

**Summer Community Meetings
(Updated Description: 08/05/09)**

Goals

1. Describe the genesis and mission of the Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition to community and priority group members in Massachusetts.
2. Obtain first-hand information regarding issues of oral health to priority populations and consumers across the state.
3. Elicit feedback from community individuals and stakeholders across the state on the goals and objectives developed; and identify critical oral health issues that may not have been previously captured.
4. Recruit members to the Coalition broadening the number of individuals and stakeholder groups actively engaged in the process.

Methodology

Coalition members host meetings in their communities. Coalition members agree to host and sponsor a listening session in their community or in a community not represented on the Coalition. Members of the Design Advisory Committee will attend and assist with facilitating each meeting.

The Coalition joins meetings hosted by special groups. This is a variation of the first option where representatives of the DAC attend meetings of existing groups (parents of children with special needs etc) over the summer. A DAC member will arrange for the invitation and set up with the Coalition coordinator's assistance.

Set Up

Host: The local host/sponsor will be an individual, organization or group with good access to consumers and community groups in the target community.

Recruiting: The host will do the inviting, hoping to attract 10+ representatives of local groups and organizations, consumers, providers, local legislators, local media, key health personnel, community leaders or other residents of the community. At least 3 members of the Coalition's Design Advisory Committee will also be in attendance, along with other Coalition members that may want to show support.

Confirmed Meetings: See below for the name of the contact person/host and their supporting organization, the time, date and location of community meetings already planned.

1. Hugh Silk, University of Massachusetts Medical School through the Office of Community Programs (Worcester/Worcester County): Monday, August 31, 5:30pm to 7pm at Hahnemann Family Health Center, Nemitz Conference Room, 279 Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA 01610.
2. Gerry Thomas, Boston Public Health Commission (Boston)
 - a. Mayor's Senior Advisory Committee Meeting: Friday, September 4, 10am at Boston City Hall, Room 801, 1 City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201.
 - b. Young men of color in Boston, date and location not yet decided.
3. Rebecca Bialecki, North Quabbin Community Coalition (Athol/North Quabbin): Wednesday, September 9, 12 noon to 1:30pm at PATCH Office, 423 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331.
4. BL Hathaway, Tri-County Collaborative for Oral Health Excellence (Hyannis/Tri-County Area): Wednesday, September 16, 12noon to 2pm (Head Start parents); 3pm to 5pm (Tri-CCOHE only) at the Community Action Committee Offices, 115 Enterprise Road, Hyannis, MA 02601.
5. Joan Lowbridge, Partners for a Healthier Community, Inc. (Springfield/Hampden County): Wednesday, September 16, 12:30pm – 3pm (BOHMAC part from 1:45pm) at Springfield Technical Community College, Building 2, Room 701, 1 Armory Square, Springfield, MA 01102.

6. Elizabeth Perry, Elder Dental Program (Norwood/Southwest MA), Wednesday September 23, 5pm to 6:30pm at Norwood Council on Aging, 275 Prospect Street, Norwood MA 02062.
7. Shannon Quirk, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, date(s) and location(s) not yet decided.

Meeting set up: Meeting space that allows accommodation of attendees in a way that supports conversation and participation. In cases where the sponsor is not able, the Coalition will provide resources to support each meeting for refreshments only and provide stationery. (An email of expected expenditure is sent to the Coalition coordinator before the meeting, and the expenses are reimbursed shortly after the meeting).

Facilitation: The local host is invited to facilitate with assistance from members of the DAC and the Coalition facilitator. Other available members of the Coalition will assist with taking notes. Meeting hosts should work with the Coalition coordinator to ensure that DAC members are scheduled to attend.

Timeline: Each meeting should be held before September 30.

Proposed Format

Agenda (to be adapted to the audience)

- Introduction to the Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition (*approximately 10 min*)
- Initial discussion by the attendees. (*approximately 20 min*)
 - What has been your experience in accessing oral health for yourself, your family, group or community?
 - What is working for you? What is not working for you? What would help?
- Summary of the goals and objectives of the BOHMAC plan (*approximately 10 min*) (for consumer groups only)
- Concise review of the goals and objectives of the BOHMAC plan (*approximately 20 min*) (for professional/local coalition groups only)
- Feedback from the attendees. (*approximately 20-30 min*)

Proposed questions for consumer groups only

- What would you like to see in a state oral health plan knowing that we are focusing on: data gathering; prevention and access; policy, advocacy and public awareness; and the oral health workforce, all with an emphasis on access to oral health services and equity?
- How would you like to contribute to our work as we move forward? Please sign up to receive electronic correspondence and notices of meetings in the future.

Proposed questions for professional/local coalition groups only

- What are we missing? What other strategies can be used to promote oral health, improve oral health status and prevent oral disease, especially for your group or community?
- Would you like to join our Coalition and get engaged in our work of improving oral health for the Commonwealth as we move forward? Please sign up to receive electronic correspondence and notices of meetings in the future.

Documents to be provided for meetings

- Invitation flyers
- Document describing the Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition
- Consumer-friendly summary of the goals and objectives of the BOHMAC plan
- Goals and Objectives Draft of the BOHMAC Plan
- Brief feedback form with space to sign up for Coalition correspondence

Notes and Action from the Meetings

Commentary and recommendations from the listening session will be summarized by the Coalition members attending the listening sessions and will be disseminated to the four Workgroups. The Workgroups will work to incorporate the suggestions into their respective goals, objectives and strategies at their next meeting.