

Dear Colleague,

As part of our stakeholder outreach, TxOHC developed a short survey to learn more about your views on oral health issues and priorities in preparation for this next legislative session. Please take a few minutes to **complete this survey and submit no later than August 15, 2023**. The next quarterly virtual member meeting is on Friday, August 18, 2023 and we would love to have a response summary ready to share with members to start those important conversations and project planning. TxOHC Policy Priority Survey Link: <https://bit.ly/TxOHC-Survey>

We hope you had the opportunity to register for the upcoming 2023 Texas Oral Health Conference (TOHC) on Friday, August 4, 2023 at the TCEA Conference Center in Austin, TX and look forward to your participation and are eager to network in person again. In our efforts to remain eco-friendly, hard copies will not be provided at the conference. You may view or download the conference program at <https://bit.ly/23TOHC-Program>.

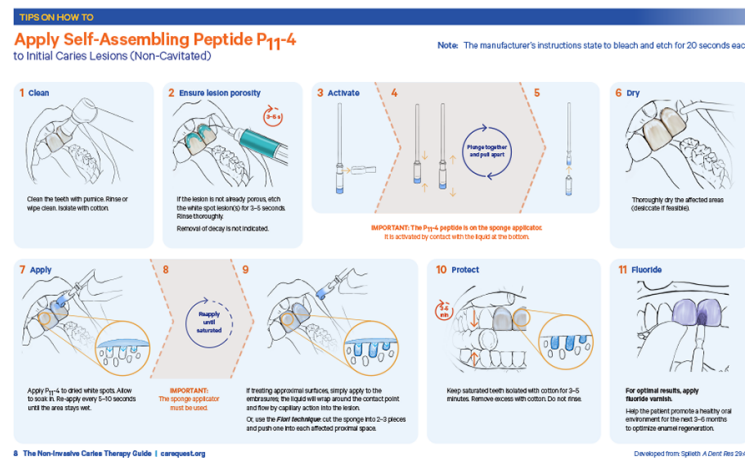
If you are not yet a member of the Texas Oral Health Coalition, you can join online at [https://bit.ly/TxOHC MEM](https://bit.ly/TxOHC_MEM). To learn more about the Coalition and how you can participate, please visit <https://txohc.org/>. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or require assistance.

Thank you,

Beth Stewart | Executive Director
Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.

Improving Oral Health Through Non-Invasive Therapy

An illustrated manual, now available on carequest.org, details the diagnostics, preventives, and therapeutics to fight dental caries without removing tooth structure. The Non-Invasive Caries Therapy Guide includes instructions and tips on how to differentiate active vs. arrested caries lesions, apply different types of brush-on therapies, and perform the Hall Technique.



[Explore and download the guide](#)

National News from OPEN

Join the **Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN)** for our 2023 Virtual Hill Day on September 12-13, 2023. The OPEN Virtual Hill Day is a powerful advocacy tool to present a clear, unified voice to Members of Congress about the importance of oral health to their constituents.

As we approach OPEN's virtual Hill Day on September 12 & 13, we wanted to share OPEN's three primary policy asks. This fall, we will urge Congress to support:

- The Heads Up Act which authorizes HHS to award grants to support health centers that provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities, including dental care.
- Increased access to oral health care for veterans
- Parity among federal oral health funding for all states, such as CDC & HRSA grants

These “asks” have the most traction in Congress right now, and we believe they will set up OPEN members for a successful Hill Day. We will be working on materials such as policy one-pagers and talking points to prepare Hill Day participants for their virtual meetings with legislators. We will also include brief talking points on Medicaid and Medicare for Member Offices that are interested.

September 12th from 1:00 - 5:00pm ET: On day one, participants will gather for a kick-off call to learn about our ‘asks’ or policy priorities and to create a game plan with the participants from their state to ensure successful meetings with Members of Congress.

September 13th *schedule varies depending on Member appointments:* On day two, virtual meetings with your Members of Congress and/or their staff will take place.

How it works

1. You register for the event.
2. OPEN schedules virtual appointments with your Members' offices, trains you on how to conduct a successful meeting, and provides you with all meeting materials.
3. You attend virtual appointments with participants from your state to educate Members and their staff on the importance of oral health to overall health!

Check out our [FAQ webpage](#) for more information.

Who can participate in Hill Visits with Members of Congress?

Almost anyone can serve as an advocate for improving oral health by engaging their Members of Congress. All private citizens and most 501c3 employees are able to advocate and to lobby. However, if you are employed by the Federal government or by state government, you may be

prohibited from participating in any activity that could be perceived as “lobbying.” That said, there may be some opportunities for you to educate your Member on the state of oral health in your community/state without discussing specific policies. If you are not sure about what you are allowed to do, check with your employer.

If I can't participate in Hill Visits, can I still register for the event?

Yes! You can register to attend the Kick-off event on Sept. 12th from 1:00 -5:00pm ET which will feature a policy panel, remarks from oral health champions in Congress, and policy focused skill building workshops.

Please be sure to [Register Today](#) and share this announcement with all of the oral health progress and equity advocates that you know!

Questions? Email events@carequest.org

Silver Diamine Fluoride: A Game Changer in Dental Public Health

Host: The Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA)

Webinar Title: Silver Diamine Fluoride: A Game Changer in Dental Public Health

Date & Time: August 9, 2023, 12:00 – 1:00 PM CDT

Speaker: Scott L. Tomar, DMD, MPH, DrPH, Professor and Associate Dean, UIC

1.0 CDE available (Continuing education is made possible through the Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI) and its Weitzman Institute, the research, education, and policy arm of CHCI. CE credits are available for dentists, physician assistants/associates, psychologists, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and social workers.)

[Register Here](#)

Silver-containing products have been used as antimicrobial agents for many years in many medical applications, including dentistry. Silver

diamine fluoride (SDF) has been used for caries management in other countries for more than 80 years and gained acceptance by the US Food and Drug Administration in 2014. This presentation will summarize the clinical evidence for SDF as a topical agent to arrest or prevent dental caries. It will discuss the mechanisms by which SDF works, its clinical indications, and recent research on the public health benefits of incorporating SDF into dental caries prevention and control.

After the webinar, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the probable mechanisms through which silver diamine fluoride arrests dental caries.
2. Describe the indications for using silver diamine fluoride and its method of application.
3. Describe the limitations of silver diamine fluoride.
4. Describe the potential public health benefits of incorporating SDF into community-based programs to prevent and control dental caries.

Momentum for Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage

Six states implemented adult dental benefits for the first time or significantly strengthened their existing benefits between 2020 and 2022. This is just one key takeaway in the updated Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker — an interactive tool for policymakers, administrators, and advocates. The Coverage Checker provides a snapshot of a state's Medicaid adult dental benefits package, looking at coverage of specific procedures and services in eight categories.

[Explore the tool](#)

Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 and Online Materials

The USDA and HHS developed resources for professionals to help promote healthy eating across the lifespan from birth to older adulthood.

Many of them dovetail nicely with some of the children's resources found on ECLKC. Check out <https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/professional-resources> to learn more about the Dietary Guidelines and get tips and resources to share with others.

TxOHC Member Spotlight

TxOHC Member Announcement

We are pleased to welcome the following new members since July 5, 2023.

Individual Members:

- Katie Andrew
LIBERTY Dental Plan
Austin, TX
 - Lindsay Littlefield
LIBERTY Dental Plan
Austin, TX
 - Heather Bugg
LIBERTY Dental Plan
Austin, TX
 - Rishma Shah, BDS, MPH
Student, University of North Texas Health and Science Center,
School of Public Health, Epidemiology
Fort Worth, TX
 - Monica Lynott, DDS
JPS/Acclaim
Fort Worth, TX
 - Daniel Jones, DDS
Jet Dental
Roanoke, TX
 - Kirsten Young, RDH
Hygienist for Sarah Kessler, DDS
Austin, TX
-

Quarterly Member Meeting, August 18th

The Coalition is pleased to host quarterly member meetings on the third Friday of the designated month from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM CT.

Please join our regional oral health coalitions in their separate breakout rooms for the first 45 minutes. After which, everyone will return to the main room to hear all of the coalitions' report out.

This is an excellent opportunity to participate at your local level. We encourage all members to actively engage in their regional coalitions to share resources, leverage innovative information and create viable solutions to address local challenges.

Upcoming meetings:

- **Friday, August 18, 2023**

Registration is complimentary but required at <https://bit.ly/QtrMtg> to

Disposable e-cigarette use rising among teenagers

"Disposable, flavored vapes are not supposed to be sold in the U.S. The Food and Drug Administration began cracking down on vaping in 2020, by requiring e-cigarettes get regulatory approval in order to sell. To date, the agency has [authorized only 23 specific e-cigarette products](#), all of which are tobacco-flavored alternatives to cigarettes, targeted at adults"

Yet many young people are still finding ways to get illegal products, specifically the disposable and flavored vapes, from retailers and online sellers, with unapproved products seeing a major surge from 2020 to 2022.

Read the full story [here](#).

The Texas Primary Care Office

Primary Care Provider Survey

Hello Dental Healthcare Partner(s),

The Texas Primary Care Office (TPCO) has been tasked with updating Texas primary care provider data (Primary Care, Mental and Dental) by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) Division of Policy and Shortage.

The federal Shortage Designation Branch requires specific data to be submitted in applications requesting designation of an area or population group as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or Medically Underserved Area/ Population (MUA/ P). The required information consists largely of primary care providers names, specialties, office locations, hours per week in direct patient care activities, information on the provider's patient population, and information on other activities the provider might be engaged in outside of patient care.

HPSA designation is among the criteria tools that many programs use to increase the supply, capacity, and distribution of health professionals in areas that have a verifiable shortage of providers.

In reviewing the designation status of areas within Texas, the Texas Department of State Health Services collects data primarily through surveys of provider offices and a combination of supplemental data sources such as online resources and available data sets. The document linked below is the current version of the survey/assessment used to collect shortage designation data. Reviewing this survey should assist in familiarizing you with the information required for evaluating shortage designations. Interested providers and offices may also feel free to proactively complete surveys/ assessments and return them to the Texas Primary Care Office.

- For dental health: Include Dentists and considers the number of Dental Auxiliaries. Dental auxiliaries are defined as any non-dentist staff employed by the dentist to assist in the operation of the practice.

Please note that providers solely engaged in administration, faculty, research, training, and inpatient care should be identified as they are excluded from the population -to provider ratios.

If an organization has more than 10 providers, TPCO may assist by providing an Excel spreadsheet which would allow the provider list/data to be compiled in one document and quickly uploaded.

The form to submit:

- To submit online: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-primary-care-office-tpco/health-professional-shortage-area-designations/healthcare-provider-assessment-texas>
- Fillable PDF Form: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-primary-care-office-tpco/health-professional-shortage-area-designations/healthcare-provider-assessment-texas>

Please note: The information given will not be circulated and will only be used to evaluate and/or apply for the HPSA designation.

Rhonnda Jones

Designation Specialist

Texas Department of State Health Services

Texas Primary Care Office

**Many thanks to our Organizational Members for
your support and collaboration!**



Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine



Join [here](#) if your organization is interested in joining our efforts to improve the oral healthcare system in Texas.

TxOHC CDE Opportunities

Oral health providers may obtain 1.0 CDE for every one(1) hour of lecture.
Online courses to choose from include:

- **Teledentistry**
 - Teledentistry in Texas: Opportunities to Increase Access to Care
 - Selection of Teledentistry Platforms and Utilization in Alternative Care Settings
 - *Available for edification only* – Taking the Mystery Out of Billing for Virtual Visits

- **Patients with IDD**
 - Providing Dental Care under Advanced Anesthesia: Oral Sedation, IV Sedation, TIVA, IV Mac, and General Anesthesia
 - Special Conditions and Barriers and Challenges Providing Dental Care to Patients with IDD
 - Understanding and Working with Caregivers and Group Homes, Dental Desensitization/Advanced Behavior Techniques for Patients with IDD at AbSSLC
- **Prescribers**
 - Mental Health & Opioid Use Disorder: Using the PMP to improve patient-centered care & communication

 - Statewide Mandate Compliance Using the PMP to Provide Patient-Centered Care
 - Maximizing Your Limited Time: Navigating Challenging Patient Conversations
 - Single Use Disposal Systems (SUDS) Training for Dentists
- **Prenatal**
 - Maternal Depression: Signs, Facts & Resources
 - Who Do You Call: Making the Referral Connection
 - Do No Harm: The Ethics, Myths & Business of Caring for Pregnant People
- **Oral Pathology**
 - Oral Cancer Update
 - Oral Manifestations of Systemic Diseases and Conditions
 - Common Lesions of the Oral Cavity, from Diagnosis to Treatment
- **Health Communications**
 - The Power of Audience Insight
 - Using Storytelling to Engage
 - Making Data Count Building
 - Your Social Media Presence
 - Speaking Up for Fluoride

To access any of these courses, please visit <https://txohc.org/education/self-instructional-webinars/>.

With much appreciation and sincerest gratitude, we wish to thank our 2023 Coalition Partners!



Your Contribution Matters

Your contribution is essential to our continued efforts and will make a positive impact on the lives of millions of your neighbors. No matter how small your contribution may seem, it is an integral piece of the larger puzzle leading to meaningful change. Please join in the advancement of our vision to make optimal health a reality for all Texans. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your participation in our community to continue this forward momentum.

TxOHC is also raising funds with Planet Green Recycle through our ink cartridges recycling fundraiser. [Click here](#) to request your FREE USPS shipping label to recycle your inks. Be sure to type in our Program ID Code: 32140 when completing the shipping form.

DONATE