



Policy Committee Minutes

Friday, February 23, 2018, 9 AM

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 – Michael McCuniff (Chair), Nathan Suter, Shantel Smith, David Thielemier, Leslie DeGroat, Gary Harbison, Melissa Kleffner-Wansing.

Minutes (see January 26, 2018 minutes) – Approved.

Session – Yesterday Gov. Greitens was charged with invasion of privacy. Increased calls for his resignation. He has stated he will not resign, which leaves open the possibility of impeachment, which operates differently in Missouri than in Congress and is enacted by a special committee appointment by the Senate. Such processes may interfere with other legislative business.

Medicaid Adult Dental – Current word is that it is funded at current level. There is no effort to cut it. House Speaker Todd Richardson has stated he intends to fund it. No word of difficulty on the Senate side. The Gov. has suggested \$40 million cuts in Medicaid, but this has not appeared in the budget to date. It appears unlikely to happen. We may Fluoridation Legislation (see HB 2213) – Referred to Conservation and Natural Resources committee. Hearing not set. Telehealth Legislation (see HB 1617) – Referred to Senate General Laws Committee. Expected to move forward. The Coalition supports this bill.

Oral Health Caucus – No meeting scheduled as of yet.

Silver Diamine Fluoride – Dr. Suter introduced this topic and suggested the Coalition add the expanded use of silver diamine fluoride as a policy goal. Use of silver diamine fluoride is both preventive and a cost-effective way of reducing disease and increasing access to care. Dr. Suter detailed the clinical processes, including the turning of cavitation black. Its application arrests the carries and re-mineralizes. Guidance is available from the ADA. Does require re-application. Hygienist can apply. Dental assistant can apply with dentist present. Most dentists are interested in having this as an additional tool that falls between prevention and surgery. Fees are also comparatively low for silver diamine fluoride application, making its use more affordable for low income community members. Application is good alternative for anxious children and adults and for people with conditions that make more invasive procedures. The use for people with developmental disabilities was discussed, noting many advantages for people, including not having to sedate. Dr. McCuniff notes silver diamine fluoride has been used extensively in other countries for many years. Use in nursing homes was also noted. While this is an interim treatment, it does arrest carries in most cases. Dr. Suter noted that a cost analysis would show significant savings from the use of silver diamine fluoride. It was suggested that a goal be recommended to the Board – The Coalition supports expanded coverage of and access to silver diamine fluoride for all Missourians. The committee is in agreement with recommending this goal to the Board. This goal will be presented along with the goal below.

Recommendation to the Board – As a reminder to the Committee, the following recommendation will be presented to the full Board at the meeting next week at the conference, Thursday, March 1, approximately 6:30 PM.

Integration of oral health care in school-based health

2018 Oral Health Legislative Awareness Event 2018 (see Priorities) – Protection of Medicaid adult dental is the Coalition's priority. In addition, the Coalition is supporting both HB 2213 and HB 1617, as discussed above.

2018 Missouri Oral Health Policy Conference – The Conference is next week. There is still time to register and there are openings for Jane McGinley's workshop on fluoridation advocacy on Wednesday before the conference (Feb. 28)

Committee Member Updates

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

- **Policy Committee - March 23, 2018, 9 AM, conference call**
- **Board Meeting – March 1, 2018 ~ 6:45 PM, in conjunction with the [2018 MO Oral Health Policy 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*

