

Commission to Study Pathways to Oral Health Care in New Hampshire (SB 193)

December 3, 2014 - Rm 101 LOB

At 2pm, the Organizational Meeting the Commission to Study Pathways to Oral Health Care in New Hampshire was convened by Senator Jeb Bradley.

Members present: Sen. Bradley, Dr. Puneet Kochhar (NH Dental Society), Dr. Arthur McKibbin, Jr. (BODE), Gail Brown (NH Oral Health Coalition), Dr. Margaret Snow (NH Medicaid Dental Director), Robert Ritchie (State Committee on Aging), Charles Saia (Gov's Commission on Disability), Pamela Delahunty (NH Hygienists Association), Erika Argersinger (NH Kids Count), Dr. Roger Achong (NH Academy of Pediatric Dentistry), and Janet Laatsch (Bi-State Primary Care Association)

Members absent: Sen. Woodburn (new Senate appointee), Rep. Susan Emerson (House appointee), Mary Ann Aldrich (Public member)

Senator Bradley asked for introductions and a statement from each member about their goals for the commission:

Dr. Margaret Snow - NH Medicaid Dental Director. Is hopeful we can bring talents together and reach common ground in oral health. Particular interest children and adults through the Medicaid program. Moving oral health forward.

Gail Brown – NH Oral Health Coalition. Established in 2002. Original work was to establish an oral health plan. In the process of revising the plan. Goal is optimal oral health for all. Focus on access and helping get people preventive and restorative services. Very interested in common goals.

Bob Richie - State Committee on Aging. Concerns for elderly and need for dental care, particularly those who have financial difficulty.

Chuck Saia – Governor's Commission on Disability. Our job is to educate on the state of affairs of the disabled. Looking to work forward collaboration.

Dr. Kochhar - Past president of NHDS. Making great strides toward progress. Want to move things forward.

Dr. McKinnon - Board of Dental Examiners. Primary concern, moving forward in oral health care specifically care about the safety of the patients to make sure there are protections.

Janet Laatsch – Serve as Executive at Goodwin Community Health Center. Provide access for medical, behavioral, and dental health. Would like to see emphasis on prevention.

Pam Delahunty - Certified Public Health Dental Hygienist. Work with project sponsored by Monadnock hospital which sees children up to middle school. Really excited to see NH as an example for what can be done in other states. Looking forward to collaboration.

Erika Argersinger - NH Kids Count. Working to improve child development. Active in the first legislation which passed the Certified Public Health Hygienist and EFDA. Also involved in SB 193 which lead to this Commission. Need to see what is happening and see how things are being addressed and what else we need to do.

Dr Roger Achong – NH Pediatric Dentistry. Oral health for kids and parents. passionate about well-being for kids.

Senator Bradley - Senator Gilmore no longer will serve on Commission. We are short two legislative members but we expect to hear more soon.

Election of Chairman:

Dr. Puneet Kochhar moved to nominate Sen. Jeb Bradley to serve as Chairman of the Commission. The nomination was seconded by Dr. Margaret Snow. All in favor – unanimously adopted.

General Discussion:

Sen. Bradley - This is not a black and white issue. Needs to be fact based. Look at other states. There are differences in opinion even around this table. Want to see what best serves the needs.

Would like to discuss the list of presenters and evidence the Commission should seek out. We need to work with due diligence, but not too quickly.

Ideas for presentations:

- Board of Dental Examiners. Current information on dental licensees, comparisons on scope and licensure. Creation of EFDA and Certified Public Health Hygienists. What has been implemented?
- Department of Health & Human Services. Two segments of the organization would be important to consider:
 - o Dental Medicaid - Dr. Snow. (how does dental Medicaid work, how does it coincide with SB 413 –expansion, should there be a dental benefit?)
 - o Oral Health Program – Public Health – Nancy Martin.
- Data on costs vs shortages. Are their reports on this?
 - o ADA may have economic reports

- NH Kids Count has engaged Carsey Institute for literature review on ER data, use rates, etc. Not ready yet.
- Data on barriers to oral health. NH Oral Health Coalition to provide.

General Discussion on Scope of Study:

Sen. Bradley reviewed duties of Commission.

Dr Snow - As the Medicaid Dental Director, I have to question how any provider or any mechanism of access to care can be addressed without talking about Medicaid reimbursement for adult care. Most of individuals without treatment who experience barriers to care would be eligible for Medicaid but do not have coverage. Any discussion of provider types is the cart before the horse. How will it be funded, are we willing to fund it? These are fundamental questions.

Dr. McKibbin - So is the question who is going to pay?

Dr. Snow - How will it be paid for, provider payments, what will be program parts? In 2003 we had only a few dentists to take Medicaid children. There was a high administrative burden and significant lack of demand. Demand is different from need. We moved from 18% access to 60%. We increased rates, lowered administrative rates, and educated the public. We got close to private pay access. By in large, the problem for access in NH has been about adults. We are managing the kids, the problem is the adults. No rate increase since 2003. With Medicaid expansion, we have a large influx of people we need to educate. This formula has worked. Now, 10 years later the rates are lower, administrative burden is increasing and not increasing demand - we'll see a slide. This is irrespective of who does the work.

Sen. Bradley – Believes that is part of the parameters of the study – or is it a stretch?

Gail Brown - Agree it is part of it, we have no funding mechanism for the current new providers, so it is important to talk about.

Janet Laatsch - Agree we have no program for adults. We have to pull people's teeth. That is something we need to talk about.

Dr. Kochhar - Can we look at utilization? Can we make sure there is a demand? I've seen the need for education. Some people don't think they need dental care.

Robert Ritchie – Can we look at other states?

Sen. Bradley - Can look to other states through CSG and NCSL. Minnesota was one?

Erika Argersinger - Can look at Minnesota. They have an evaluation coming out. Should we hear from CMS?

Jodi Grimbilas – We can provide data and studies from ADA Health Policy Institute.

Dr. Snow - We need to compare training and scope of practices and differences between providers. We should see a side-by-side so it is clear what is the same and what is different.

Erika Argersinger - The oral health working group had a chart like that. May need to be looked at and updated.

Gail Brown - Have been getting information about it.

Dr. McKibbin – is nutrition and health (i.e. sugar) a topic to discuss or is that beyond our scope?

Sen. Bradley - Beyond our scope.

Final Set of information to be Requested:

Ideas for presentations/information:

- Board of Dental Examiners. Current information on dental licensees, side by side comparisons on scope and licensure. Creation of EFDA and Certified Public Health Hygienists. What has been implemented?
- Department of Health & Human Services:
 - o Dental Medicaid - Dr. Snow. (how does dental Medicaid work, how does it coincide with SB 413 –expansion, should there be a dental benefit?)
 - o Oral Health Program – Public Health – Nancy Martin. Review of school programs and 2014 study on senior oral health, etc.
- Data on costs vs shortages. Information to review/possible presentations in the future:
 - o The ADA Health Policy Institute’s economic reports on costs, shortages and utilization (Dr. Kochhar)
 - o Carsey Institute report and supporting materials (Argersinger)
- Data on barriers to oral health. NH Oral Health Coalition to provide. (Gail Brown/Jane Goodman)
- NHTI Educational programs (Dr. Sarah Finne and Maggie Ray)

Next Meetings:

- February 13th at 2pm
- March 27th at 2pm.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3pm.