



Louisiana Oral Health Coalition Virtual Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 23, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. (attendee list from Zoom at end of minutes).

Coalition vice chair, Dr. Billy Hall, welcomed attendees and new members of the Coalition:

Scarlette McClain, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center;
Rachel Taber, United Health Care;
Erica Rose – Crawford,
DentaQuest; Susie Lee
Hutchinson, CAPP, CMSR,
PCMH, CCE - Louisiana Primary
Care Association; Thomas Lallier,
PhD - LSU School of Dentistry;
Cynthia Vessell-Whitaker, M Ed -
West Feliciana Parish EHS/HS;

Teresa Perkins, DMD; Andretta
Porter-Williams, DDS - Teche
Action Clinic; Pamela Daniel, DDS -
Care South Medical and Dental;
Kathy Dwyer, Disability Rights
Advocate - Co-Chair, Louisiana
Dental Task Force for Adults with
Intellectual and Developmental
Disabilities - Chair, Louisiana
OCDD State Advisory Committee
on Developmental Disabilities;

Mary Kay Cowen, Family Advocate
for Individuals with
Developmental Disabilities - LA
OCDD SAC Dental Task Force;
Tammara Brown, EatMoveGrow;
Kristen Rivero, Chief Chemist -
Jefferson Parish; Jonathan Raof,
MS, MBA, SSBB - MCNA Dental;
Nelsigleny Lopez, MCNA Dental

Dr. Hall suggested that all the new members select one of the work groups to join.

Dr. Hall motioned to approve the minutes as presented from the January 22, 2021, meeting.

The motion was seconded by Lisa Staples and passed unanimously.

Old and New Business – Dr. Billy Hall

2021 Louisiana Virtual Oral Health Summit: The March 12 virtual Summit received good feedback on evaluations. Recordings are available. Email the Coalition if you are interested in recordings and did not receive a link. The planning committee for the next Summit will start meeting in July.

- **Quarterly Newsletter:** The LDA volunteered to put together the quarterly newsletter. The first issue was mailed the week of the meeting. Special thanks to Alannie Broussard, the new director of communications and public affairs for the LDA, who put together the layout. If you have articles or suggestions, email the Coalition.
- **Louisiana's Oral Health Report Card:** Terrence Robinson provided the synopsis of the oral health report card for Louisiana that was released at the Summit. See final version at the end of the minutes.
- **State Action Plan:** Officers and work group chairs met to reassess the State Action Plan to realign strategies and to set initiatives in place to achieve the State Action Plan goals.
- **2021 Election Process:** Nominations for the three officer positions (chair, vice chair, and secretary) will begin in May. Detailed information will be sent to Coalition members to nominate interested parties.
- **Summer School Activities:** If any partners are working on activities during the summer related to schools, please let the Coalition know.
- **Adult Denture Promotion:** The Policy Workgroup has been meeting to gather information and create a one pager in order to promote increased reimbursement rates for the adult denture program. The rates have not gone up in nearly 20 years and the reimbursement covers not more than just the actual lab fees.

Special Presentations

Terrence Robinson

Provided the synopsis of the oral health report card for Louisiana that was released at the Summit. *See final version at the end of the minutes.*

Kathy Dwyer

The Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) was established by the State Advisory Committee for the Louisiana Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) to address the unmet dental health care needs of adults 18 years old and older with I/DD. The Task Force is composed of over 20 members including individuals with disabilities, family members, and various organizations and professionals advocating for and working with individuals with I/DD. The purpose of the Task Force is to address the needs of adults (18 years and older) with I/DD who need anesthesia or IV sedation for a routine dental exam, cleaning, and x-rays because of aversions they have to probing in their mouth or inability to cooperate throughout the dental exam, cleaning, and x-ray process with the intent of preventing serious health issues while providing medical care cost savings for the State and developing recommended strategies to address these barriers.

The Louisiana Dental Task Force has issued the following position statement on the need for Comprehensive Dental Services for Adults with Developmental Disabilities. It is the position of the Louisiana Dental Task Force that Comprehensive Dental Services should be made available through Louisiana's Developmental Disabilities Waiver Programs as well as an allocation to Intermediate Care Facilities for Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DD) so that adults with I/DD can receive the dental health care services they need to prevent negative outcomes for both medical and behavioral health as well as economic hardship experienced by adults with I/DD and their families in Louisiana.

Rep. Rhonda Butler has filed HB172 this legislative session representing the Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities.

Hollie Stevenson

Hollie Stevenson is the Vice President of Affiliate & Government Relations, Dental Lifeline Network, and lives in Denver, Colorado. She and her team recruit and recognize over 18,500 volunteer dentists and laboratories across the nation who provide donated dental services to people with special needs or who are elderly and can't afford care. Stevenson supports, develops and maintains over 35 state DLN boards, and relationships with State Dental Associations and key stakeholders, including in Louisiana. She also advocates for state funding in partnership with State Dental Associations, state legislators and agencies; and negotiates the agreements with the state agencies.

Since the program's inception in Louisiana in 1987, Dental Lifeline Network LA has helped over 5,400 Louisiana citizens. The program has 388 volunteer dentist and 80 volunteer labs. The program is geared to help adults that cannot afford care, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, people who need life-saving care, and veterans. The program received state funding 1987 – 2011; since then private funding, which is not sustainable. Nearly 300 people are on the wait-list and new applications are being accepted only in a few parishes, except for veterans and medically fragile. And dentists are waiting to volunteer. Louisiana's program just doesn't have the funding to pay a full time coordinator. The LDA is working with the program to ask the state for \$90,000 to cover the cost of running the program, excluding any payment to dentists. All dentists volunteer and some even donate funds to the program.

Partner Updates

- **LDH/Well-Ahead LA Oral Health Promotion:** MeChaune Butler reported that they submitted the CDC Continuation application for year 4 this month to continue the school sealant programs, community water fluoridation, and oral health surveillance program and services. The grant cycle runs Sept. 1 to August 31. There were alternative programs in 4 schools because of COVID and they were very successful. Over 2,000 students were reached, along with parents and school educators. Distributed oral health kits as well. One of the partners

was able to put on a dental sealant program in Sabine parish. Well-Ahead is working with the City of Monroe and the Monroe dental component (Dr. Chris Robinson) to implement community water fluoridation. Staff also met with the work group leadership and executive officers to assess the State Action Plan.

- **Well-Ahead LA Primary Care Office:** Darmyra Perry reported that the National Health Service Core Loan and Scholarship program application cycle is open until May 25. NHSC Loan Repayment program (Louisiana has 166 participants) applications open until May 6. NHSC Scholarship program (Louisiana has 6 participants) applications open until May 11. Working to recruit dentist to HPSAs. The state loan repayment program deadline is June. They are utilizing videos showing physicians and dentists working in rural areas to try to recruit.
- **Medicaid:** Kevin Guillory reported that there is an initiative going on to increase fluoride varnish utilization in children with Medicaid over a 3-year period. They are getting baseline data and planning to reach out to groups for provider recruitment.
- **Louisiana Dental Association:** Annette Droddy reported that the LDA hired a new communications and public affairs director, Alannie Broussard, who will be joining the Coalition. Alannie's first volunteer project is working on the quarterly newsletter. Annette also announced that the LDA filed two insurance bills on behalf of dentists for the 2021 Legislative Session. They are also working to support Rep. Butler's bill to provide comprehensive coverage for adults with developmental disabilities.
 - HB387: The National Coalition of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) has adopted model legislation regarding network leasing. Network leasing by dental insurers has become a challenge in a number of states, including Louisiana. The LDA has filed a bill that models the NCOIL's suggestions. The model act is all about transparency for the dentists who often inadvertently sign into contracts with leasing companies and/or dental plans without understanding they have agreed to a leasing arrangement that opens up their office to both existing and new patients at a fee level that is below their usual and customary fees. The LDA introduced this model legislation to bring transparency to network leasing and to provide consumer protection.
 - SB82: Louisiana passed the Health Insurance Issuer External Review Act in 2013, allowing individuals to file claims and appeals for an independent review related to their medical insurance in the event they disagree with the coverage decision. Many states who have this external review process also include dental insurance claims as eligible for this review process, but not Louisiana. According to the American Dental Association, there are around 12 states who have dental insurance as part of the independent review process. The LDA desires to add dental insurance eligibility to the pre-existing Health Insurance Issuer External Review Act. In fact, Louisiana Medicaid coverage ALREADY allows for independent reviews on dental AND medical claims. However, private insurance does not include dentists.
 - And, Louisiana dentists who signed up to participate in the Full Medicaid Pricing program have started to receive checks. This has been a five-year project and this is the first dental FMP in the country. Physicians already had the program.
- **Louisiana Primary Care Association:** Yvette Merritt reported that LPCA is working with the LSU School of Dentistry to educate students in professional development classes, including providing information on the loan repayment programs.

Workgroup Updates

Prevention Workgroup:

- **Dental Sealant** (Dr. Billy Hall) – The workgroup is looking at a 3-year sustainability plan, as well as a dental champion program. Additionally the workgroup assisted with the oral health report card. They will meet again in May and start making plans to hopefully go back to having sealant programs in schools in the fall/next school year. They have also continued to look at Medicaid to see if there's the availability of Medicaid funds for the sealant program.
- **Fluoride/Fluoride Varnish** (Jay Ray) – A one-pager on fluoride varnish has been done and should be submitted to the Coalition for review. As reported earlier, there is an initiative to fluoridate the City of Monroe working with Dr. Chris Robinson. The water superintendent has reported that it will cost approximately \$200,000 and will take approximately 2 years for construction but they will amend their plan to include water fluoridation equipment. In bad news, the city of Gonzales has stopped fluoridating because of the cost of the maintenance and operation.

- **Policy Workgroup** (Lisa Staples) – reported that the teledentistry rules are final and the Workgroup developed a one-pager to simplify the understanding of the new rule. The group is also moving forward with a phone call survey outreach regarding providers participating in adult denture and to research and discuss with LDH reimbursement for the Medicaid adult denture program. Anyone interested in serving as a caller should contact Lisa. A one-pager will also be developed. Next meeting is July 22.
- **Workforce Workgroup** (Lisa Staples) – reported that Dr. Ed Peters is having a meeting Friday, April 30, to continue the conversation regarding the survey that was done and getting more participation.

Next meeting will be TBA, probably July 2021.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Attendee List from Zoom

MeChaune Butler	Jabari Sullen	Terence Robinson
Missy Garcia	Susie Hutchinson	Mary Kay Cowen
Hollie Stevenson	Courtney Sanford	Jonathan Raof
D. Gray	Yvette Merritt	EatMoveGrow (Hannah)
M. Cordova	Lisa Staples	Kathleen Ceips
Teresa Perkins	Annette Droddy	Qingzhao Yu
Kathy Dwyer	Jay Ray	Cheri
Douglas Cross	Dr. Billy Hall	Andrea Perry
Alannie Broussard	Steven Bienvenu	Darmyra Perry
Angela Vanveckhoven	Kevin Guillory	504.620.0500
Eric Weinzettle	C. Faison	337.201.5181
Leanna Gray	Celeste Terry	845.803.0167
Brandon Bueche	Shannon Robertson	225.635.5299
Thanh Nguyen	Monica Roberts	
Misty Cunningham	Erica Rose Crawford	