Missouri Coalition for Oral Health

Public Policy Agenda Plan

December 14, 2012 Update

1. Designate a State Dental Director

   o Plan:
     ▪ Identify mechanism for funding
     ▪ Ensure access to funding
     ▪ Advocate for re-establishment of Dental Director in Missouri through identified mechanisms
     ▪ Shape role of Dental Director to ensure focus on key functions of monitoring state oral health status through routine measures that are maintained over time and reported
     ▪ Create Policy Statement
       • Articulate role and ensure common understanding of functions
       • Continue to work collaboratively with Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
       • Consider seeking alternative funding if necessary/private funding
       • Draft statute change to require MO to have a Dental Director

   o Monitor
     ▪ Ensure progress, reassess and modify action as needed

   o Progress to date
     ▪ Dental Director Position (.5 FTE) included in Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) Oral Health Workforce Development Grant proposal submitted by Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
       • Grant denied by HRSA, partially on the basis of no MO Dental Director
     ▪ Policy Statement Approved by Board Nov. 17, posted on website
     ▪ Advocacy material for Dental Director created
     ▪ Working with DHSS, OA, General Assembly and oral health champion on process to establish position
     ▪ Draft statute change approved by Board (Nov. 17) and given to Rep. Lichtenegger

2. Establish an Oral Health Caucus in the Missouri Legislature

   o Plan:
     ▪ Identify legislative oral health champion and leaders (Donna Lichtenegger and Jeanne Kirkton)
     ▪ Maintain contact with leaders to ensure follow through on establishment of Caucus
     ▪ Set dates for Caucus meetings
     ▪ Plan agenda for Caucus meetings
       • Brainstorm agenda items and set preferred agenda
         o State Dental Director Functions
         o Missouri data on oral health
         o Local groups/successes
       • Collaborate with legislative leaders on agenda
     ▪ Work pragmatics of Caucus meetings (room reservations, notification, food, etc.)
     ▪ Work with legislative leaders to identify additional members as needed and to ensure awareness of the Coalition and oral health as an issue of importance in Missouri
     ▪ Develop advocacy materials for Coalition membership
Monitor
- Ensure progress continues for establishment during pre-session period, reassess and modify action as needed

Progress to date
- Rep. Lichtenegger and Rep. Kirkton have won primary elections
- Legislative visits for additional members (and to promote awareness of oral health among legislators)
- Tentative dates set for Caucus
- Purpose for Caucus drafted and accepted by OH Caucus co-chairs
- Working on agenda, including Iowa Dental Director presentation

3. Promote the strengthening of provider networks and expansion of service delivery of dental care for high-risk, MO HealthNet and uninsured populations

Plan:
- Meet with MO HealthNet Division to introduce Coalition and areas of interest
- Determine current and future feasibility of service expansion under MO HealthNet
  - Health Home may offer some possibility for assessment and referral, although MO HealthNet does not cover adult dental outside of waivers and persons receiving blind pension fund
  - HealthCare USA is offering limited dental for adults (outside of Medicaid requirements)
- Collaborate with MO HealthNet Division through Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Oral Health Initiative
  - CMS to work with states to develop oral health actions plans
- Monitor expansion of dental services within community health clinics through MPCA
  - Identify coordination with physician and non-oral health care providers
  - Make connections with rural health clinics
  - Make connections with regional groups working on access issues and cross-pollinate groups for best practice
  - Identify specific projects for collaboration with MO HealthNet Division
    - Data Work Group
- Monitor
  - Continue to collect information via environmental scan for opportunities for advancement in this area

Progress to date
- Meeting held with MO HealthNet Division
- MHD has designated a person for Data Work Group
- Informal connection with rural health clinics made (need follow-up)
- Connections with four local oral health groups to date in Kansas City region, Northeast MO region, Springfield region (Health Commission has joined Coalition) and Jefferson Co.

4. Expand access to dental sealants for children without routine dental care

Plan:
- Identify opportunities for expansion of dental sealants, including funding mechanism
- Create Policy Statement on sealants
- Identify partners to help advance school-based sealant programs
- Examine data to determine target areas
  - Work with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to determine possible target schools
  - Determine other data sources

Monitor
5. Ensure implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Missouri includes robust oral health benefits

- Plan:
  - Monitor implementation process in Missouri to determine critical advocacy points
  - Advocate for inclusion of oral health benefits (preventative and treatment across the lifespan) in Essential Health Benefits, which are to be defined as part of implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Missouri
    - Issue position/comment letter urging inclusion of oral health benefits in Essential Health Benefits package
      - Missouri Department of Insurance
        - Insurance Director
      - US Department of Health and Human Services
        - Regional Director
        - Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight
  - Follow-up as needed
  - Consider additional policy positions related to Affordable Care Act
    - Adjust action as Medicaid expansion moves forward in Missouri

- Monitor
  - Continue to monitor implementation for opportunities to influence benefits policy

- Progress to date
  - Letter issued 8/29/12 to Dept. of Insurance and HHS.

6. Expand Medicaid dental program to include prevention & treatment benefits for adults with developmental disabilities.

- Plan:
  - Work with current waivers for adults with developmental disabilities to ensure oral health benefits are accessed
    - Monitor numbers and percentage of people in waivers accessing oral health services
      - Recommend policy changes as needed
      - Work with Division of Developmental Disabilities
    - Consider other options for coverage of oral health services for people with developmental disabilities
      - Determine numbers of adults with developmental disabilities not in waivers and unable to access oral health services through MO HealthNet
        - Work with MO HealthNet Division on data sources
      - Advocate for inclusion of oral health benefits in the Essential Health Benefits to be defined as part of implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Missouri
  - Monitor
    - Assess progress and modify action as needed

- Progress to date
  - Numbers served through waivers are available
  - Working with MO HealthNet Division via Data Work Group
  - Working with Division of Developmental Disabilities
Division funded additional training for dental professionals on serving people with developmental disabilities

7. Ensure the incorporation of oral health in the patient-centered medical home
   - Plan:
     - Discuss current implementation process with MO HealthNet Division
     - Determine inclusion of oral health
     - Determine opportunities for integration of oral health
     - Work with MO HealthNet Division
     - Advocate for inclusion of oral health benefits in the Essential Health Benefits to be defined as part of implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Missouri to ensure coordination functions in Affordable Care Act include oral health as a key component of health
   - Monitor
     - Continue to monitor health care system for additional opportunities to address incorporation of oral health in medical home
   - Progress to date
     - Initial discussion held with MO HealthNet Division

8. Expansion of public water system fluoridation and protection of current fluoridated water systems
   - Plan:
     - Work with Department of Health and Senior Services to access available data on public water system fluoridation
     - Expansion of public water system fluoridation
       - Identify key public water systems in Missouri that lack fluoride
       - Assess current best opportunity for local fluoridation initiative
         - Determine local partners
         - Determine local support
         - Select and work with local project
     - Support any active local initiative
       - Determine best methods of support
     - Protection of current fluoridated water systems
       - Determine best method for monitoring for public water systems considering discontinuation of fluoridation
       - Determine local partners to support continued fluoridation
       - Engage with local partners
     - Work with Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to supply and distribute educational material on public water system fluoridation
     - Assist with response to threats to PWS fluoridation
     - Post resources and links for local community efforts to combat discontinuation of fluoridation.
   - Monitor
     - Ensure data is used to target activities.
   - Progress to date
     - Coalition participation in Missouri Dental Association water fluoridation meeting
     - Collaboration with Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

9. Implement a statewide public awareness campaign about the importance of oral health to overall health
Plan:
- Determine partner entities to plan for a support a public awareness campaign
  - Set up preliminary planning group with partner entities
    - Determine primary goals of campaign
      - Process
      - Impact
    - Determine timeline
  - Identify funds to support the campaign
  - Secure funding
  - Work with expert consultants to plan campaign content, methodology and implementation
  - Implement within cost
  - Determine impact of public awareness campaign
- Monitor
  - Ensure relevance of thrust of campaign in light of other concurrent relevant campaigns
- Progress to date
  - None

10. Improve MO HealthNet by implement best practices and system improvements to increase provider participation and MO HealthNet participant usage.

Plan:
- Identify best practices in other states to increase provider participation and MO HealthNet participant usage
  - Identify advantages for Missouri
  - Define each best practice clearly
    - Case management system
  - Determine feasibility of implementation in Missouri
    - Data showing effectiveness
      - Increased provider participation in Medicaid
      - Increased Medicaid participant access to and usage of oral health services in Medicaid
    - Funding
    - Degree of “fit” with existing system (cost/benefit analysis)
    - Opportunities for implementation in conjunction with other MO HealthNet and health care system changes
  - Identify system improvements that would increase provider participation and MO HealthNet participant usage
    - Engage with partners who possess credible, detailed system knowledge
    - Determine data source to support possible changes
    - Define proposed changes clearly
      - Define advantages
      - Determine challenges
    - Determine feasibility of implementation
      - Funding
      - Opportunities for implementation in conjunction with other MO HealthNet and health care system changes
  - Work with MO HealthNet on data, planning and implementation
- Monitor
  - Continue to monitor for additional opportunities to successfully implement improvements
- Progress to date
  - Meeting with MO HealthNet Division held
  - Working with MO HealthNet Division on Data Work Group