Florida Oral Health Alliance Virtual Meeting Notes  
Friday, March 29, 2019  
10 AM – 11:30 PM

Go-to-Meeting Link: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/308971077  
You can also dial in using your phone: +1 (571) 317-3122  
Access Code: 308-971-077

Florida Oral Health Alliance Result: All Florida children, youth and families have good oral health and well-being, especially those that are vulnerable.

Meeting Results:  
By the end of the meeting participants will have:

- A greater understanding of the landscape and political environment facing the state of Florida – currently in Legislative Session - following tightly contested Senate and gubernatorial midterm elections in November.
- Received an update on the Consumer Engagement work being done by FIHI and the Alliance partners with plans on how this information will be presented.
- Discussed how to best update the Oral Health Alliance Strategic Plan to reflect current statewide needs and support for OPEN Network priorities.

Meeting Agenda

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<td>Welcome Back!/Introductions</td>
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<td>10:10 – 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Emerging Issues in Oral Health</td>
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<td>• Midterm Elections, Florida’s New Elected Officials, and Current Legislative Session; Scott Darius, Executive Director, Florida Voices for Health</td>
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<td>10:30-11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Consumer Engagement Report: Purpose, Progress, and Plans for Publishing</td>
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<td>• Katelyn McGlynn, Project Coordinator, FIHI</td>
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<td>11:00-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Oral Health Alliance Strategic Plan</td>
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<td>• Review 2017 document and offer recommendations to update</td>
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<td>11:15-11:25 a.m.</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>• Strategic Plan Areas of Focus</td>
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<td>• Alliance member initiatives for 2019</td>
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<td>• What we can do to support?</td>
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<td>11:25 a.m.-11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Closing and Review of Upcoming Meetings/Learning Opportunities</td>
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### Emerging Issues in Oral Health

1. **Midterm Elections, Florida’s New Elected Officials, and Current Legislative Session – Scott Darius, Florida Voices for Health (FVH)**
   - FVH is a statewide coalition that is dedicated to increasing access to healthcare and improving health equity for all Floridians. They look at perception of the consumer and always work in partnership with other statewide organizations. They do policy updates and strategy messaging monthly, send out policy updates, etc.
• Some issues they look at mainly focus on Medicaid, [Strengthening Medicaid and pushing back against some cuts we see in the legislature, proactively pushing for Medicaid expansion, and oral health]

The State of Florida
• Branches: executive, legislative, judicial
  • Executive Branch: Governor & Cabinet [after Nov 2018 elections]
    o (R) Governor: Ron Desantis
  • Judicial Branch: Florida Supreme Court
    o After Nov 2018 elections, Desantis appointed 3 new judges after retirements

Florida Legislature
• Composed of 160 State Legislators (120 House, 40 Senate)
  • House: 73 Republican seats, 47 Democratic seats
  • Senate: 23 Republican seats, 17 Democratci seats

2019 Session Dates
• Important because it will push up committee weeks – this year’s session started in March, and weeks will now start in September sometime ... so if you are working on certain issues that don’t make it through, its important to note that they will start earlier this year
  • April 23, 2019 – last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings
  • May 3, 2019 – last day of Regular session

Leadership Priorities
• Gov. Ron Desantis priorities: on the healthcare side of news, some leaders have not been willing to have the healthcare access conversation but have been looking at the cost of health care delivery instead
  o Really focused on cost of prescription drugs and pushing Canadian importation bill (ability to import drugs from Canada)
• House Speaker Oliva wants to deregulate health care (certificate of need) and other changes on the provider side of health care
  o Certificate of Need – hospitals and health systems would have to justify the need to build new facilities in certain areas and that’s a regulation they’ve been looking to get rid of for some time
• Senate President Galvano has advocated for the use of Medicaid block grants
• Rep. Oliva and Gov. Ron Desantis have long opposed expanding Medicaid eligibility

FVH Legislative Session Issue Priorities
• Strengthening Medicaid
• Prescription drug pricing and transparency
• Oral health
Medicaid: Threats and Opportunity

- Generally, there is always the budget fight
  - Legislature has cut funding each of the last 3 sessions by a couple of thousand each time
  - Florida Policy Institute put together a fiscal analysis of what expansion would have done to our state budget—really want to look at economic indicators, look at what the state would have saved with Medicaid expansion
    - With expansion, Florida would have saved $501,950,000 in 2018 alone

- Retroactive Eligibility: CMS approved a reduction of the retroactive eligibility as it stood-initially, pregnant women, children, seniors and adults with disabilities were eligible for 90 days of retroactive coverage. After change last year, it became just pregnant women and children who were eligible for those 90 days.
  - Seniors and adults with disabilities would only have coverage going back to the first day of the month in which they applied
  - Change was made last year but it was only approved for 1 year
  - Got federal approval on Feb 1
  - SB192 would make this change permanent

- Work Requirements:
  - Medicaid work requirements and premiums legislation was introduced during the 2018/17 session, but stalled late
  - House bill moving fairly quickly – news this week, federal judge struck down federal approval of Arkansas and Kentucky work requirements, which is a ruling we expect but we do expect the outcome of those decisions to impact what happens in other states
  - Senate has not had an appetite to pick up work requirements this year
  - HB955/SB1634 would impose work requirements on Florida Medicaid. Reports that 18,000 people lost their coverage under work rules in Arkansas

- School-based Services:
  - SB290 would change Florida law to allow schools to be reimbursed for health services provided to Medicaid-enrolled children, regardless of Individual Educational Plan status
  - This is a ‘housekeeping’ bill to align the state law with current federal policy (and state policy as per the SPA)
  - Orlando model -- has a school that has a Community Health Center built into the school grounds and it speaks to the potential of schools to be a great hub for harder to reach communities

Medicaid Expansion in FL

- There are now about 400,000 people who are squarely in the coverage gap but 1.3 million people eligible if we expanded Medicaid
- Coverage Gap – people who earn ‘too much’ to quality for Medicaid but are still living below the poverty line (ineligible for ACA Marketplace tax credits)
• In first 2 years there was momentum in the Senate – Bean and Negron had conservative plans they put forward
• In 2014, the issue was heard at all but in 2015 it got to a special session (and lost)

Medicaid Expansion in 2019 (currently in Legislature)
• Senators Annette Taddeo (D-Miami) and Lori Berman (D-Lantana) filed a resolution calling for Medicaid expansion
• Passage of SJR 234 in the legislature would put Medicaid expansion on the ballot for FL voters in 2020
• A Joint Resolution must pass the Legislature with 3/5 majority vote (in each Chamber) but hasn’t been discussed in either chamber yet
• Currently two additional Medicaid expansion bills in the legislature

How You Can Help
• Discuss ways to sign up for Medicaid expansion or look at petition language
• Commit to collecting 20 petitions by April 2019

Prescription Drug Pricing & Transparency
• Prescription drugs are the fastest growing category of health care spending
• According to Kaiser, Florida is ranked 4th highest in the amount spent on prescription drugs in 2018
  o What’s interesting is how much FL spends OOP, we rank 2nd total in the amount paid with cash and 7th in the total amount spent by Medicaid
• 2 proposals:
  o Prescription Drug Importation [Gov’s priority]
  o One proposal that scared us as consumer advocates, it would allow private entities to import from selected vendors but the model we’re most behind as an organization is one where the state holds on to as much control of the process as possible
    ▪ One where the drugs imported are pharmacists/wholesalers who are connected with the State
• Second proposal is Consumer Protection from Nonmedical Changes to Prescription Drug Formularies
  o FVH is behind this bill
  o This would prevent insurers from moving drugs to more restricted tiers during the policy year and from removing a covered prescription drug from its list of covered drugs during the policy year
  o Current legislation excludes Medicaid managed care plans but FVH is on the board as a consumer representative

Other Health Care Priorities
• Certificate of Need (HB 21/ SB 1712)
• Step Therapy (HB 559)
Would remove some steps for people who have a prescription drug they are using and if they get switched to a different plan, they don’t need all new authorizations to get back to that same drug

- **Short-term Health Plans (HB 997 / SB 1422)**
  - Hesitation about extending these – as a role as a consumer advocate, Floridians have had nightmare-ish experiences with these so FVH does not support or advocate the use of these

- **Dental Therapy**
  - Got pulled back during a senate hearing a few weeks ago but anticipate it will be back out there in the future

**Q&A**

Prescription Drug Proposal: Gov Desantis is behind this, but from the Canadian point of view – is that something that should be factored in or considered? Are they supportive of this?

- Part of the complication – it’s a relatively new proposal, and it may throw some Canadian markets out of balance so there is some criticism on their side, but it hasn’t been around long enough for them to have definitive answers
- On the other side – the reasoning for why you would push ahead, the list of drugs that FL is looking to import, limits the prescription drugs that would come in so taking that approach helps to mitigate some of that concern, and Canada already has a drug shortage too so there is some tension there

**2. Oral Health Consumer Engagement Research Report**

- Multi-year research study that the Institute has been involved with.
- Florida has had disparities in access to oral health care, especially within vulnerable populations and among children.
- The Institute piloted the Oral health Consumer Engagement Initiative in 2014.
  - Designed survey and conducted a small handful of focus groups in Dade and Broward County
- While parents of Medicaid eligible children were aware of dental health needs, they had trouble accessing these services.
  - Limited number of Medicaid providers, lack of clarity, lack of flexibility tied to work schedules, and poor experiences at the dentist’s office
  - Examples: papoose usage, not allowing parents in back room.
- In 2016, the Institute designed a statewide Oral Health Consumer Engagement Research study.
- Goals:
  - New insight and statistics on perceptions and barriers through qualitative and quantitative data and to provide AHCA and other state agencies with info regarding relevant and useful strategies for program planning and policy developments.
• Targeted top 10 counties with highest number of Medicaid eligible children.
• We realized how much our work aligned with our partners, so we opted to go with a joint release.
  o FIHI, Catalyst Miami, Florida Voices for Health, Tampa Bay Healthcare Collaborative, and Oral Health Florida.
• Currently, we are on our first stage of revisions to ensure alignment and hope to have it completed by late spring and release for publication by early summer.

Question: Anything illuminating to share with the audience regarding our research?
• FIHI hosted a focus group in partnership with Catalyst Miami that was conducted in Creole and translated.
• Half of the Haitian population found the dentist utilized a papoose against the will of the parent and child.
  o A notable cultural barrier and example of how different populations are treated differently.

3. Oral Health Alliance Strategic Plan
• FOHA Result
  o All Florida children, youth and families have good oral health and well-being, especially those that are vulnerable

Executive Summary
• Oral health education
• Barriers to dental care
• Increased funding for oral health
• Improved data collection

DISCUSSION
How should we approach our strategic plan revisions?

Sabine Dulcio– Children’s Trust
• Alliance members planning in 2019 to address barriers
  o Children’s Trust did fund three providers to improve oral health care access in Florida -- fund screening, varnish application, sealant application, and referral to a dental home, funded agencies are Community Health SF, Jessie Trice, and Florida Department of Health

Douglas Manning, DentaQuest
• Emergency Department utilization is being addressed
  o Two parts: Medicaid-eligible individuals and those who don’t have insurance. At least with dental carve out, there is a lot of language in there that mandates we decrease this utilization via outreach, education, etc.
• Developed out in Colorado, have oral health education in black churches, looking for partners in community organizations to educate the public
• Many things that will be rolled out in the coming year
• One area to look at as a group is to look at Special Needs population
  o how are they to be treated, how do we get them anesthesia/sedation?
  Something should be done on how we deliver this, to allow more general dentists to deliver these services
  o Include this in the strategic plan

Allison Rapp, Health Council of West Central Florida
• Strongly advise to connect with the Special Olympics- can facilitate those connections, as they do a lot of work with oral health
• Several areas we tried to work on for people with intellectual disabilities, and oral health is definitely one of the more difficult ones

Alexandra Abboud, Florida Dental Association
• On the topic of special needs, there is a donated dental services program, it is coordinated by the Dental Lifeline Network
  o The program has been around since 1970s, over 400 offices that donate services to special needs population, children, elderly, etc.
• Looking for funding moving forward – currently only have one part-time coordinator (social work background) would like two

Douglass Manning, DentaQuest
• If group does agree that special needs is something that should be added to our plan, we should consider adding experts from this field
• Florida Developmental Disabilities Council
• Azam asked Allison for her contacts once more

Learning Opportunities
• 4th Annual Oral Health Equity Summit – today! March 29, 2019 3:30-6:30PM
• OPEN Network-wide Federal Policy Updates Call
  o Next meeting, April 10th, 1:00PM EST
• DentaQuest Partnership Online Learning Center
• 2019 OPEN Meetings
  o Mid-year meeting of the South/Southeast and Northesat/Mid-Atlantic regions – June 4-7, 2019. Location TBD

The next upcoming meeting is currently scheduled for Friday, May 10 beginning at 10:00 EST.
In the future, we would like to keep these meetings between 1-1.5 hours, as requested from members in past years.