

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SPECIAL COMMISSION ON ORAL HEALTH MEETING
PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday, January 6, 2025
Via Microsoft Teams
11:30 PM
General (Open Session) Meeting Minutes

Commission Members

Present: 7

1. Chair: Lisa LaSpina
2. Myron Allukian Jr. 11:41 AM
3. Meredith Baily
4. John Fisher
5. Manwai Ng
6. Jennifer Magee
7. Lisa Wrightington

Commission Members

Not Present: 2

1. Grace Christianson
2. Merelyn Hong

Staff Present:

1. Angela Verheyen

I. Welcome

II. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum

Time and call to order (11:31 Lisa LaSpina)

#Present: 6

1. Chair: Lisa LaSpina
2. Meredith Baily
3. John Fisher
4. Manwai Ng
5. Jennifer Magee
6. Lisa Wrightington

Absent: 3

1. Myron Allukian Jr.
2. Grace Christianson
3. Merelyn Hong

Recused: 0
Abstained:0

III. Approval of Agenda

DISCUSSION

Review the posted agenda; no changes

ACTION

Motion by Lisa LaSpina to approve the agenda, seconded by?, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote as follows:

#Approve: 7

1. Chair: Lisa LaSpina
2. Myron Allukian Jr.
3. Meredith Baily
4. John Fisher
5. Manwai Ng
6. Jennifer Magee
7. Lisa Wrightington

Absent: 2

1. Grace Christianson
2. Merelyn Hong

#Recused: 0
#Abstained: 0

DISCUSSION

- Reviewed Prevention PowerPoint slide shared by Angela Verheyen to help guide the conversation
- Topics of discussion to narrow prevention among the general population into four areas
 - Fluoride
 - Racial Equity and Social Justice
 - Vulnerable Populations
 - Oral Health Literacy
- Suggested topics and subtopics to review and why it should be in the oral health needs assessment
 - Fluorides
 - HPSA communities and how many designated shortage areas there are
 - Dentist populations in HPSA-designated regions of the state
 - What percentage of the population has these preventive measures, preventive programs, and treatments
 - Which communities have sealant programs and fluoride programs

- Medicaid billing by population and how many kids are getting fluoride varnish by the community in fluoridated vs non-fluoridated
- Medicaid data to see where the money is spent for dental care and rate of disease broken down by zip code and fluoridated vs non-fluoridated
- How many dentists are signed up with MassHealth, how many dentists see MassHealth patients and provide over 10,000 worth of services
- The number of communities questioning fluoridation, experiencing fluoride challenges, and any initiatives to stop fluoridation in Massachusetts
- Concerns around fluoride toothpaste and water fluoridation
- Health literacy around fluoride toothpaste and water
- Topical vs systemic fluoride literacy
- Pediatricians who apply fluoride and non-pediatricians using Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes
- The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recommends Silver Diamine fluoride (SDF) in a medical setting
- PHDH, where they treat patients, and the treatments they provide. How many kids, schools, and fluoride varnish
- Dental school prevention programs and the number of children receiving fluoride varnish and sealants
- All programs that provide oral health treatments to children
- Request information on the number of mouthguards programs
- Data on Individuals developmentally disabled (IDD)
- Racial Equity and Social Justice
 - Differences in OH status and access to care based on race, income, and education
 - Look at statewide studies and compare them nationally or other state studies (2009 report) and review the MA Oral Health Series for additional information
 - Compare caries rate on data from fluoridated community's vs non-fluoridated communities. Data for pre- and post-fluoridation statewide and compared studies from 1968 and 2000.
- Vulnerable Populations of Focus
 - Over the years, Children's Hospital has taken more kids to the operating room to treat them under general anesthesia. They have seen an increase in caries rate over the years, possibly due to:
 - Diet and sugary foods and drinks
 - Drinking less tap water
 - Less brushing
 - Break the data they have by fluoridated and non-fluoridated
 - There is data on toothpaste preference Children's Hospital collects
 - Look at data on toothpaste sales in MA (toothpaste companies/drug stores). Are fluoridated toothpaste sales going down?
 - MA has maternal and child oral health data to use
 - SNAP benefits do not allow the purchase of toothpaste, toothbrushes, or fluoride rinses. Medicaid allows fluoride supplement prescriptions

- The percentage of older adults who are edentulous over 65 looking at 20 years ago vs today. Compare it to national data. 2009 status of oral disease document has a report with this data
 - Data on individuals with substance use disorders
 - Legislative data
- Oral Health Literacy
 - Licensure information on the number of languages spoken and compare it with the general population of languages spoken across the Commonwealth
 - Diet counseling and Nutritional Counseling
 - Reaching people where they are at
 - Language barriers
 - Racial equity access

V. Adjourn

DISCUSSION

None.

ACTION

Motion by Lisa LaSpina to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Myron Allukian Jr, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows:

#Approve: 7

1. Chair: Lisa LaSpina
2. Myron Allukian Jr
3. Meredith Bailey
4. John Fisher
5. Manwai Ng
6. Jennifer Magee
7. Lisa Wrightington

Absent: 2

1. Grace Christianson
2. Merelyn Hong

Recused: 0

Abstained: 0

Let the record show the meeting adjourned at 1 PM.