

**The 2014 Ohio Director of Health's Task Force on
Oral Health and Access to Dental Care
Meeting Summary
August 19, 2014**

Introduction

The ODH DTF met for the fourth time on August 19, 2014 at the State Library of Ohio. The agenda included:

- Overview
 - Review principles of dialogue
 - Review DTF core values & principles
 - Review past work
 - Review agenda for the day
- Cultural Competence & the national Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards in Health and Health Care
- Discuss draft Medicaid objectives and strategies from Meeting 3 with emphasis on
 - Format
 - Mechanism for giving feedback
- Overview of dental care team and proposed models for expansion
- Draft objectives and strategies related to dental care team
- Share current activities related to recruiting a more diverse workforce and community-based training
- Draft objectives and strategies related to diverse workforce and community-based training
- Next steps

Overview

ChangeWorks of the Heartland (CW) facilitator Chris Kloth provided a review of the principles of dialogue that were discussed with the group at the first two meetings and the core values and principles approved by the group at Meeting 3. He made reference to a worksheet that would be used at this and future meetings to maintain topic focus and manage time. Kloth also highlighted the work of the DTF Agenda Planning Workgroup that met to help structure the Meeting 4 agenda and process. Last, he provided an overview of the agenda for the day.

Cultural Competence & CLAS Standards

Cultural competence was identified as a strategy in the 2009 DTF strategic plan. The 2014 DTF adopted the position that diversity, inclusion and cultural competence ought to be incorporated as a core value to be considered in each objective within the plan. However, the

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DTF members have heard this terminology in many different ways, depending on the extent and way in which the issues have been addressed in the context of their own work. A handout was distributed at the last meeting that provided background information on cultural competence related to health care in general and oral health in particular.

Several useful definitions and the CLAS standards were included in the handout and were relatively familiar to DTF participants. It was noted that the CLAS Standards are incorporated into many federal policies and funding decisions, so they represent practices to be followed throughout the U.S.

DTF participants reconfirmed their commitment to this core value. Some pointed out that cultural competency is both a best practice in providing quality care and good business. Others pointed out that the demographic and geographic diversity of Ohioans, including the most vulnerable, challenges us to maintain focus on this core value as objectives and strategies are implemented.

Chris also referred to the growing use of the term "implicit bias" that is rooted relatively recently in neuroscience research conducted and published by Harvard University. The Kirwan Institute at The Ohio State University is very involved in building on and sharing this research. Both institutions have included health care as a focus in their work. One of the free tools available at the Harvard website is a self-administered personal reflection based on the neuroscience. Kloth agreed to provide links to both resources:

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/> and
<http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/>

Medicaid Objectives and Strategies - Providing Feedback

As promised at the last meeting, ODH staff drafted objectives and strategies focused on improving Medicaid. These were presented in a prescribed format that might serve as a template for other topic areas in the new strategic plan. The draft was reviewed briefly by the DTF Agenda Planning Workgroup that met before Meeting #4 and was refined to better reflect the group input.

Feedback from DTF members about previous meetings strongly indicated a desire to stay focused on specific topics from the bucket lists. Therefore no time for reviewing each objective

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and strategy related to Medicaid was allocated to this meeting's agenda. However, all DTF members were asked to:

1. Review the Medicaid objectives and strategies as soon as possible and provide feedback by e-mail to Chris Kloth at chris.kloth@got2change.com. In particular, members were asked to focus on:
 - a. the extent to which they agreed or didn't agree that each objective and strategy should be in the plan;
 - b. specific suggestions/changes to make in the language used, metrics chosen, partners listed, etc.; and
 - c. whether the format of the draft document is acceptable.

The Dental Care Team

This segment began with a presentation by ODH Preventive Oral Health Services Coordinator, Theresa Bonn, on the various roles of the members of the dental team as they currently exist. This was followed by three presentations by DTF members on models for expanding the dental care team for the purpose of informing members about each approach rather than selecting a particular approach as the model to be implemented in Ohio. Dr. Paul Casamassimo presented information on the American Dental Association's Community Dental Health Coordinator; Beth Tronolone presented on the American Dental Hygienists' Association's Advanced Dental Therapist Practitioner; and Dr. Larry Hill presented on the Dental Therapist.

The group decided that the complexity of the issues surrounding the dental care team and potential expansion of roles was beyond the scope of the DTF and recommended that a task force be convened after the DTF has finished its work to focus on dental workforce issues in greater depth. It was suggested that this group be comprised of credible experts capable of examining workforce issues and related data in a comprehensive and thorough manner. It was noted that the task force should be free to develop unique approaches to improving access to care in Ohio through workforce initiatives rather than be limited to one or more of the existing models.

Dental Pipeline and Workforce Diversity

The group heard three presentations on community-based training and workforce pipeline projects being conducted in Ohio. DTF members Dr. Patrick Lloyd focused on the OHIO Project conducted by The Ohio State University College of Dentistry; Carrie Farquhar provided an overview of the Lutheran Medical Center Dental Residency Program with telephone support of

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Theresa Wukusick; and Dr. Frank Beck focused on the Humility of Mary Health Partners' planned pipeline project. At the core of each approach is trying to identify, recruit and enroll students from high need communities and to provide community placements that inspire students to return to their communities to practice. Incentives for doing so were also discussed.

DTF members also indicated support for the following workforce-related strategies:

1. Assuring that members of the dental care team are working at the top of their licenses ;
2. Continuing to support loan repayment programs for dentists and dental hygienists, while also assessing the impact of these programs ; and
3. Continuing support for the Dental OPTIONS program, while assessing its impact.

Next Steps

1. Chris and ODH staff will prepare a summary of Meeting #4 and send to DTF members;
2. DTF members will send feedback on the draft Medicaid objectives and strategies as soon as possible;
3. ODH staff will draft objectives and strategies related to workforce in the proposed format and send these out for review prior to the next DTF meeting;
4. ODH Staff will invite members to provide feedback on potential meeting dates in October;
5. Chris and ODH staff will prepare an agenda for Meeting #5, focusing on the next two buckets, the Dental Care Delivery System and Oral Health is Part of Overall Health; and
6. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at the Mid-Ohio Food Bank.