



Oral Health for All



*Advocating for....
Access....
Quality....
Equity....
in Oral Health Care*



(860) 246-2644

www.ctoralhealth.org

Annual Report 2017

Mission

Through advocacy, coalition building and education, the Connecticut Oral Health Initiative works to create a public conscience that results in oral health for all.

COHI enhances this mission by:

- a. Leading and collaborating in statewide oral health advocacy efforts;
- a. Promoting the necessity of oral health to overall health;
- b. Serving as an expert resource on oral health policy; and,
- c. Publicizing oral health policy analysis and recommendations.

Dear Friends and Supporters of COHI,

Throughout 2017 COHI worked tirelessly to achieve “Oral Health for All.” We believe that oral health is a basic right for all Connecticut residents across the lifespan. COHI was active in policy, advocacy and training arenas to ensure that oral health, as critical to general health, remains integral to all health-related planning and implementation efforts.

During the legislative session, we supported maintaining Medicaid eligibility and reimbursement rates; requiring cultural competency training for dental hygienists; and increasing oral health knowledge for community health workers. COHI supported bills that would decrease the use of tobacco and tobacco-like products, and the consumption of sugar-added beverages. COHI participated in the implementation of the State Health Improvement Plan and State Innovative Model. In addition, we have conducted advocacy trainings, collaborated on two oral health summits, and held another successful COHI Golf Classic.

We thank you for your continued support of COHI, and look forward to the year ahead and a shared commitment “to create a public conscience that

About COHI

As a statewide advocacy organization, the Connecticut Oral Health Initiative (COHI) has earned its reputation by identifying and acting upon critical decision points that impact oral health policy. We seek broad system change that addresses the inequities in the state’s oral health care policy, access to care, and the service delivery model.

Since 2001, we have helped legislators and the public understand the implications of oral health issues. The dramatic impact of oral health on primary health status becomes clearer every day. The need for good oral health care becomes an imperative we must all promote.

Our support comes from foundations, corporations, organizations and individuals. We are grateful for the grants from the Connecticut Health Foundation and the James and Ella Burr McManus Fund of the Hartford Dental

Board of Directors

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Dentist

Retired Oral Surgeon

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Connecticut Oral Health Initiative, Inc..

Primary Advocacy Goals for 2017

Goal 1: Maintain comprehensive dental coverage and current eligibility under Medicaid for adults and children in Connecticut to maintain access to dental care for the state's low-income children and adults.

- No additional cuts to Children's Dental Medicaid program in the 2017 Legislative Session;
- Eligibility for HUSKY A parents was reduced to 135%FPL, with legislators committing to roll back the cuts in 2018;
- An annual \$1000 cap on Medicaid adult dental benefits was passed but amended to offer the ability to provide services beyond the cap with prior authorization.
- The State Budget contains cuts to the Medicare Savings Plan which would impact the ability for covered persons to pay for dental care.
 - ◊ COHI joined others asking for a repeal:
 - ◆ The implementation was delayed from January 1 to March 1, 2018;
 - ◆ the legislature stated they will call a Special Session to address the harmful cuts for the beginning of January 2018;

Goal 2: Promote integration of oral health into health systems to increase access to preventive care and referral to a dental home.

- Discussions held to integrate oral health measures into the Core Set of SIM. There are a number of roadblocks in SIM for changes to any quality measures;
- Oral health was included as a component of Community Health Worker (CHW) curriculum being developed by DPH:
 - ◊ COHI became a member of the CHW Oral Health Advisory Committee;
 - ◊ DPH contracted COHI to develop a training module for CHW on oral health advocacy.

Goal 3: Increase the number of adults aged 19 to 26 years covered by dental insurance to provide continuity of dental care into adulthood.

- Substitute HB 5971: An Act Extending the Period Children, Step-children and other Dependent Children May Retain Dental Insurance Coverage under a Parents' or Legal Guardian's Insurance Policy was raised and received a joint favorable report and referral to the Appropriations Committee;
- COHI received assurance that the bill will be proposed next year.

Goal 4: Increase cultural competency for dental providers to address health disparities.

- PA 17-146 requires registered dental hygienists to receive at least one contact hour of education in cultural competency for license renewal;
- COHI held a first cultural competency course on October 20 as demonstration of a quality course.

COHI accomplished this through:

Advocacy

- Advocacy Training
- Oral Health Day at the Capitol
- Contacting legislators
- Meeting with the public at health and social justice fairs
- Annual Meeting

Coalition building and educating on oral health policies with a number of organizations:

- Community Health Services
- Connecticut Dental Health Partnership
- Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association
- Connecticut Society of Pediatric Dentists
- Connecticut State Dental Association
- CT Coalition on Oral Health
- CT Health Foundation
- CT Voices for Children
- DPH Office of Oral Health
- DSS/CTDHP o Institute for Community Research
- MATCH Coalition

COHI Awards

**The Howard I. Mark
Advocate for Oral Health Award
Deb Polun**



**Oral Health Champion Award
Izabella Pulvermacher RDH**



**Legislative Champion Awards
Representative
Michelle Cook**



**Legislative Champion Awards
Representative
Kevin Ryan**



Continuing Education

Cultural Understanding and Sensitivity in Health Care Delivery



Held on October 20, 2017, this interactive course allowed participants to examine their personal prejudices in addition to the biases of others. Discussions covered the importance of health equity and the need for medical interpretation services in health care.

Facilitated by Connecticut Oral Health Initiative's Mary Moran Boudreau, RDH, MBA. The event included a presentation by Hispanic Health Council's Grace Damio, MS and featured panel discussions with Dr. Sarita Arteaga, DMD; Ellen Boynton and Marisa Gillio.

Education

Fundraising



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$103,075
Fixed Assets	\$ 0
Total Assets	\$103,075

Liabilities and Equity

Current Liabilities	\$ 6,986
Net Assets	\$ 66,450
Net Income	\$ 29,457
Total Equity	\$ 96,107

Total Liabilities and Equity	\$103,075
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REPORT OF FINANCIAL INCOMES AND EXPENSES

Income

Grants	\$157,600
Donations	\$ 18,423
Program Services	\$ 8,812
Fundraising Event net income	\$
1,720	
Investment Income	\$ 417
Total Revenue and Other Support	\$186,972

Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 90,242
Professional Fees	\$ 41,699
Administration	\$
16,898	
Rent	\$ 6,000
Insurance	\$ 3,010
Total Expenses	\$157,849

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Fundraising	\$ 15,990	10%
Management	\$ 45,575	29%
Program	\$ 96,280	61%

Grants



Dentaquest Foundation
James McManus Fund

Corporate and Organizational Supporters

\$5000

Benecare

\$1,000+

Connecticut State Dental Association * Delta Dental of Connecticut

* TDG Financial Services

\$500-\$999

Beacon Health Options * Benevis

\$250-\$499

* Bucari Orthodontics * Community Health Services

Connecticut Society of Pediatric Dentistry

Dental Society of Greater Southington * Dental Works

Hartford Dental Society * Horizon Dental * Institute for Community Research

IT Direct * LaSalle Insurance * Litchfield Dental Society

Pierre Fauchaud Academy Rosen & Associates

* SurfCT * Waterbury Family Dental * Webster Bank

\$100-\$249

American Dental Hygienists' Association – Connecticut

Community Health Center, Inc. * Community Health Network of CT

Maria Seymour Brooker Memorial * Santiago Law Group * YHB Investors

Individual Supporters

\$1,000+

Marty Milkovic

\$500-\$999

Dr. & Mrs. Howard Mark

\$250-\$499

Vincent Fazzino, DMD

\$100-\$249

Alvin Berger, DDS * Mary Moran Boudreau, RDH * Patricia Charest

Juliette Clark, DMD * Keri Discepolo, DDS * Sharon Efron, RDH

Meredith Ferraro * Ira Greene, DDS * Robert Harris, DMD

Douglas Larson * Monty MacNeil, DDS * Jesse White-Fresé

Strategic Plans for 2017-2019

Goal I. Provide a dynamic focus for broad based oral health advocacy efforts in Connecticut.

- Develop and support a comprehensive advocacy agenda with measureable outcomes.
- Enhance COHI's presence at the Capitol around oral health issues with legislature, agencies and the governor's office.
- Track, monitor and advocate for legislation and regulatory policies with potential to positively impact oral health care for underserved populations.

Goal II. Strengthen COHI's position as a community partner, change agent and recognized expert in oral health.

- Identify and participate in the appropriate national, state and local coalitions or partnerships as deemed vital to COHI's mission.
- Integrate oral health in the planning and advocacy efforts of targeted federal, state and local health agencies.
- Encourage stakeholders to take effective actions to maintain or increase oral health access and /or quality of care.
- Improve communications with stakeholders around advocacy issues.

Goal III. Enhance COHI's governance and capacity to support strategic objectives.

- Sustain an effective governance structure that supports COHI's mission and strategic plan.
- Expand directors appropriate knowledge by attending professional development programs.
- Recruit two new board members with consideration for diversity and appropriate skills to support COHI's mission and strategic plans.
- Meet best practices for nonprofit governance by developing and reviewing needed policies to ensure accountability.
- Develop and sustain staff structure that supports COHI's mission and strategic plans.
- Improve the communication and IT structure to support COHI.

Goal IV. Develop and implement the long-term sustainability plan.

- Secure adequate funding to support COHI's programming and staffing needs.
- Draw on COHI's successes in developing requests for funding and in-kind resources.
- Implement an organizational/funding non-profit model for COHI sustainability.



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