

# Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health (AC4OH)

**Date: June 16, 2023**

**To: Cody L. Phinney, Administrator**

**Division of Public and Behavioral Health**

**From: Lisa M. Collier, Chair**

**Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health (AC4OH)**

**Subject: SFY 2023 (2022-2023) AC4OH Annual Report and Recommendations**

## **Purpose and Role**

Pursuant to NRS 439.2792, the Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health is a thirteen member committee. The purpose of this Advisory Committee shall be to advise and make recommendations to the Administrator of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services (herein after referred to as “the Division”) concerning the Oral Health Program.

The role of the Advisory Committee shall be to support the Division to promote the health and wellbeing of Nevadans through the delivery or facilitation of essential services to ensure families are strengthened, public health is protected, and individuals achieve their highest level of self-sufficiency as outlined in NRS 439.271-493.2794:

## **Leadership and Participation**

1. Current Chair and Vice Chair:

- a. Lisa Collier, DDS, Chair
- b. Whitney Bryant, DMD, MBA, Vice Chair

2. Other current members include:

- a. Jennifer Bradley
- b. Tina Brandon Abbatangelo, DMD
- c. Terri Chandler, RDH
- d. Jose Cucalon Calderon, MD, FAAP
- e. Catherine McCarthy MD, FAAFP
- f. Benjamin Prohaska, PA-C, BC-ADM, DFAAPA
- g. Bryce Putnam, DMD
- h. Lynn Short, RDH, MPH
- i. Breana Taylor, RN, MSN
- j. Tara Van Orden, CDR, DMD, MPH
- k. Jessica Woods, RDHAP, BSDH, MPH, PHEDH, RDA, CDHC

## **AC4OH Accomplishments and Activities**

### **• The Oral Health Program (OHP)**

- The AC4OH board is composed of a variety of professionals who are all dedicated to improving oral health outcomes and therefore overall health outcomes for all Nevadans. The board meets quarterly in meetings arranged by Jannette Gomez (Nevada Public Health Dental Hygienist) and the chairperson of the AC4OH. Through these meetings the board maintains open lines of communication with the Oral Health Program to support and enhance the program’s efforts. AC4OH members are committed to maintain and continue to build the Oral Health Program in Nevada. The committee is acutely aware of the challenges this presents, but are continually buoyed by the successes achieved. All decisions from the committee are guided by the overarching goal to improve, enhance, and expand dental care in Nevada. The AC4OH board was excited to begin meeting again in 2022 after a hiatus from June 2021-April 2022 due to staffing changes within the Oral Health Program.
- AC4OH members along with the Oral Health Program are working to obtain advisory opinions from the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners.

- A taskforce was created to address the SDF and Glass Ionomer 2019 Advisory opinion from the dental board to obtain further clarification.
  - AC4OH members and leaders Participated in the process of creating and publishing the Nevada Oral Health State Plan 2022-2032
  - AC4OH created an Advisory Letter on Endodontic Services for Child Medicaid Recipients
    - Endodontic treatment for pediatric Medicaid patients has been difficult to obtain leading to unnecessary loss of permanent teeth in children. The intent of this letter was to bring attention to this vital issue.
- **Policy Topics Reviewed**
  - **Administrative Direction of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health**
  - **Medicaid**
    - The Division of Health Care Financing and Policy has a standing agenda item on the AC4OH meeting agendas. Dr. Antonina Capurro, Robyn Gonzalez, and Tanya Benitez attended meetings and graciously shared programmatic changes, challenges and accepted feedback from members. Topics included Nevada Medicaid Dental Benefits, HRSA grant application, reward, and implementation, CMS waiver for adult dental benefits to those with diabetes, CMS code updates, and ARPA funding for school based sealant programs.

The final pages of this report is a list of our recommendations and goals for the coming year. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input and collaborate with the Division over the past year. We would also like to thank the oral health program staff for their support. We look forward to continuing to promote optimum oral health for all Nevadans.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Lisa M. Collier, DDS  
 Chair  
 Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Provide State Appropriations to Financially Support the State Oral Health Program, State Dental Health Officer, and State Public Health Dental Hygienist per NRS 429.279, 429.2791, 429.2792 and Provide Continued Administrative Assistant Support for Organization of AC4OH Meetings.**
  - a. Establish long term investment of the Oral Health Program by the State that will allow qualified licensed staff with public health training and experience to: conduct/collect surveillance data consistently, implement manage and evaluate community-based prevention programs and strategies, provide dental expertise to multiple programs in the Division and benefit the public through policy and education resulting in healthier outcomes.
  - b. Assure OHP is linked to the oral health community through the expertise and resources of the AC4OH.
  - c. Provide continued administrative assistant support by DPBH staff for the organization and open law meeting oversight of AC4OH meetings.
  - d. NRS 439.272 and 439.279 establishes justification to support the ongoing funding for the appointments of the State Dental Health Officer and State Public Health Dental Hygienists as essential and critical additions to the medical team within the Department of Health and Human Services.
  - e. Access Federal Medicaid funding allowed through Title 41 to partially support the State Dental Officer position. Provide dental expertise within the Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy (DHCFP), Medicaid, to be advisory for claims, policy and required federal reporting. Support state accountability for federal funds.
  - f. Explore viability of partial funding stream from percentage of licensing fees and fines paid to the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners.
2. **Continue to work on projects which have been delayed due to COVID 19.**
  - a. **Create AC4OH annual retreat**
    - i. Goals of retreat
      1. Foster ongoing relationships between committee members and partners to facilitate better communication and team work to accomplish goals of the committee.
      2. Include outreach into rural areas of Nevada with extensive unmet oral health needs.
      3. As part of outreach foster relationships with local practitioners and patients and future providers who may be motivated to serve these rural patient populations
    - ii. Find funding to support the retreat and outreach event
  - b. **Support AB223 and CMS applications with DHCFP**
  - c. **Extend invitation to Dr. Timothy Ricks to visit Nevada**
    - i. Dr. Timothy Ricks is the Chief Dental Officer for the US Public Health Service
    - ii. Visit was previously set to meet with oral health stakeholders in Nevada.
    - iii. Unfortunately visit was postponed due to COVID 19, we hope to reschedule for 2021.
  - d. **Create Strategic Plan for AC4OH**
    - i. Creating a strategic plan will allow for growth and sustainability of the committee
    - ii. We will create goals and direction for the year ahead.
  - e. **Continue to support and develop oral health programs throughout Nevada**