

**The Ohio Director of Health's 2014 Task Force on  
Oral Health and Access to Dental Care  
Meeting Summary  
July 17, 2014**

## **Introduction**

The DTF met for the third time on July 17, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the State Library of Ohio. The agenda included:

- Overview
  - Review work to date
  - Agenda of day
  - Review DTF Bucket List Survey Monkey Results
  - Agenda for the future
- Review and Endorse DTF Core Values & Principles
- Cultural Competence
- Presentations on alternative Medicaid models in other states
- Dialogue on DTF Medicaid Issues
  - Alternative Medicaid models
  - Adult Dental Coverage
  - Reimbursement Rates
  - Credentialing
  - Simplification
  - Medicaid/Medicare
- Next Steps

## **Overview**

ChangeWorks of the Heartland (CW) Facilitator Chris Kloth provided an overview of the work to date, with an emphasis on the priorities topics identified by DTF during the two previous full DTF meetings and a DTF Agenda Planning Work Group. He also provided a summary of the DTF "Bucket List" Survey Monkey, indicating how the DTF members refined the ranking of the priorities and how that ranking would be reflected in the agendas of future meetings.

## **Core Values & Principles**

Kloth then summarized a set of Core Values & Principles proposed by the DTF Planning Work Group to guide the DTF deliberations. The group engaged in a dialogue to clarify, revise and approve the proposed values and principles as follows:

1. Focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable
2. Oral health as a part of overall health is foundational
3. Focus on issues where we can make a difference
4. Include credible metrics for every recommendation
5. Changing demographics and cultural competence affect every recommendation
6. Strategies should be evidence-based
7. The potential for shared responsibility to make progress matters

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In addition to clarifying the evidence-based strategies principle, the group also explored the broad meaning of "most vulnerable." After naming particular groups and attributes the group concluded that different groups will be more or less affected by particular goals or strategies. During future deliberations the group will pay particular attention to how special populations will be affected.

Materials and expertise were available to further explore the notion that cultural competence ought to be considered as an element in evaluating all goals and strategies. A number of challenges during the meeting prevented addressing the topic. It will be addressed at the next meeting.

The practical use of the values will be to

- Plan DTF meeting agendas;
- Identify needed data and expertise;
- Frame the dialogue at each meeting; and
- Evaluate goals & strategies to be adopted.

#### **4. Alternative Medicaid Strategies (highlights)**

DTF members heard two presentations related to alternative Medicaid strategies in other states. Delta Dental's strategy in most of Michigan's counties (the largest counties are not on board yet, by design) was explained by Rick Lantz, Manager of Government Relations, Delta Dental of Michigan. Martha Dellapena, Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Oral Health Program Quality, Policy and Financing, Medicaid/CHIP State Dental Association, presented an overview of strategies that have been used in other states to improve Medicaid, particularly in Connecticut, Texas, Maryland, Iowa and Oklahoma and the work of the Dental Quality Alliance in developing metrics related to Medicaid performance.

Don Sabol, Ohio Department of Medicaid, provided an overview of the history and current state of Medicaid dental coverage in Ohio.

Monica Juenger, Office of Health Transformation, provided insights on how the Office approaches their work, with an emphasis on compelling problem statements, data that supports the problem and solutions aligned with other social/political priorities.

#### **Medicaid Goals and Strategies for Ohio**

The DTF engaged in a far reaching dialogue on the following topics related to Medicaid:

- Adult dental
- Medicaid reimbursement rates
- Credentialing
- Simplification

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- Critical access providers
- Special populations
- Mobile units

While the group did not come to consensus on specific goals by the end of the session, there were a number of goals and strategies identified during the dialogue, some of which seemed to have general support of the group. Chris Kloth indicated he would use the chart pad documents to identify potential Medicaid goals and strategies reflected in the dialogue and provide these to DTF members for feedback.

**Next Steps/DTF Task & Process Concerns**

Several DTF members expressed concerns that the meeting had not produced the kind of results they hoped for. Some concerns related to which topics were (or were not) addressed. Others were concerned about the lack of specific strategies. Chris indicated he would work with staff to address the concerns. He indicated that transparency, results and, most of all, making sure the valuable time of DTF members is well used are priorities.

A group of members volunteered to meet before the next DTF meeting to discuss the agenda for that meeting.