Gary Harbison, Executive Director

The Coalition

- Why We Exist
- Mission & Vision
- Structure
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- Policy Work
The oral health of Missouri is poor

- 24.9% of Missourians 65 years old and older have complete tooth loss (national rate is 16.1%)
- Forty-four percent of skilled nursing facility residents were assessed as having untreated decay
- Sixty-six percent of Missouri Medicaid-enrolled children received no dental care
- The Pew Charitable Trusts gives Missouri a “C” for children’s oral health and a “D” for use of dental sealants
The oral health of Missouri is poor

- A 2012 MSN Health article noted the City of St. Louis as having the worst oral health of any American city
  - Kansas City was ranked the 9th worst city
- Missouri is experiencing increasing use of emergency rooms for
  - 60,000 emergency departments visits per year for non-traumatic dental complaints
  - $17.5 million cost per year for ED non-traumatic dental complaints
- While emergency rooms can provide medication to ameliorate infection and the pain associated with untreated dental disease and conditions, emergency rooms are not equipped to provide dental care

The oral health of Missouri is poor

- About 11% of dentists licensed in Missouri participate in Medicaid
- Medicaid adult dental benefits ended in 2005 (exceptions – eligible pregnant women, persons accessing blind pension fund, and nursing home residents)
The oral health of Missouri is poor

- Oral diseases are a devastating problem among a significant percentage of Missouri’s residents, affecting their overall health and ability to work and learn
- Access to oral health care varies greatly across the state
- Poor oral health is linked to heart disease, diabetes, stroke, low birth weight, and premature birth
- Oral diseases affect individuals, families, and communities
  - Poor oral health can contribute to lowered academic achievement and lowered academic goals
  - Poor oral health can make it difficult to get a job and to keep a job

**Mission**

The mission of the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health is to improve oral health for all Missourians through sound public policy and public awareness.

**Vision**

Oral health is a high priority for all Missourians.
Governance and Funding

• The Coalition is a Private Non-profit Corporation
  – 501 (c)(3)
• Organizational and Individual Members
• Board of Directors with an Executive Committee
• Executive Director
• Bylaws
• Strategic Plan and Theory of Change
• Policy Agenda Set by Consensus
• Reorganized in 2011 to focus on oral health policy
• Funded by memberships, donations, Missouri Foundation for Health, Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, DentaQuest Foundation and REACH Healthcare Foundation
Policy Work

- **Establishment of the Oral Health Caucus in the Missouri General Assembly**
  - Established in 2013 Session
  - Representative Donna Lichtenegger, Chair
  - Senator Wayne Wallingford, Vice-Chair
  - The purpose of the MO General Assembly Oral Health Caucus is to raise government and public awareness of the oral health status of Missouri, and to recommend and work toward legislative and budget solutions to improve the oral health of Missouri citizens.
  - Topics have included the role of the dental director, work to increase local access of oral health services, local coalitions, etc.
Policy Work

- Reinstatement of Missouri Dental Director Position
  - Supported through a public-private partnership
    - Key funds from Missouri Foundation for Health, Delta Dental of Missouri and REACH Healthcare Foundation
  - Accomplished in 2013
  - Current Dental Director is John Dane, DDS
  - Supporting a variety of oral health projects – state oral health plan, support of local fluoridation, oral health burden report, etc.
  - Missouri is competitive for federal oral health funds
- Expansion of access to dental sealants for children without routine dental care
  - Project of Department of Health and Senior Services
  - Missouri no longer without a sealants program

Policy Work

- Protection and expansion of public water system fluoridation
  - Supports the oral health of all community members
  - Supporting the work of local advocates
    - Consultation
    - Connecting Local Advocates
    - Advocacy Training
  - Water Fluoridation: A Community Toolkit – on Coalition website
  - 2014 House Bill 1078 /2015 House Bill 119/2016 House Bill 1717 - “fluoridation notification”
    - Narrowly missed passage due to procedural error in 2014
    - Narrowly missed passage due to controversy that ceased nearly all legislative activity last week of 2015 session
  - Representative Lichteneegger pre-filed for 2016
    - Passed by House
    - On Senate Calendar
Policy Work

- Reinstatement of MO HealthNet dental benefits for adults
  - Included in 2015 budget and 2016 budget passed by Missouri General Assembly
  - 2015 Budget
    - Governor placed in restrictions – concerned about inadequate state revenue
    - The Coalition worked to get funds released and to secure continued support for this positive and prudent policy change
  - 2016 Budget
    - Limited package of benefits (preventive and treatment)
    - Adult dental benefits to move to implementation in April
      - State revenues exceeding expectations
      - MO HealthNet Division must get approval from CMS for a state Medicaid plan amendment
    - Funded through tax amnesty
    - Dental Professionals and Timing
  - 2017 Budget

2016 Oral Health Policy Conference

New Horizons in Oral Health

March 10 – 11, 2016
Capitol Plaza Hotel
Jefferson City, Missouri
Join the Coalition!

Join the diverse membership of the Coalition to make a positive difference for the future of Missouri.Join advocates throughout the state in improving the oral health of all Missourians. Membership runs January through December Annually

Membership Benefits:
• Join your voice with others to have a positive impact on oral health policy
• Connect to a statewide network of Coalition members and advocates concerned about the oral health of Missouri
• Receive notifications on important issues, media coverage and legislation impacting the oral health of Missourians
• Participate in opportunities to serve on issue committees
• Receive invitations to meetings and events
• Participate in opportunities to impact legislation and policy
• The Coalition Blast!

The Missouri Coalition for Oral Health is funded in part by DentaQuest Foundation, Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, Missouri Foundation for Health and REACH Healthcare Foundation, and by your memberships and donations.