Oklahoma Dental Association
House of Delegates Report
April 24, 2014

Report Title: Council on Dental Care
Submitted By: Dr. Robert Herman, Chair
Total Financial Impact: N/A
Strategic Plan Goal: Access to Care

Standing Committee on Mediation Review
There were a total of 12 Mediation Review cases in 2013 and one case has been opened in 2014. All cases from 2013 have been closed.

Standing Committee on OHCA and DHS
The Oklahoma Health Care Authority is drafting revisions to the SoonerCare Program. A lunch meeting was scheduled with ODA representatives and the senior leadership of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to discuss ongoing issues. One issue is recent system changes for verifying patient eligibility for Medicaid coverage and past claims OHCA has paid on patients. The second issue pertains to payment issues involving Medicaid patients who also have dental insurance. The main issue, and reason for meeting, is the cut in federal funding and the possibility of SoonerCare moving to managed care.

Oklahoma State Department of Health
The Oklahoma State Dental Loan Repayment Program was awarded full funding of $625,000 from the State, which supports 25 dentists. Fifteen dentists are currently participating in the program. The Oklahoma State Department of Health continues to actively pursue fluoridation in communities that are currently not fluoridating. Mechanical problems, funding and awareness seem to be the reasons communities aren’t fluoridating. The ODA sent letters to city mayors to encourage fluoridation. The Oklahoma Oral Health Needs Assessment of 3rd Grade Children survey results are available on the OSDH website. Thirty-three schools participated. Sixty percent of children seen had cavity problems.

Rural Dentistry Panel
The Rural Dentistry Panel is an evening dinner event where dental students and their significant others are invited to the ODA to learn about practicing and living in rural communities. Panelists included member dentists and spouses, and a representative from the State Department of Health, who discussed the Dental Loan Repayment Program.

Governor’s Task Force on Children and Oral Health Implementation Focus Group Program Update
Introduction
The Oklahoma Dental Association (ODA) created the Governor’s Task Force Implementation Focus Group to accomplish the initiatives set forth by the Task Force.

The Focus Group identified the following recommendations to implement:
- Increasing fluoridation of public water systems (ongoing)
- Establishing school-based sealant programs (seeking funding)
- Providing for children with special healthcare needs (survey and roster completed)
- Establishing a dental home through mandatory oral health exams (ongoing)
- Ensuring physician reimbursement for the application of fluoride varnish (completed, will continue to track applications)
Establishing a pediatric dental residency program in Oklahoma

Community Water Fluoridation
“Provide a model ordinance for cities to control fluoride when considering fluoride level adjustments to their water supply...”

- Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Dental Health Service developed the Oklahoma Community Water Fluoridation Plan to inform and promote the fluoridation of public water supplies.
- OSDH distributed 200 copies of the plan, fluoridation status reports of their areas, brochures, and a PowerPoint presentation to Turning Point Initiative consultants.
- The ODA signed a letter supporting the value of community water fluoridation (CWF) which was published in the Oklahoma Municipal League newsletter targeting all mayors in the state.
- The OSDH provided on-site consultation to stakeholders advocating for fluoridation in Shawnee and Tulsa.
- The Pew Center of the States assisted with CWF efforts in Oklahoma.
- A multidisciplinary application for a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant to support fluoridation efforts (in part) was not approved. The group will reconvene to review application critique and explore future funding sources.
- OSDH continued to meet regularly with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to ensure positive collaborations.

School-Based Sealant Program
“Apply dental sealants to the chewing surface of children’s teeth to reduce dental disease.”

- A workgroup has been established to address the development of a sealant program.
- A multidisciplinary application for a HRSA grant to support statewide sealant program (in part) was not approved. The group will reconvene to review application critique and explore future funding sources.
- The ODF applied for a grant through Impact Oklahoma for 100k to initiate a school-based sealant program in conjunction with the OU College of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene that was not approved.

Children with Special Health Care Needs
“Educate all healthcare providers to handle special needs children in the dental office setting.”

- The list of dentists that indicated interest in being a potential provider for the very young child and/or children with special health care needs was shared by the ODA to child advocacy groups. It is now posted on several websites. A new survey is being planned to assess dentist willing to provide treatment to this population.
- The Oral Health Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs Guide was updated and made available on the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies website. The Guide is not copyrighted and may be reproduced by any interested party.
Access to Care

“Ensure all children have dental homes.”

- The ODA held an event called “Back to School with a Healthy Smile”, where dentists volunteered their services to provide free oral health screenings to predominantly school-aged children statewide on Wednesday, July 31 in efforts to establish dental homes.
- In conjunction with the ODA’s “Back to School with a Healthy Smile”, the ODF also provided free oral health screenings to 104 school-aged children.
- 213 screenings were performed on individuals from over 30 community’s state wide. The ages ranged from 2 to 15.
- Over 220 dentists throughout the state signed up to participate.
- The Board of Education collaborated with the ODA to help notify parents and teachers of the event. The program was also listed on the Board of Education’s website.
- Congressman Frank Lucas helped spread the word about Back to School with a Healthy Smile by sending out a press release.
- The Oklahoma Dental Association plans to continue the event in 2014.

“Establish an annual Mission of Mercy project in Oklahoma.”

- At the 2014 Oklahoma Mission of Mercy’s two day event in Enid, 7,042 procedures were performed on 1,786 patients. The donated services amounted to $1,107,138.
- The 2015 Oklahoma Mission will be held in Tulsa.

Physician Reimbursement for Fluoride Varnish Application

“Reduce dental disease in all Oklahoma children, including those with special needs, by making fluoride varnish available to all young children, even those who do not receive regular oral health care.”

- Effective July 1, 2011, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) reimburses Primary Care Providers (PCP) for the application of fluoride varnish to the teeth of children 12 – 42 months of age during the course of a well-child visit. The OHCA continued to train and certify PCPs on the American Association of Pediatric/Oral Health website. The Smiles for Life National Oral Health Curriculum training and certification are offered free of charge.
- In 2013, 1,619 claims were paid for fluoride varnish applications delivered by PCPs.

Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program

“Ensure adequate workforce and programs exist to ensure the public has access to healthcare.”

- The Task Force recognizes that Oklahoma is one of only 13 states that does not have an Advanced Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program, and understands the immense need for dental specialists to treat children.
- These programs teach advanced diagnostic and surgical procedures, conscious sedation and general anesthesia, and how to care for children with special health care needs.
- The Task Force will support collaboration between the Oklahoma Association of Pediatric Dentists, the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, the Indian Health Service, the State Department of Health, the Oklahoma Dental Association, and private foundations to initiate a Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program when possible.