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Coalition News

Michigan Board of Dentistry Approves Coalition as a CE Sponsor

That's right members! Last Thursday, the Michigan Board of Dentistry approved the Coalition's application to become a Continuing Education Sponsor. The Coalition looks forward to bringing members a variety of education and involvement opportunities in the coming year.

Special Needs Provider Survey Report

Melissa Christensen, Project Coordinator

To support the HRSA Grant to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities (T12HP10742), the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and Michigan Oral Health Coalition developed the "Oral Health Needs Survey 2009." The principle objective of the survey was to identify dental health providers in Michigan who treat people with special needs and disabilities. With surveys sent to all 6,500 licensed Michigan dentists and nearly 2,000 responses, MDCH Epidemiologist Nevedita Akarte has completed her evaluation. The Department and the Coalition hope to develop policies for these services and encourage oral health stakeholders to work together to create more and better access. See [Oral Health Needs Survey 2009 Report](#).

Special Thank You!

Several months ago, the *Identify Special Needs Providers Workgroup* was formed through the Michigan Oral Health Coalition. Workgroup meetings were designed to create the Oral Health Needs Survey. The survey could not have been developed without the expert guidance of **Dr. Sam Zwetchkenbaum** from U of M Hospital, **Andrea Goodwin** from Community Living Services, and **Karen Trompeter** from Tri-County Dental Health Council. Thank you for all you do for the Coalition! To view the initial survey, click [here](#).

State News

Fluoridation News from MDCH





The Community Water Fluoridation program at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is alive and well and progressing toward a quality state program. Susan Deming, the Education/Fluoridation Coordinator at MDCH, has been active in setting up the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's objectives for their Cooperative Agreement.

The Michigan Oral Health Coalition and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been working with MDCH to achieve these goals. A State Fluoridation Advising Committee has been organized—with representation from Michigan Dental Association, Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association, Department of Environmental Quality, University of Michigan and others—and has just completed a 5-year plan for community water fluoridation for Michigan which includes the following 11 objectives:

1. Develop a state fluoridation workplan (completed).
2. Develop a monthly fluoride level monitoring program with DEQ and water systems consistent with the CDC Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS). Monitoring with DEQ to make sure water systems are staying in the .9-1.2 optimal range.
3. Track progress of Engineering and Administrative Recommendations for Water Fluoridation (EARWF) practices in the water systems throughout the state.
4. Acquire funding and promote grants for new and replacement fluoridation equipment for water systems looking to add or maintain a CWF program. Susan is presently working on a Request for Proposal to be released in the fall. This would be available for applicants from city, township or village councils, community water systems, and local public health departments or area health facilities.
5. Meet Healthy People 2010/2020 goal of 75% of population on Community Water Fluoridation. Michigan is currently at 91% so our goal is to maintain or increase this.
6. Education and Promotion of Community Water Fluoridation. MDCH now has a fluoridation brochure on information to the public. Contact Susan Deming for more information.
7. Participate in a Lab Proficiency Testing approved by CDC. DEQ does this every three years at different areas around the state.
8. Maintain all above objectives through management and at a comprehensive level that meets or exceeds Healthy People objectives.
9. Add a Fluoridation Coordinator with DEQ with water system engineering experience.
10. Promote individual well water testing. A survey is being designed by a U of M e-learning student to ask health departments what their knowledge is on individual well testing, fluoride and what information they share with consumers.
11. Study on fluorosis levels in the state. The 2010 Count Your Smiles Survey will include screening for fluorosis levels of 3rd grade children.

If you are interested in viewing the complete State Fluoridation Workplan; serving on the State Fluoridation Advising Committee; adding your e-mail to the state fluoridation ListServ, please contact Susan Deming at www.demings@michigan.gov or (517) 373-3624.

Michigan Dentists to Receive Free Pain Management Guide

This fall, the Bureau of Health Professions will be sending Michigan dentists the booklet *Responsible Opioid Prescribing: A Physician's Guide*. Written by pain medicine specialist Scott M. Fishman, M.D., this concise handbook translates the Federation of State Medical Board's [Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain](#) into pragmatic steps for risk reduction and improved patient care. This September, the guide will be sent to



physicians, medical residents, physician assistants, and advance practice nurses. This fall, the guide will be sent to dentists and pharmacists.

For more information on the Bureau's new Pain Management and Palliative Care Program, click [here](#). If you have any questions regarding this new program or the distribution of the *Responsible Opioid Prescribing: A Physician's Guide* booklet, please contact [Susan Affholter](#) at (517) 373-7303.

License Renewal Deadline Fast Approaching for Many

Is Aug. 31, 2009 the expiration date for your professional license? If you have not yet completed your continuing education requirements, you do have a 60-day grace period to complete it. Once you have completed the required hours, you can submit your renewal with the late fee. Michigan law provides for a grace period before your license officially expires. For more information, see [Licensing Information](#).

Michigan's July Jobless Rate Declines

Michigan's unemployment rate declined slightly to 15 percent in July. The seasonally adjusted rate, announced yesterday on the Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth, is below the 15.2 percent jobless rate posted in June. The national unemployment rate for July was 9.4 percent, down from the 9.5 percent registered in June. Unemployment has remained steady or dropped slightly in most of the relatively few states that have announced rates for July. Michigan's jobless rate was 8.3 percent in July 2008.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars Applications Due October 2

The *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars* program is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The program is based on the principle that progress in the field of population health depends upon multidisciplinary collaboration and exchange. Its goal is to improve health by training post-doctoral scholars to:

- investigate rigorously the connections among biological, genetic, behavioral, environmental, economic and social determinants of health; and
- develop, evaluate and disseminate knowledge and interventions that integrate and act on these determinants to improve health.

The program is intended to produce leaders who will change the questions asked, the methods employed to analyze problems, and the range of solutions to reduce population health disparities and improve the health of all Americans. To apply, visit [Health & Society Scholars 2010 Call for Applications](#).



National News

New Report Shows How Health Insurance Reform Will Benefit Michigan



Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has released "How Health Insurance Reform Will Benefit Michigan," a new report outlining how health insurance reform will improve health care for all in Michigan. Sebelius announced the availability of the new report as part of a webcast -- "Health Insurance Reform: What's in it For You" -- where Sebelius and top HHS officials took questions from the American people and discussed the importance of health insurance reform. The new report is available at www.HealthReform.gov.

New Dental School Considered for Maine University

The University of New England in Maine is developing a plan to establish a dental school at its Portland campus in an effort to enhance the quality of dental care provided throughout the state, the *Bangor Daily News* reports. According to university officials, the plan, which would be modeled after a program in Arizona, would differ from traditional dental schools where students practice in public clinics provided on campus. Rather, the proposed model would place third- and fourth-year students in publicly-funded community health clinics in the state to practice for up to six months at a time. Fully-licensed dentists would supervise the students as they deliver basic dental and oral health care. In addition to expanding care through student placements, school officials expect that the program will help recruit and retain dental professionals in the state's rural areas. Currently, there are just 47 practicing dentists per 100,000 Maine residents, which is far below the national average of 60 dentists per 100,000 residents. The Maine Dental Association, the Maine Primary Care Association and the nonprofit dental insurance provider Northeast Delta Dental have endorsed plans for the proposed dental school. If approved, the dental program could begin accepting students in 2011. Source: *Bangor Daily News*, June 2, 2009

Call for 2010 NOHC Program Session Submissions

The Planning Committee for the 2010 National Oral Health Conference (NOHC), "Pursuing Excellence in Dental Public Health," invites workshop proposals addressing scientific research, program evaluation, community-based interventions, and partnerships related to dental public health. The program proposal form and instructions for electronic submission are now [available](#). Please submit your proposal no later than Sept. 15, 2009. For more information, contact [Pam Tolson](#) or [Sandi Steil](#).



Dentists Step Up Marketing as Patients Skip Their Visits

Even dentists are feeling the pinch in the economic slowdown, causing them to spend more time marketing and less time cleaning or pulling teeth. Many dentists have noticed a trend in the last year. As more patients lose jobs and employer-sponsored insurance, fewer come in for major treatments or even routine cleanings. A little more than half of 1,275 dentists surveyed in July by the American Dental Association said their net incomes have decreased and their unbooked appointment times have increased from the first quarter. That means more dentists are seeing the need to step up the marketing of their services. Some dentists have upped their personal connection with patients by sending newsletters by mail, offering phased payment schedules, or calling patients directly to book routine cleanings. Others resort to methods such as rolling back prices on procedures, handwriting letters to patients, and relying on technology such as Twitter to promote their services. **Source:** *Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 11, 2009

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.

Life Expectancy at All Time High; New Report Shows

U.S. life expectancy reached nearly 78 years (77.9), and the age-adjusted death rate dropped to 760.3 deaths per 100,000 population, both records, according to the latest mortality statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The report, "Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2007," was issued today by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. Over a decade, life expectancy has increased 1.4 years from 76.5 years in 1997 to 77.9 in 2007. The full report is available at www.cdc.gov/nchs.

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