations with HRSA around next round of workforce funding (expected in the fall of 2026)
  - Submitted application to secure Appalachian Regional Commission ARISE funding for increasing dental workforce
  - BRUSH: Bridging Resident Experiences and Underserved Services for Oral Health (Family First Health)

More Info:  
[www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag](http://www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag)





# 2025-2026 Funding Opportunities Awarded

## ***Increasing Access to Oral Health Care for Uninsured Centre Volunteers in Medicine***

**Priority: Access, Prevention, and Education**

**Measurable Outcome: Increase access to oral health services for people residing in dental HPSAs**

**CVIM will purchase essential dental supplies that expand access to preventive and restorative care for uninsured residents in Centre County.**

## ***Increase Access to Oral Health in Luzerne County Volunteers in Medicine Wilkes-Barre***

**Priority: Access, Prevention, and Education**

**Measurable Outcome: Increase access to oral health services for people residing in dental HPSAs**

**VIM-WB will use funds to support the Volunteers in Medicine Dental Clinic, which delivers comprehensive cost-free oral healthcare to the working uninsured of Luzerne County.**

## ***Health Ministries of Christ Lutheran Church Dental Clinic Health Ministries of Christ Lutheran Church***

**Priority: Access, Prevention, and Education**

**Measurable Outcome: Increase access to oral health services for people residing in dental HPSAs**

**Funds will support the dental clinic in providing free care to low-income, uninsured individuals experiencing acute dental problems.**

# **Oral Health Plan Surveillance/Evaluation**

**Dr. Christopher Hill, The BESST Learning Group LLC**

**Dr. David Hanson, The BESST Learning Group LLC**

## **Christopher D. Hill, Ph.D.**

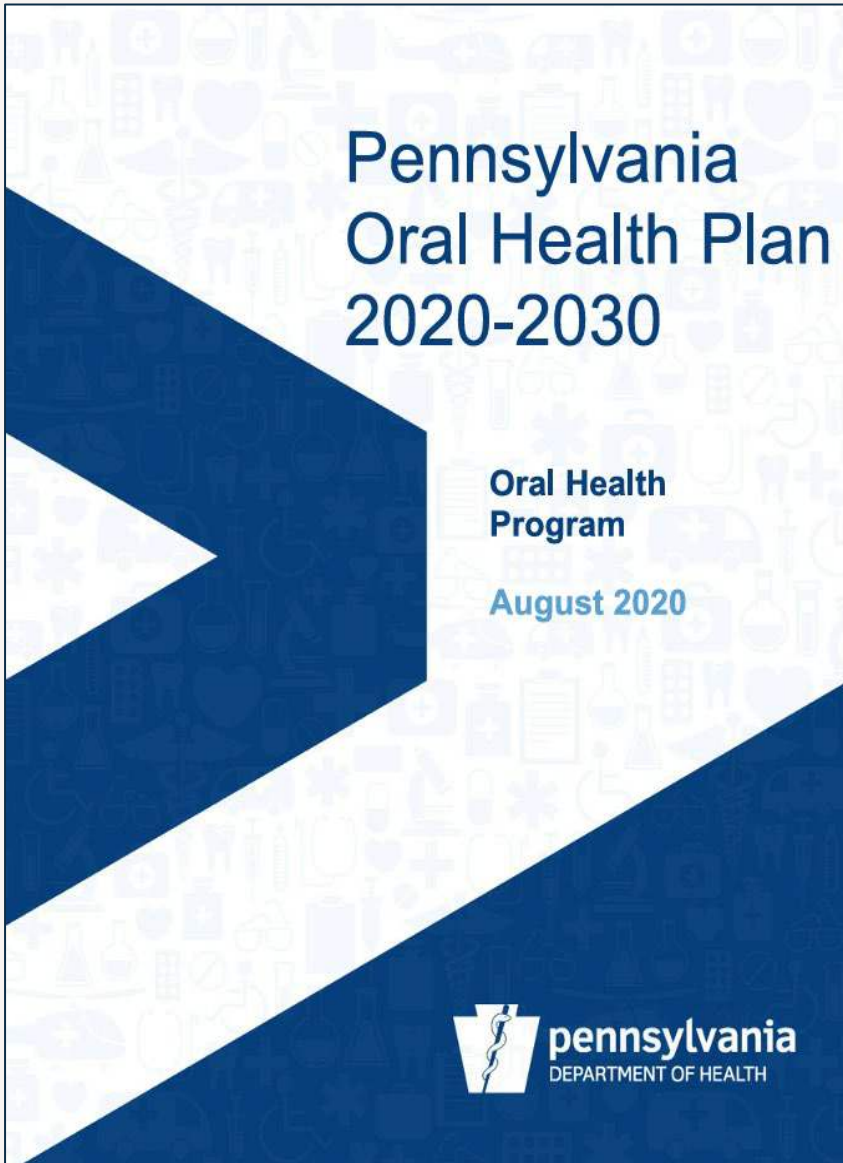
Dr. Hill is a research psychologist, statistician, and evaluator with 15+ years' experience spanning federal service, philanthropy, higher education, and independent consulting. Previous roles and experience include:

- **Senior Program Officer (Measurement, Learning & Evaluation), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**
- **Statistician / Project Manager & Data Quality Strategy Lead, NCES (CRDC)**
- **Public health evaluation experience via CMMI (HHS) and statewide equity initiatives at Loyola Marymount University's Psychology Applied Research Center**

## **David J. Hanson, Ph.D.**

Dr. Hanson is an evaluation consultant and social impact strategist specializing in culturally responsive and equitable evaluation, stakeholder engagement, and qualitative/mixed-methods designs across various sectors. Previous roles and experience include:

- **Director of Evaluation and Social Equity, Cause IMPACTS Consulting**
- **Senior Consultant, Social Contract**
- **Senior Consultant, Equal Measure**
- **Evaluation Coordinator, University of Florida Family Nutrition Program**



# PURPOSE

The purpose of this PA Oral Health Plan Evaluation is designed to assess the fidelity, document progress, measure outcomes, and provide recommendations, if any, to strengthen the implementation of the Pennsylvania Oral Health Plan 2020–2030 (the Plan).

## Key actions:

- ✓ Measure Progress
- ✓ Support Accountability & Learning
- ✓ Inform Continuous Improvement
- ✓ Facilitate Stakeholder Engagement
- ✓ Contribute to Long-Term Impact

# THEORY OF CHANGE

Resources

Base of established data, networks and infrastructure  
 Leadership and support from PADOH and PCOH  
 Engagement from public health, medical and dental communities

Activities

**Focus Years 1-3**

**Health Infrastructure:** Support and expand the interconnected set of key structural elements (government, partnerships, individuals, and workforce) needed to ensure that there is a system capable of meeting the oral health needs of Pennsylvanians.

**Health Surveillance and Evaluation:** Develop and implement a state surveillance system in PA that is aligned with the CDC National Oral Health Surveillance System to measure key indicators of oral health for tracking purposes; inform use of evidence-based approaches that improve programs and policies; monitor oral health status, service delivery systems, and infrastructure needs and development; and improve collection, reporting, and availability of key data elements.

**Focus Years 4-10**

**Health Equity:** Improve the health of all Pennsylvanians and eliminate disparities across the lifespan by addressing healthy habits, prevention intervention, and determinants of health to attain healthy communities.

**Health Policy and Advocacy:** Support and enact state and local policies that address gaps in oral health service coverage, public understanding of the importance of oral health to overall health, payment and financing systems, oral health care delivery, oral disease prevention strategies, workforce capacity and integration, data collection and analysis, and infrastructure capability.

**Health Community:** Diversify and enhance the individuals, providers, and organizations that support and promote a health care system that values and integrates oral health and overall health.

Short-term goals (2030)

- A1. Increase percentage of people served by community water systems receiving optimally fluoridated water
  - A2. Increase preventive oral health care (dental visit) for children
  - A3. Increase preventive oral health care (dental visit) for children with special health care needs
  - A4. Increase preventive oral health care (dental visit) for pregnant women
  - A5. Increase preventive oral health care (dental visit) for adults
  - A6. Reduce the percentage of untreated decay in children
  - A7. Reduce incidence of tooth loss in adults 18-64
  - A8. Reduce incidence of tooth loss in seniors 65+
  - A9. Increase the percentage of third grade children with dental sealants
  - A10. Increase number of programs providing children ages 6-14 with sealants
  - A11. Increase number of underserved children with an age one dental visit
  - A12. Reduce the incidence of children receiving dental services under general anesthesia
  - A13. Reduce incidence of oral cancer and oropharyngeal cancer
- B1. Increase the percentage of hygienists, general dentists, and specialists participating in the Medicaid program
  - B2. Increase the number of general dentists who bill \$10,000+ per year in the Medicaid program
  - B3. Decrease the number of DHPSA county-level designations
  - B4. Increase the number of primary care medical providers who bill Medicaid for oral health services
  - B5. Increase the number of community health workers (or similar) providing oral health education to their clients either in community health centers or place of residence
- C1. Implement/maintain a comprehensive state oral health surveillance system (SOHSS) in accordance with the National Oral Health Surveillance System
  - C2. Foster and grow a diverse, sustainable, and collaborative state oral health coalition
  - C3. Evidence of effective cross-governmental partnerships with internal DOH and external government entities to develop and partner on educational initiatives, data collection, analysis and reporting, policy initiatives, and program priorities
  - C4. Establish a robust state oral health program with the capacity to meet the ASTDD's 10 Essential Dental Public Health Services created from the CDC model

Decrease barriers to accessing dental care  
 Increase preventive services across populations  
 Improve the oral health literacy of healthcare providers and the general public  
 Build a sufficient, diverse and competent oral health workforce  
 Maintain a strong oral health program infrastructure to sustain proper state oral health surveillance

Enhance the overall health of all Pennsylvanians through improved oral health

# MIDTERM EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Goal	Evaluation Questions	Key Indicators / Metrics
<p><b>Decrease Barriers to Accessing Dental Care (Outcome Alignment: B3)</b></p>	<p>1. How effectively have programs and policies reduced financial, geographic, and cultural barriers to dental care?</p> <p>2. Are more residents in rural and underserved areas utilizing dental services?</p> <p>3. What models (FQHCs, CHWs, teledentistry) show measurable improvement in access?</p> <p>4. Have disparities in access narrowed across racial, income, and geographic lines?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of population receiving dental care by income &amp; location</li> <li>• # of Medicaid-enrolled dentists</li> <li>• # of teledentistry and CHW initiatives</li> <li>• ED visits for preventable dental conditions</li> <li>• Access disparity ratios (urban/rural, insured/uninsured)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Increase Preventive Services Across Populations (Outcome Alignment: A1-A5)</b></p>	<p>5. Are preventive dental visits and services increasing across age groups?</p> <p>6. How have school-based and community prevention programs affected untreated decay rates?</p> <p>7. What is the reach and equity of fluoridation and sealant programs?</p> <p>8. Are preventive efforts reducing oral disease burden and cost over time?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of preventive visits (children, adults, pregnant women)</li> <li>• % untreated decay in 3rd graders</li> <li>• % of population with fluoridated water</li> <li>• # of schools participating in sealant programs</li> <li>• Medicaid EPSDT utilization rates</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improve Oral Health Literacy of Providers &amp; Public (Outcome Alignment: Priority A)</b></p>	<p>9. Have statewide oral health literacy campaigns improved awareness and behavior?</p> <p>10. Are healthcare providers (medical and dental) integrating oral health into routine care?</p> <p>11. How effective are educational programs at increasing provider confidence and patient knowledge?</p> <p>12. Are literacy improvements associated with greater preventive service uptake?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of public reporting adequate oral health knowledge</li> <li>• # of health literacy campaigns implemented</li> <li>• # of providers trained (medical, dental, CHWs)</li> <li>• % of providers integrating oral health screenings</li> <li>• Pre/post knowledge gains from training</li> </ul>

# MIDTERM EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Goal	Evaluation Questions	Key Indicators / Metrics
<p><b>Build a Sufficient, Diverse, &amp; Competent Workforce (Outcome Alignment: B1-B5)</b></p>	<p><b>13. How has the oral health workforce changed in size, composition, and geographic distribution?</b></p> <p><b>14. Are recruitment and retention efforts improving diversity and participation in Medicaid?</b></p> <p><b>15. What workforce models (EFDA, PHDHP, CHW) are improving reach and equity?</b></p> <p><b>16. How are training and policy supports influencing workforce sustainability?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # and % of licensed dental professionals</li> <li>• # of Medicaid-participating dentists/hygienists</li> <li>• # of EFDA/PHDHP certifications</li> <li>• # and diversity of new graduates in PA</li> <li>• DHPSA designation trends</li> </ul>
<p><b>Maintain a Strong Oral Health Infrastructure &amp; Surveillance System (Outcome Alignment: C1-C4)</b></p>	<p><b>17. Is the state oral health surveillance system (SOHSS) effectively collecting and sharing data?</b></p> <p><b>18. Are coalition structures (PCOH, OHPAG) supporting coordinated implementation and data use?</b></p> <p><b>19. How are data informing policy, funding, and program priorities?</b></p> <p><b>20. What evidence exists that surveillance and infrastructure improvements are sustainable?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOHSS data completeness &amp; timeliness</li> <li>• # of updated surveillance indicators reported</li> <li>• # of coalition meetings, partnerships, and action plans</li> <li>• Evidence of data-to-action usage (policy briefs, reports)</li> <li>• Funding continuity for surveillance activities</li> </ul>

# KEY ACTIVITIES, TIMELINE & DELIVERABLES

Evaluation Activities	Timeline	Milestones	Deliverables
Project initiation & framework alignment	Sept 2025	Kick-off meeting with PCOH staff; review existing evaluation tools; finalize approach & methodology	Evaluation framework; updated work plan; meeting notes documenting alignment
Tool refinement & advisory engagement	Oct–Dec 2025	Attend facilitation team & advisory group meetings; update evaluation tool; develop dashboard prototypes	Draft updated evaluation tool; prototype dashboards; meeting participation notes
Data collection & Preliminary analysis	Jan–Mar 2026	Conduct quantitative trend analysis of indicators; analyze qualitative themes from meetings; draft 1–2 page priority area summaries	Draft priority area summaries (3 total); interim data analysis report
Internal learning & reflections	Feb-June 2026	Schedule and facilitate at least 3 learning sessions with internal stakeholders to share emerging themes and open discussion.	Learning session agenda, slide deck and post-session notes
Synthesis & draft reporting	Apr–May 2026	Refine dashboards; integrate quantitative and qualitative findings; draft evaluation report	Draft dashboards (3 annual trends); draft evaluation report
Final reporting & dissemination prep	June 2026	Review feedback from PCOH; finalize dashboards, summaries, and report; present findings virtually	Final evaluation report; updated dashboards; final 1–2 page summaries
(Optional extension: in-person presentation & wrap-up)	Aug 2026 (if extended)	Attend in-person Oral Health Plan Advisory Group meeting in Harrisburg; present findings; finalize dissemination materials	Live presentation; finalized dissemination products

# HOW WE WILL ENGAGE OHPAG

**Purpose:** to better understand the individual work of OHPAG members particularly as it relates to fostering and growing a diverse, sustainable, and collaborative state oral health coalition (Theory of Change Goal 3: Infrastructure Improvement)

## **Actions:**

- OHPAG meetings
- 1:1 conversations

# Member Discussion

# Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- Next Steps
- Review notes
- Visit [paoralhealth.org/OHPAG](https://paoralhealth.org/OHPAG) to review materials
- Ongoing: Submit success stories
- Send comments/additional materials to [info@paoralhealth.org](mailto:info@paoralhealth.org)
- Upcoming meetings:
  - Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10am-12pm (Zoom)
  - Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm (Harrisburg)





Pennsylvania  
Department of Health

**Thank you for attending!**