



Policy Committee

Friday, December 15, 2017, 9 – 10 AM

Call in: 1-877-366-0711: Passcode 17092139#

Mission: *To improve oral health for all Missourians through sound public policy and public awareness.*

Vision: *Oral Health is a high priority for all Missourians.*

Attendance: Dr. Michael McCuniff (Chair), Pat Finnerty (guest speaker), Gary Harbison, Shantel Smith, Dale Pfaff, Aaron Washburn, Melissa Kleffner-Wansing.

Minutes (see October 6, 2017 minutes) – Approved without changes.

NADP Analysis (see [NAPD Analysis Shows Adults with Medicaid Preventive Dental Benefits Have Lower Medical Costs for Chronic Conditions](#)) – Briefly reviewed this important new analysis by the National Association of Dental Plans.

School-Based Health Services (see Sustaining School-Based Health Services) – Discussed the increasing interest in Missouri in school-based health care, including the development of a coalition in the St. Louis area (School-Based Health Alliance) and the interest on the part of foundations. Reviewed the report put out by HCFGKC. Aaron noted that Illinois has a robust school-based health care program. Committee agreed to recommend a new policy goal to the Board - Integration of oral health care in school-based health care. This will be presented to the Board at the March 1 Board meeting.

Legislation – Sample legislation is to Rep. Lichtenegger. Will update as status changes. This legislation will require the local public water decision-making body to seek information/opinion from the Local Public Health Department on community water fluoridation as part of the public process.

CHIP – This important program has not been reauthorized by congress. Please see communications from MCOH for updates. Coalition members are urged to join with the actions of other organizations working on this issued, including the Children’s Dental Health Project and many others. Rep. Cora Faith Walker filed legislation that would require (HB 1334)

Guest Speaker – Pat Finnerty (PWF Consulting) - A Discussion About Federal Policy

Pat talked about the Affordable Care Act (ACA), CHIP funding, and Medicaid funding and financing. The ACA repeal and replace efforts appears to have stopped or paused. The Tax Reform bill will eliminate the individual mandate, but passage is up in the air, with several congressmen expressing concern. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis indicates both fewer covered individuals and higher costs for those still covered. There are other aspects that may make passage of legislation difficult. There is interest in generating more funds through cuts to support the tax cut while minimizing the impact on the overall federal budget.

CHIP funding has not been renewed. There are two bills that would fund it for 5 years. Both would eliminate the additional federal match funds started through the ACA, resulting in a 23% reduction in funds. Provisions in the bills would cut other health care funding to pay for CHIP. Dec. 22 is an upcoming critical date for the vote. Lack of CHIP

funding reauth. at this time is already impacting states. Cuts in health service coverage is likely to occur soon in several states if the reauth. is not completed soon.

Efforts to eliminate Medicaid expansion seem to be sidelined for now, but budget bills (house and senate) include a trillion dollar cut in Medicaid funding (over 10 years), as a part of conversion to block granting and/or per capita funding caps. In addition, the administration is encouraging use of the waiver process to change the Medicaid program, particularly in terms of requiring work/work search. In addition, higher premiums are being considered.

Updates from Committee Members – Dr. McCuniff mentioned that the UMKC School of Dentistry American Association of Public Health Dentistry Student Chapter had its first meeting in November. This was well attended. Dr. Suter presented on teledentistry development in Missouri. The Coalition sponsored this meeting as the first in the MCOH Lecture Series.

Registration for the 2018 Missouri Oral Health Policy is scheduled to go live next week. Watch for notices. This conference includes many excellent speakers, not the least of which is Pat Finnerty.

Other Business - none.

Upcoming Meetings – [check the Events page on the Coalition website](#)

- **Policy Committee, January 19, 2018, 9 AM, conference call**
- **Conference Committee, January 22, 2018, Noon, conference call**
- **Board Meeting – March 1, 2017, ~ 6:30 PM, in conjunction with the conference**

Coalition Policy Goals

- *Improvement of MO HealthNet by implementing best practices and system improvements to increase provider participation and MO HealthNet participant usage*
- *Inclusion of a comprehensive dental benefit in MO HealthNet*
- *Protection and expansion of public water system fluoridation*
- *Expansion of access to dental sealants for children without routine dental care*
- *Inclusion of a comprehensive dental benefit in Medicare*
- *Implementation of a statewide public awareness campaign about the importance of oral health to overall health*
- *Strengthening provider networks and expansion of service delivery of dental care for high-risk, vulnerable, MO HealthNet and uninsured populations, including people with disabilities and special health care needs*
- *Incorporation of oral health in the patient-centered medical home*

