



Policy Committee Minutes

Friday, January 26, 2018, 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: Michael McCunniff (Chair), Gary Harbison, Dale Pfaff, Bonnie Branson, Shantel Smith, David Thielemier, Leslie DeGroat, John Dane, Melissa Kleffner-Wansing.

Minutes (see December 15, 2017 minutes) – Approved.

2019 Missouri State Budget – Gov. Greitens released budget recommendations on Monday, Jan. 22, 2018, the last day he could do so and be within the schedule for the budget process. The budget includes cuts to higher education and increases for transportation, rural internet access and foster care. It appears the pre-k through 12 education formula has been fully funded in this budget. The budget includes an undefined \$40 million cost saving in Medicaid. There was indication in the media from the State Budget Director, Dan Haug, that discussions about Medicaid cost savings and/or cuts are ongoing. Other aspects of the budget are confusing, including core reductions for HB 10 (MO Dept of Health & Senior Services) and 11 (MO Dept. of Social Services). It is hoped that clarity will be found in coming days. Medicaid dental is included in the budget. The Coalition and partners will continue to monitor for cuts and to advocate for keeping the adult dental benefit. The Coalition has communicated with chairs of the House Budget Committee, House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee about the importance of continued funding for Medicaid adult dental, including cost savings. Funding for the State Dental Director position at Dept. of Health and Senior Services will run out in Dec. of 2018. The Coalition has also pressed for state funding to keep this position filled beyond Dec. The state is searching for additional federal funding to support the position (HRSA & CDC grants). There also a new decision item (NDI) in the budget for Office of Administration for consultants to review MO Medicaid for potential efficiencies. There is around \$993,000 for this item. It is unknown who these consultants would be.

National Budget – The short-term continuation of the federal budget (3 weeks) included reauthorization for Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for 6 years. This is the longest extension since 1997. Enhanced match established under the ACA is going to continue for 2018 and 2019. CHIP became a point of debate in the budget negotiations, which has not happened in the past. CHIP has historically been a program that has enjoyed strong bi-partisan support. The short-term budget extension did not include reauthorization for community health centers (\$70 million for Missouri). This leaves centers in a difficult position and undermines stability of the service system, which provides essential access to health care, especially in rural areas of the state. Community health centers have traditionally been supported by both parties. Both Sen. Blunt and Sen. McCaskill supported the 3-week extension with the CHIP reauthorization.

Fluoridation Legislation – This week Rep. Lichtenegger committed to fast-tracking filing of legislation requiring local decision-making bodies to get information from the local health department on the impact of Public Water System fluoridation. Watch for updates.

Oral Health Caucus – Rep. Lichtenegger also committed to holding a meeting of the Oral Health Caucus, but has not scheduled a meeting as of yet. The Coalition urged her to invite Dr. Dane to present data on ER use for dental since implementation of the adult dental benefit. Because Rep. Lichtenegger is term limited, MCOH is interested in identifying a new oral health champion for future sessions.

Other Legislation (see HB 1617) – This legislation is intended to reduce barriers to telehealth. Previous legislation had created two sets of rules (Medicaid and private insurance); this legislation will create one set of rules. (Thanks to Shanda for the clarification).

Policy Maker Ratings (see Oral Health Policy Maker Ratings) – Policy Committee members are asked to complete this to the best of their knowledge. This will help with advocacy work in the MO Legislature. A reminder email will go out to committee members. Input is greatly appreciated.

Legislative Priorities for 2018 – Protection of adult dental funding is the overarching priority. Passage of the new fluoridation legislation – once filed – is also a priority. The Coalition will continue to press for increasing access to dental care through provider rate increases. Seeking state funding for the dental director position is also an important item.

Dental Director Update –

-Non-Traumatic Emergency Room Visits continue to fall in 2017

- Initial analysis of the first quarter of 2017 show that we have a 515/100,000 participant, visit drop compared to the same time period in 2016. Please note this is preliminary data based on claims, which can change up to a year later.
- Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)
 - The current HRSA SLRP will be coming to an end in June. No new Grant cycle has been announced at this time.
 - 8 individual dentists have received grants this year.
- HRSA Oral Health Workforce Grant RFP has been received, many opportunities if we can meet matching fund requirements.
- Adult Dental is still in the Governor's budget.
- CHIP Program was reauthorized but the Community Health Centers Program has not.

Committee Member Updates –

- Nat. Oral Health Conference in April 15-18, 2018, Louisville, KY, registration is open now.
- CDC community water awards in Missouri released & getting media coverage.
- MU will be hosting a legislative reception the evening of Wed., Feb. 28. The School of Dentistry may present a poster there.
- Please promote the Coalition conference, the poster session and the consumer scholarship.

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

➤ **Policy Committee - February 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*

