

Ohio Department of Health

246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.odh.ohio.gov

Ted Strickland, Governor
Alvin D. Jackson, M.D., Director



N E W S

Office of Public Affairs
Robert Jennings, Director

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ODH CONVENES MEETINGS TO DISCUSS ORAL HEALTH

Director's Task Force invites public, dental care providers to attend

COLUMBUS - In an effort to better ensure access to oral health care and prevention services, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is conducting several regional meetings to get input from consumers, providers and other stakeholders.

The meetings began Feb. 24 in Lisbon; additional meetings are scheduled through mid-March at various regions in the state. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings and share insight and suggestions which will be reported back to the Director of Health's Task Force on Oral Health and Access to Dental Care. The task force will meet monthly from April through July to develop recommendations for the public and private sectors.

"Access to dental care remains the No. 1 unmet health care need in Ohio," said ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D. "I've convened these meetings to find out what barriers to quality dental care there may be for all Ohioans."

During each meeting, there will be two sessions: The first session, starting at 9:30 a.m., will concentrate on the needs of patients and dental health consumers. The second session, starting at 1:30 p.m., will focus on the needs and challenges of those providing dental care.

The dates and locations for the upcoming meetings are:

March 3 in central Ohio

Columbus Public Health, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215. Tel. 614-645-6519.

March 5 in southeast Ohio

Nelsonville Public Library, 95 West Washington, Nelsonville, OH 45764. Tel. 740-753-2118.

March 10 in northwest Ohio

Wood County Health Department, 1840 East Gypsy Lane Road, Bowling Green, OH 43402.
Tel. 419-352-8402.

March 16 in southwest Ohio

Southwest Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, 3805 Edwards Road, Suite 500, Cincinnati, OH 45209. Tel. 513-458-6600.

March 18 in Cleveland

Visiting Nurses Association, 2500 East 22 Street, Cleveland, OH 44115. Tel. 1-800-442-1VNA.

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ODH Dental Meetings

Pre-registration is not required, but will help meeting organizers know the approximate number of those planning to attend. Those wishing to pre-register can do so online at:

<https://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Register/IdentityConfirmation.aspx?e=6dbf4690-50b0-4995-831c-c550697fe53a>.

Additional information is available online at the Director's Task Force Web page

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/ohs/oral/oralfeatures/Taskforce.aspx> or contact Chris Kloth from ChangeWorks of the Heartland at chris@got2change.com or 614-239-1336.

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Contact: Ohio Department of Health, Office of Public Affairs, 614-644-8562.