



The Bellwether

Leading Local Efforts to Improve the Nation's Oral Health

A Newsletter of the
American Association
for Community
Dental Programs

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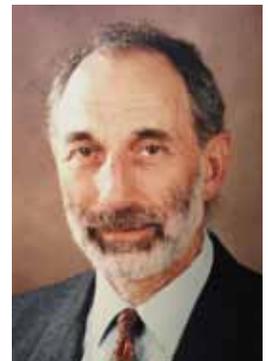
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News from the President Myron Allukian Jr.

AACDP Annual Symposium

The AACDP annual symposium, held on April 9–10, 2011, in Pittsburgh, PA, was an exciting event, featuring presentations that provided up-to-date information about what's happening at the local, state, regional, and national levels that affects community oral health programs. With over 100 participants, the symposium served as an excellent opportunity to recharge our batteries. Next year's AACDP annual symposium will be held on April 28–29, 2012, in Milwaukee, WI, preceding the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC). Please mark your calendars.



Tribute to David A. Soricelli

In a heart-warming and emotional ceremony, the 2011 Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievements in Community Dental Programs went to David A. Soricelli. Dr. Soricelli has held many important positions within the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, including director of the division of dental health (1958–1972) and deputy health commissioner for community health services (1972–1981) as well as many elected positions. (See AACDP Annual Symposium.)

A Difficult Year

This has been a difficult year for local oral health programs. Because of the stagnant economy, high unemployment rates, and budget deficits, dramatic cuts have occurred in many state and local programs. Health care reform offered a great deal of hope for our programs and initiatives, but now it may be compromised. The future is unclear, but we persevere.

Local Needs and Local Responses

Those of us working at the local level come face to face with need every day. We do more and more with less and less. We know and feel the suffering of the underserved, which motivates us to work even harder and inspires us to provide the best care possible to the populations we serve.

AACDP Recent Accomplishments

This past year was a busy one for the association. AACDP was a co-sponsoring organization for 30 Days and 30 Nights, a national initiative to promote adult dental coverage as part of health care reform. In addition, the association accomplished many other things, including

- Providing recommendations to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for the proposed new fluoridation guidelines
- Signing on to a letter to DHHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius supporting the dental Medicaid program
- Endorsing the results of the Alaska dental health aide therapist evaluation by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- Passing revised [bylaws](#) during AACDP's annual business meeting.

The Future

Challenging times are ahead. We must continue to strive so that members of the public, and especially the underserved, do not suffer needlessly. You are the unsung heroes of public health. I thank you and commend you for your ceaseless efforts. Keep up your good work! ■

Myron Allukian Jr.

AACDP Annual Symposium

AACDP's annual symposium was held on April 9–10, 2011, preceding the National Oral Health Conference, in Pittsburgh, PA. Over 100 participants received up-to-date information on a variety of topics including service-delivery systems, federal initiatives, The Affordable Care Act, school-based health programs, and work force development. Participants also had an opportunity to honor David Soricelli, who has made a difference in oral health.

The Nuts and Bolts (and a Few Screws) of Starting and Operating Mobile and Portable Programs: Equipment Choices, Cost, and Program Start-Up

Greg Folse (private practice and consultant) and **Lawrence Hill** (CincySmiles Foundation) presented on the fundamentals of starting and operating mobile and portable programs to offer care where special populations are found, rather than expecting them to seek care in traditional settings. Both speakers provided information about equipment, costs, benefits, and pitfalls of mobile and portable delivery systems.

Welcome and President's Message

Myron Allukian Jr. (AACDP president) welcomed participants to the symposium and highlighted AACDP accomplishments during the past year, including writing to the secretary of DHHS to

To sign up to become a member of AACDP at no cost and to subscribe to the Community Oral Health Programs (COHP) discussion list, go to AACDP's web page at <http://www.aacdp.com>.



express disagreement with the proposed guidelines for community water fluoridation, endorsing Alaska's dental health aide therapist evaluation, and producing two issues of the newsletter *The Bellwether: Leading Local Efforts to Improve the Nation's Oral Health*.

Community Oral Health Program in the Pittsburgh/Allegheny Area

Larry Kanterman (Allegheny County Health Department Dental Program) described Pittsburgh's struggling economy, starting with the decline of the steel mills. In response to the need for oral health services, the oral health program operates four clinics serving children and adolescents up to age 20 from families with low incomes. Services include oral examinations, cleanings, fluoride treatments, X-rays, fillings, extractions, and dental sealants.

Hot Topics in the Federal Government: Who Are the Dental Feds, What's on Their Agendas, and How Will Health Reform Impact Local Programs?

Dushanka Kleinman (University of Maryland, School of Public Health) facilitated a panel presentation and discussion on recent events led by the federal government. **William Bailey** (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Oral Health) highlighted several national initiatives, including *U.S. Department of Health and Human*

Services Strategic Plan: Fiscal Year 2010–2015, Promoting and Enhancing the Oral Health of the Public: HHS Oral Health Initiative 2010, and Advancing Oral Health in America produced by the Institute of Medicine.

Dennis Dey (National Health Service Corps) provided an overview of the National Health Service Corps' loan-repayment and scholarship programs and discussed program expansions as a result of the Affordable Care Act. **Rochelle Rollins** (Office of Minority Health, Division of Policy and Data) discussed health disparities and health equity implications of Affordable Care Act provisions and *Healthy People 2020* and highlighted two recently released reports, the *HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities: A Nation Free of Disparities in Health and Health Care* and the *National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity* (see In the News).

Roundtable Session

The roundtable session featured experts facilitating discussions on finding oral health resources, water fluoridation, *Healthy People 2020*, work force campaigns, the Office of Minority Health's oral health initiative, mobile programs, school-based health centers, and nursing home practices.

Integrating Oral Health into School-Based Health Centers

Lawrence Hill led a panel presentation on integrating oral health into school-based health centers. **Lynn Bethel** (Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health) described the school-based dental sealant programs in Massachusetts. Currently the programs serve school-age children in schools with 40 to 50 percent of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program (free and reduced-priced meals). Dental hygienists, using portable equipment, provide screenings, dental sealants, fluoride varnish, education, and referrals to dental homes for children in need of restorative services. **Greg Folse** described a pilot school-based health program developed to address the oral health needs of vulnerable children. He discussed the identification of schools

and the development of memoranda of agreement, daily operations, and program support and sustainability. **John Schlitt** (National Assembly on School-Based Health Care) provided an overview of school-based health centers, children's lack of access to oral health services, and how school-based health centers can help to address this problem. He also announced that the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care, in partnership with Kaiser Permanente, has launched a training and technical-assistance initiative to expand the capacity of school-based health centers to deliver preventive oral health services.

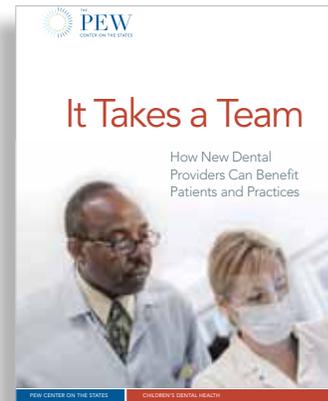
Presentation of the 2011 Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievements in Community Dental Programs

Myron Allukian Jr. presented David A. Soricelli with the Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievements in Community Dental Programs. Throughout his career, David Soricelli has been an advocate for the underserved.



Pictured (from left): Myron Allukian Jr., June Soricelli, and David Soricelli

His distinguished career includes establishing a unique and effective oral health program for City of Philadelphia, which became a model for the nation. In the 1960s, despite enormous opposition, he established the first dental techno therapist program for local health departments. He also developed a unique quality-assurance program for oral health care.



The Dental Therapist Work Force Models: What's Next?

Myron Allukian Jr. led a panel presentation and discussion on dental work force models, an ongoing series of the AACDP annual symposium. **Ann Battrell** (American Dental Hygienists' Association [ADHA]) provided an overview of ADHA's role in the development of and advocacy for new mid-level oral health professionals (e.g., advanced dental hygiene practitioners) and also discussed next steps, including the introduction of legislation in states allowing for new oral health professionals. **Shelly Gehshan** (The Pew Center on the States, Pew Children's Dental Campaign) discussed the economics of new work force models in private practice and in federally qualified health centers and highlighted findings of the report *It Takes a Team: How New Dental Providers Can Benefit Patients and Practices*. **Albert Yee** (W. K. Kellogg Foundation) presented background information about the evaluation and key findings of the report *Evaluation of the Dental Health Aide Therapist Workforce Model in Alaska: Final Report*.

Slides for most of these presentations are available on AACDP's website at <http://www.aacdp.com/meetings/2011.html>. ■

AACDP Annual Business Meeting

During the AACDP annual business meeting on April 13, 2011, members elected Judy Gelinas as president elect. Judy serves as the director of the St. Christopher's Foundation for Children Community Oral Health Initiatives, which provides a dental home for children from families with low incomes and offers a school-based oral-health-literacy program. She also serves as co-chair for the Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association Governmental Relations Council. In addition, she has served on the AACDP executive committee for several years. Members



elected three new executive committee members—Jennifer Bankler, Bonnie Vaughan, and Josefine Wolfe. Congratulations Judy, Jennifer, Bonnie, and Josefine!

Members also approved the AACDP

bylaws and discussed conducting two surveys, one of 2011 symposium attendees to obtain feedback on the symposium and one of AACDP members to develop a membership profile. ■

Legislation Update

Prepared by Harris Contos

At the Federal Level

The \$38 billion budget negotiation to avoid a government shutdown in April 2011 resulted in reduced domestic spending for the remainder of the fiscal year. A summary of the FY'11 continuing resolution shows the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, as well as related agencies, at a total of \$157.7 billion, which is roughly

a \$5.5 billion—or 3.36 percent—reduction from FY'10 levels. This bill is also \$13 billion—or 7.6 percent—below the president's FY'11 request.¹ Budget reductions in selected DHHS programs are shown below:²

Although they are not a direct dollar item, the continuing resolution explicitly prohibits funding for the alternative dental health care provider demonstration projects authorized in the new health care reform law (P.L. 111-148).³ The American Dental Association (ADA) has consistently opposed funding these projects, which could support programs allowing mid-level providers to perform surgical or irreversible procedures.

FY'11 Continuing Resolution Reductions (in millions of dollars)

Area	Compared to FY'10 Enacted	Compared to FY'11 Request
Bureau of Health Professions	-\$164	-\$547
Community Health Care Centers	-\$600	-\$890
Health-Care-Related Facilities and Activities	-\$338	\$0
Public Health Scientific Services	-\$2	-\$91
Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes	-\$78	-\$119
Rural Health Programs	-\$35	-\$1
State Access Health Grants	-\$75	-\$75
Title X Family Planning	-\$17	-\$27

All numbers are rounded.

Reductions do not include the 0.2 percent across-the-board cut to nondefense accounts.



Attention to deficit reduction is not confined to the remainder of the fiscal year but also includes broader political contention over raising the debt limit and over the 2012 budget, where Medicare and Medicaid stand to be the focus of entitlement reform. Whether there will be spillover to other health care programs in the next budget is not known at this time.

At the State Level

Adult dental Medicaid remains vulnerable to cuts, and some states, including Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Massachusetts, have eliminated all or some services. Results from a 50-state Medicaid budget survey for FY'10 and FY'11 conducted by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured are available at <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/8105.cfm>.

Staunch opposition from ADA and state-level dental groups has arisen to dental therapist legislation in the five states where the W. K. Kellogg Foundation project is taking place.⁴

Arkansas has moved up in its Pew ranking of state dental policies by passing community-water-fluoridation legislation as well as acts creating a collaborative practice dental hygienist category and allowing physicians and nurses to apply fluoride varnish.

A single-payer bill is moving through the Vermont legislature. How dental benefits are configured into this bill has not yet been specified. ■

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In the News

Advancing Oral Health in America

This report explores how DHHS can enhance its role as a leader in improving the nation's oral health and oral health care. The report provides an overview of the link between oral health and overall health and well-being and presents factors that can affect oral health. It addresses the oral health care system, including where services are provided, how the services are paid for, who delivers the services, how the work force is educated and trained to provide the services, and how the work force is regulated. The report also explores the role of DHHS in oral health

education and training as well as in supporting the delivery of oral health care services.

Improving Access to and Utilization of Oral Health Services for Children in Medicaid and CHIP Programs: CMS Oral Health Strategy

This report is intended to guide federal efforts in working with states to improve access to oral health services for children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Topics include the principal barriers to oral health care for children and oral health goals for Medicaid and CHIP. The report also outlines the following components of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' oral health strategy: (1) work with states to develop a pediatric oral

health action plan, (2) strengthen technical assistance to states and facilitate state and tribal peer-to-peer learning, (3) provide outreach to health professionals and beneficiaries, and (4) partner with other agencies within DHHS.

HHS Action Plan to Reduce Health Disparities: A Nation Free of Disparities in Health and in Health Care

This action plan, which complements the *National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity*, provides an overview of racial and ethnic health disparities in the United States and presents DHHS's approach to reducing health disparities and achieving health equity. The action plan discusses new opportunities; the plan's vision, purpose, and priorities; and goals. Goals include strengthening the health and human services infrastructure and work force; advancing health, safety, and well-being; advancing scientific knowledge and innovation; and increasing efficiency, transparency, and accountability of DHHS programs.

National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health

This systems-change initiative focuses on the education and training systems that support health professionals from disciplines including family medicine, pediatrics, nursing, obstetrics/gynecology, and internal medicine. The initiative comprises a consortium of funders and health professionals striving to eradicate oral disease. Its mission is to ensure that primary care clinicians are aware of the needs of the individuals they serve, are willing and able to deliver preventive oral health services to individuals of all ages, and are prepared to partner effectively with oral health professionals.

National Stakeholders Strategy for Achieving Health Equity

This report, which is a companion to the *HHS Action Plan to Reduce Health Disparities*, provides a strategy for eliminating health disparities in the United States through cooperative and strategic actions. The report discusses the development of the national stakeholder strategy, provides context, discusses the strategy, and presents an approach to operationalizing it.

Promoting and Enhancing the Oral Health of the Public: HHS Oral Health Initiative 2010

This report describes an initiative proposed by eight federal agencies within DHHS to use a systems approach to create and finance programs to emphasize oral health promotion and disease prevention, increase access to care, enhance the oral health work force, and eliminate oral health disparities. Contents include information from each agency, including a description of the public health significance of the program and the area of focus. ■



Save the Date!

AACDP's annual symposium will be held on April 28–29, 2012, in Milwaukee, WI, preceding NOHC, which will be held on April 30 through May 2, 2012, in the same city. A preliminary agenda and other information will be posted to AACDP's website in spring 2012. ■

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