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

**Date: September 11, 2020**

**To: Lisa Sherych, Administrator**

**Division of Public and Behavioral Health**

**From: Cathie Davenport, Chair**

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

**Subject: SFY 2020 (2019-2020) 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. Cathie Davenport, Chair

b. Open Position, Vice Chair

2. Other current members include:

a. Tina Brandon Abbatangelo, MD

b. David Cappelli, DMD, PhD

c. Terri Chandler, RDH

d. Max J. Coppes, MD, PhD, MBA, FAAP

e. Mary Liveratti

f. Cara Lutes-Kirby, RDH, BSDH, MPH

g. Benjamin Prohaska, PA-C, BC-ADM

h. Bryce Putnam, DMD

i. Robert Talley, DDS

j. Kelly Taylor, RDH

3. New members as of September 27, 2019:

a. Lisa Collier, DDS

b. Cara Lutes-Kirby, RDH, BSDH, MPH

4. New members as of December 6, 2019

a. Dr. Prashanti Bollu, DMD, MBA, MHA

b. Dr. Gillian Barclay, DDS, MPH, DPH

**COVID-19 effect on AC4OH Committee**

* Covid 19 has had a profound effect on all aspects of our community and country. Unfortunately this includes the AC4OH committee. Many proposals and goals have had to be tabled or postponed due to the pandemic. The committee continues to be committed to supporting oral health in Nevada in spite of the challenges presented by Covid 19.

**AC4OH Accomplishments and Actvities**

* **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 Dr. Capurro 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.
  + AC4OH members along with the Oral Health Program helped to obtain advisory opinions for the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners.
    - Silver Diamine Fluoride and Glass Ionomer application by a Registered Dental Hygienist with Special Health Endorsement.
      * Advisory opinion obtained from the NSBDE affirmed that application of Silver Diamine Fluoride and Glass Ionomer were included in the scope of practice for a Registered Dental Hygienist with a Special Health endorsement as long as these services are included in the treatment protocol submitted to and approved by the board.
    - Teledentistry
      * The NSBDE passed a motion on July 19, 2019 that teledentistry is within the scope of practice for dentistry in the state of Nevada. Support of this has led to teledentistry being utilized as an important tool during COVID 19 restrictions.
  + AC4OH members and leaders reviewed program materials and provided feedback, on such items as:
    - Letters from the Desk of the State Dental Health Officer
    - Emergency Redirect Pilot Project for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions
    - AB223, Proposal to Extend Periodontal Benefits to Adults with Diabetes
      * With the support of AC4OH and the OHP AB223 passed. OHP and DHCFO are continuing to attempt to move forward with the CMS 1115 waiver.
    - SB366, Established the profession of dental therapy in the state of Nevada.
    - Rural Nevada Expectant Mother Medicaid Dental Access Program
    - Rural Licensed Childcare Center Project
* **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. Ms. Shauna Tavcar and Robyn Gonzalez attended meetings and graciously shared programmatic changes, challenges and accepted feedback from members. Topics ranged from the Dental Benefits Administrator contracting process and discussions on potential for discontinuing the Dental Benefits Administrator, Rate realignment for CPT codes, revisions to MSM Chapter 1000, and difficulties with prescriptions specifically high fluoride toothpaste.
  + **Legislative workgroup established**
    - Identified a need for public comment at each legislative committee on health care interim meetings.
    - Worked on continuing funding for the Oral Health Program
    - Invited key organizations to discuss legislative priorities
  + **Dental Scope of Practice in Nevada**
    - Identified areas where expansion of the scope of dental practice would be beneficial to oral health and overall health in Nevada
      * Immunizations
      * Point of Care testing including
        + Blood Glucose point of care test
        + COVID 19 point of care test
      * Dental emergency responders

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,

Cathie Davenport

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.** 
   1. 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.
   2. Assure OHP is linked to the oral health community through the expertise and resources of the AC4OH.
   3. Provide continued administrative assistant support by DPBH staff for the organization and open law meeting oversight of AC4OH meetings.
   4. 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.
   5. 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 while continuing to provide dental public health leadership to the state as a whole. Support state accountability for federal funds.
   6. 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.**
   1. **Create AC4OH annual retreat**
      1. 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
      2. Find funding to support the retreat and outreach event
   2. **Support AB223 and CMS applications with DHCFP**
   3. **Extend invitation to Dr. Timothy Ricks to visit Nevada**
      1. Dr. Timothy Ricks is the Chief Dental Officer for the US Public Health Service
      2. Visit was previously set to meet with oral health stakeholders in Nevada.
      3. Unfortunately visit was postponed due to COVID 19, we hope to reschedule for 2021.
   4. **Create Strategic Plan for AC4OH**
      1. Creating a strategic plan will allow for growth and sustainability of the committee
      2. We will create goals and direction for the year ahead.
   5. **Continue to support and develop oral health programs throughout Nevada**
3. **Establish oral health legislation** 
   1. **Teledentistry**
      1. Teledentistry will expand and improve access to dental care
   2. **Dental Emergency Responders**
      1. Dental practitioners can play a vital role in disaster management and the scope of work should be expanded to support public health initiatives during an emergency.
   3. **Dental Public Health Fund** 
      1. Establish the Fund for Silver State Smiles, housed within the Department of Health and Human Services and administered by the State Dental Health Officer from every organization for dental care that serves members in the State of Nevada (as defined in Chapter 695D of NRS), to contribute 1 percent (up to $500,000 per fiscal year) of its prepaid charges or premiums to the Fund for Silver State Smiles.
   4. **Immunizations to allow dental practitioners to administer vaccinations and provide emergency vaccination support.**
4. **Continue to carve out dental benefits from the medical MCO and support single dental MCO contract.**