

Coalitions and Collaboration in Oral Health Care for the Aging

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Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging



- ☐ COHA was formed in 2006 by a group of persons representing the Michigan Oral Health Coalition, the Michigan Dental Association, Delta Dental, the University Of Michigan School Of Dentistry, and the Michigan Department of Community Health.
- ☐ Currently, in addition to these groups, COHA is comprised of representatives from the Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association, the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, the Veterans Administration Medical Centers, community public health dental providers, private practitioners, interested lay persons, and organizations that serve the aging and persons with developmental disabilities, among others.

Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging

The Mission of COHA is:

To improve the oral health of older people through advocacy, professional education, public education, and research by focusing on prevention, health promotion, and evidence-based practices.



Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging



The GOALS for COHA are:

- ☐ **To be a resource for providers of care for the aging and special needs populations**
- ☐ **To promote the implementation of policies that support evidence-based strategies that provide optimal oral health for the aging**
- ☐ **To develop collaborative partnerships to address the oral health needs of the aging and special needs populations**

Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging

Structure

- ☐ 501c3 organization
- ☐ Executive Board
 - ☐ Development
 - ☐ Communication
- ☐ Workgroups



Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging

COHA workgroups are established to accomplish projects and tasks.

- ☐ **Education Workgroup**
- ☐ **Providers and Practice Models Workgroup**
- ☐ **Aging Issues Workgroup**
- ☐ **Research Workgroup**



Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging

- ☐ **Education Workgroup**
 - ☐ **Collaboration with the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan (MSU)**
 - ☐ **Oral Health for the Elderly video project**
 - ☐ **Sponsored Lectures**
 - ☐ **Brochure Development**
 - ☐ **Oral Care & Dementia**
 - ☐ **Oral Health & the Aging**



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- ☐ **Providers and Practice Models Workgroup**
 - ☐ **Survey of Dentists and Dental Hygienists in the State of Michigan**
 - ☐ **Referral List Development**
 - ☐ **Models of Care**
 - ☐ **COHA Care: PA161**
 - ☐ **Mobile Dentistry**



Michigan Public Act 161



- ☐ Public Act 161 of 2005 builds on PA 58 of 1991 by removing the funding mandate that all funding must come from Medicaid or a Medicaid-like source.
- ☐ A “dental hygienist may perform dental hygiene services under the supervision of a dentist as part of a program for dentally underserved populations in this state conducted by a local, state, or federal grantee health agency for patients who are not “assigned by a dentist”.”
- ☐ The patient provided services by a PA161 hygienist cannot be a “patient of record” of a dentist.

Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging

- ☐ **Aging Issues Workgroup**
 - ☐ **Collaborations with non-dental organizations**
 - ☐ **Area Agency on Aging 1B Meals on Wheels oral health training and supply dissemination**
 - ☐ **Dental Cleaning Day**
 - ☐ **Community Alliance**
 - ☐ **Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan**



Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging

- ☐ **Research Workgroup**
 - ☐ **Beaumont Hospital/Delta Dental collaborative intervention clinical research trial: lollipops with ingredient to reduce oral bacteria causing dental decay**
 - ☐ **Senior Smiles Survey: Michigan Department of Community Health oral health assessment of the aging living in assisted living facilities**



Future Directions

- ☐ Need for state Coalitions for Oral Health for the Aging
- ☐ Need for collaborations with aging organizations outside of dentistry
- ☐ Need a national clearinghouse for educational resources
- ☐ Need for national webinars
- ☐ Need dedicated funding to enhance the oral health for the aging.

