

*MSDA Mission  
To contribute to the optimal  
oral health of Medicaid and  
state Children's Health  
Insurance Program (CHIP)  
beneficiaries by developing,  
promoting, and promulgating  
evidence- and best practices-  
based state and national  
Medicaid/CHIP oral health  
policies and practices.*



**MSDA**  
MEDICAID / SCHIP  
DENTAL ASSOCIATION

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

*President,  
Robert L. Birdwell DDS*

*Vice-President,  
Mark Casey, DDS, MPH*

*Immediate Past-President,  
Robert Isman, DDS, MPH*

*Treasurer,  
Martha Dellapenna, RDH, MEEd*

*Directors,  
Nance Orsbon  
Conan Davis, DDS, MPH  
Linda Altenhoff, DDS, MPH  
Scott Cashion, DDS, MS  
Paul Westerberg, DDS, MBA  
William K. Rich, DMD*

*Executive Director,  
Mary E. Foley, RDH, MPH*

## Inside this issue:

Executive Board Meeting	2
Membership Committee Update	2
Communication & Education Committee	2
President's Message	3
MSDA-Pew State Oral Health Survey	3
MSDA Data Committee	4
Best Practices Project	4

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2010

## MSDA Receives HRSA Cooperative Agreement

In early September 2010, the MSDA Board of Directors was informed by the HRSA, Maternal and Child Health Bureau that MSDA has been awarded a HRSA Cooperative Agreement. This Cooperative Agreement is a first for MSDA and one that creates the opportunity for MSDA to develop as a key national partner with HRSA, MCHB and others to promote the MSDA mission.

Earlier this summer, MSDA submitted an application in response to a HRSA RFP. MSDA responded with a comprehensive plan aimed at addressing the specific goals and objectives of the announcement. In September the Board was informed that MSDA's application was accepted. The \$200,000 /year Cooperative Agreement is a three year commitment pending annual federal funding appro-

priations. As part of the Cooperative Agreement, MSDA will collaborate with the MCHB, American Association of Medical Colleges, Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, state Title V Programs and other key national, federal and state partners. The purpose of the Cooperative Agreement is to "support national membership organizations to provide direction to the organization's leadership and members, to improve a component of oral health systems of care for women and children, especially as it relates to impacting access to the delivery of services."

Dr. Mark Nehring will serve as the MSDA-HRSA Cooperative Agreement Project Officer. As a result of his foresight, understanding and recognition of the role state Medicaid and CHIP



programs have in the oral health care delivery system, the MSDA vision— "to be well-known and respected for our knowledge and representation of Medicaid/CHIP oral health programs, as well as our contributions to the improved oral and overall health of the Medicaid/CHIP population", will be more effectively realized.

Several major goals and objectives have been established. During the next several months, MSDA committees: Best Prac-

## MSDA Board Members Moving On...

It is with heartfelt mixed emotions that we bid farewell to Britt Catron and Conan Davis. Working for both state and federal Medicaid programs respectively, both Britt and Conan have significantly supported the development efforts of the Medicaid/SCHIP Dental Association. Conan, as the CMS representative and advisor to the Board has guided MSDA in establishing national and federal

partnerships that have led the way to organizational growth and national visibility and credibility. Conan will be leaving CMS at the end of the year to assume a faculty position at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Dentistry. Britt, MSDA's current Vice-President and Chair of the Planning Committee has recently accepted a position as Director for the New Mexico Office of

Rural Health/Primary Care. Besides serving as an integral member of the Board for the last several years, Britt has been instrumental in planning and implementing the Annual MSDA Business Meeting and Medicaid Dental Symposium.

**Please join us in wishing both Conan and Britt best wishes in their future professional endeavors.**



**MSDA Communication and Education Committee is planning a series of national webcasts as a vehicle for enhancing oral health, Medicaid and public health knowledge and competency among state Medicaid and CHIP dental program personnel. The first webcast is scheduled for Feb 2011. Participation is free but registration will be required. Additional information will be forthcoming.**

### HRSA Continued...

tices; Education and Communication; Data; Membership; and Planning will be working to implement their respective workplans.

MSDA members can expect to be fully engaged in the activities of each of the committees. Input from members will be ongoing. Members are also being recruited to participate as committee members. Details about each committee are available on the MSDA website. Anyone interested in participating or learning more about the

Cooperative Agreement and specific committee tasks should contact the following Committee Chairs:

**Best Practices:**

Mark Casey-  
mark.casey@dhhs.nc.gov

**Communication:**

Marty Dellapenna  
mdellapenna@dhs.ri.gov

**Data:**

Bob Isman  
bob.isman@comcast.net

**Membership:**

Linda Altenhoff  
linda.altenhoff@dshs.state.tx.us

**Planning:**

Mary Foley  
mfoley@medicaiddental.org

## MSDA Executive Board Meets in DC

In late September 2010, the MSDA Board of Directors held its semi-annual face-to-face meeting in Washington DC. The primary purpose of this meeting was for Board members to meet with Dr. Nehring and gain understand of the responsibilities and deliverables associated with the 2010-2011 HRSA Cooperative Agreement. The Board discussed the infra-

structure and resources necessary to launch these activities. It was decided that the MSDA committees, made up of internal MSDA members and external partners would take the lead in implementing the respective workplans. A list of each of the committee members may be accessed online at [www.medicaidental.org](http://www.medicaidental.org)

### MSDA Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is responsible for MSDA's fiscal oversight. Mark Casey, DDS, MPH, MSDA's Secretary-Treasurer currently serves as the Chair. The Chair and committee members Bob Birdwell, Paul Westerberg, and Nance Osborn meet monthly with Executive Director, Mary Foley to review the general ledger, profit/loss and balance sheets.

## MSDA Membership Committee

The MSDA Membership Committee has re-organized and is currently working to develop and sustain membership across membership categories. A logic model to steer the work of the committee was recently drafted by Committee Chair Dr. Linda Altenhoff. Currently membership categories include: "Regular Members" or individuals who are actively engaged in policy development or direct administration of Medicaid/

CHIP dental programs at the state or federal level; and "Associate Members" or any public agency, voluntary organization, tribal entities and/or health professionals, employed by or interested in Medicaid/CHIP dental programs, including but not limited to state and federal Medicaid/CHIP oral health managers, administrators, consultants and support staff; oral health researchers and academics; federal, state,

and local dental public health program managers; and managers of public health-based dental care delivery programs such as community health centers and rural health centers. The committee is considering redefining the categories and proposing a by-laws change. As the committee progresses in this area, MSDA members will be asked to provide input.

**NOTE:** Dues statements for 2011 will be emailed November. The membership term runs from Jan 1st—Dec. 31st.

## President's Message

Over the past year, MSDA has grown both in membership and as an influential resource for state Medicaid and CHIP dental program stakeholders. Partnership with other organizations such as ADA, AADP, ASTDD, CDHP, HRSA, CMS, CDC, DentaQuest Foundation and others has assisted both our growth and stability.

Through the efforts of MSDA members, working with our Executive Director, MSDA was successful in obtaining two significant grants. We are truly grateful to both HRSA and the DentaQuest Foundation for their support and the faith they have shown in our organization.

This type of grant funding also brings with them certain obliga-

tions. Organizing a national Medicaid dental meeting, growth of committees, and other related obligations need to be addressed by MSDA. I am asking all the members to find a place that helps MSDA fulfill our obligations. Working together I am confident that our organization can continue to grow and become the one recognized voice for state Medicaid and CHIP dental programs. Thank each of you for your continued support. I look forward working with you throughout the upcoming year.

Last I would like to mention that the Annual MSDA/ Medicaid Symposium usually held in conjunction with the National Oral Health Conference, is being scheduled in

2011 as a separate conference. Exact dates of the Symposium have not yet been determined. Further information will be forthcoming.



Stan Honda, #97/Getty Images

### Gathering Leaves by Robert Frost

Spades take up leaves  
No better than spoons,  
And bags full of leaves  
Are light as balloons.  
I make a great noise  
Of rustling all day  
Like rabbit and deer  
Running away.

But the mountains I raise  
Elude my embrace,  
Flowing over my arms  
And into my face.  
I may load and unload  
Again and again  
Till I fill the whole shed,  
And what have I then?

Next to nothing for weight,  
And since they grew duller  
From contact with earth,  
Next to nothing for color.  
Next to nothing for use.  
But a crop is a crop,  
And who's to say where  
The harvest shall stop?

## Pew-MSDA Survey

In February 2010, the Pew Children's Dental Campaign released a report on children's dental health in the United States – *The Cost of Delay: State Dental Policies Fail One in Five Children*. In early 2011, Pew plans to release updated state factsheets.

In an effort to increase accuracy and assure consistent reporting across the

states, MSDA is working with Pew to gather the data and update the state factsheets.

In September 2010, MSDA members were asked to participate in the national request for information via "Survey Monkey". The request with four overarching questions related to state Medicaid Dental Programs. To date 41 states have responded. The

survey deadline has been extended in hopes of reaching a 100% response rate. Once all responses have been collected and analyzed, MSDA members will receive a (state confidential) aggregate report.

**THANK YOU** for taking the time to support this effort in assuring our state Medicaid dental data is correctly represented in national reports.

## Dental Quality Alliance

The Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) held its inaugural meeting in Washington DC last month. Twenty-four organizations representing key federal and dental communities participated. As a member of the DQA, MSDA participated in establishing the overall committee structure which will be responsible for carrying out the work of the Alliance. The overarching charge of the DQA is to advance performance measurement as a means to improve oral health, patient care and safety through a consensus-building process.

The key objectives that the DQA will focus on include:

1. To identify and develop evidenced based oral health performance measures and measurement resources;
2. To advance the effectiveness and scientific basis of clinical performance measurement and improvement;
3. To foster and support professional accountability, transparency, and value in oral health care through the development, implementation and evaluation of performance measurement.

## MEDICAID/SCHIP DENTAL ASSOCIATION

2 Grove Street  
Sandwich, Massachusetts  
02563

Washington DC Office  
4411 Connecticut  
Avenue  
Unit 302  
Washington DC 20008

MA Phone: 508-888-5777  
DC Phone: 202-248-2315

Fax: 508-888-5777

E-mail:  
mfoley@medicaiddental.org

We're on the web!  
[www.medicaddental.org](http://www.medicaddental.org)



## MSDA Data Committee

The MSDA Data Committee has been charged with addressing one of the major objectives listed under Goal 1 of the HRSA Cooperative Agreement:

**Objective 1.1 Establish and maintain a 50 state registry of Medicaid/CHIP dental program infrastructure and capacity.**



The major activities to accomplish this objective will be the development and implementation of an annual survey of state Medicaid and CHIP programs. The purpose of this survey will be to augment the American Dental Association's Medicaid Compendium of state Medicaid and CHIP dental programs and update annually. The MSDA Data Committee will collaborate with MSDA members and the ADA staff throughout the process. Information on all state Medicaid and CHIP dental programs, including personnel, current policies, tools, resources, and websites will be collected. A comprehensive 50 state profile of Medicaid and CHIP Dental program infrastructure will become updated and available via online.

## MSDA Best Practices Committee

The Best Practices Committee is a newly established ad hoc committee of MSDA. The committee was formed to steer the best practices project in meeting the following HRSA CA objective:

*Goal 1, Objective 1.2 Develop and enhance evidence-based state models for increasing access to comprehensive oral health care services.*

The three stage "**bottom-up**" **approach** will model the successful work of ASTDD's Best Practice Project. **Stage 1** will focus on gaining input from MSDA members/state Medicaid and CHIP dental programs.

**Stage 2** entails the develop-

ment of strategies to identify evidence based "good, better and best" aspects of Medicaid and CHIP programs, including financing strategies, resources, staffing, outreach, policies etc. and for distinguishing proven and promising best practices.

**Stage 3** will involve the assimilation of information, transfer of lessons learned, development of best practice model descriptions, and identification of research and practice evaluation needs, policy implications and the sharing of information.

MSDA members should know that the overall intent for this project is not for committee members or products of the committee to *prescribe* "best

programs" or "best states" but rather share information and strategies that have led to successful programming efforts.

The Committee will be meeting face-to-face in November to begin to lay the framework for the project. In preparation, MSDA members will be asked to complete a brief survey about their previous experience, perceptions and/or values of "best practices". In order to assure that this project meets YOUR needs, the committee asks that you reply accordingly. A Survey Monkey request will be forthcoming.

The MSDA BP Committee looks forward to working with you on the exciting project.