

2018 ORAL HEALTH SUMMIT: PURSUING NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION

November 29-30, 2018
Harrisburg, PA

The 2018 PA Oral Health Summit, hosted by the Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH), convened to foster new collaborations among stakeholders across the Commonwealth. For the first time in the history of the Summit, community members were invited to attend and provide insight into their individual needs. This gave leaders across Pennsylvania the opportunity to better understand underserved populations, while also empowering community members to become advocates for change. PCOH created an open space to work together and build upon the strengths of the current system.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR WORK

Day 1 began with a general overview of the current system. Groups were asked to discuss current **barriers** to care, recent **accomplishments**, and the **potential impact** that was possible over the next ten years. Each topic was documented on a corresponding colored sticky note per the instructions given in the workbook. Groups were then divided up to highlight and present key points from their conversations.



MAPPING OUR CURRENT SYSTEM



The Summit created an environment that allowed for open dialogue of health inequity and the need for positive change in the system. Day 1 also provided regional action planning among attendees. This gave stakeholders the opportunity to delve deeper into the needs of their community. Regional groups created a map of the current system in their area. In doing this, each group discussed current **structural supports**, **bright spots**, **holes in the system**, and **points of tension**. The regional discussion provided strategies for identifying additional stakeholders and the need to build new partnerships to influence change. Groups

continued by mapping the future accomplishments that they hoped to achieve over the next ten years, while also considering how to overcome barriers and how to close gaps in service. Through conversations at each table, the focus remained on the development of new partnerships and collaborations.

DAY 1 REFLECTIONS

Throughout the event, Chrissie Bonner from Illustrating Progress developed a graphic illustration depicting the key topics of discussion. The graphic provided a powerful visual representation of attendees' thoughts and visions for change. The day concluded with a reflection of everyone's role in changing the system. Meeting facilitator Nancy Aronson asked attendees to reflect on the most promising possibility they heard from the day and how to expand on these ideas for day 2. Reflections were collected via mobile polling with answers projected at the front of the room for all attendees to see. It was an empowering technique to encourage everyone to continue their thoughts throughout the evening.



DAY 2 NETWORKING

The day began with a few moments of mindfulness, guided by meeting facilitator, Marie McCormick, to calmly reflect on the previous day's events and the intentions and goals that individuals hoped to achieve on day 2. This was followed by three rounds of "speed-networking" to further engage individuals with one another. The networking encouraged attendees to utilize deep listening skills, while promoting new collaborations and sparking ideas across the group.

IDENTIFYING POSSIBILITIES

Attendees were asked to present topics of interest to bring to the table. The group then moved into a separate meeting space, where they selected a group based on their topic of interest. Discussion consisted of two 45-minute sessions, with the outcome being new collaborations among attendees and a potential for future commitments to actions by these partnerships.

MOVING FORWARD

Throughout the Summit, space was created to share ideas and a feeling of inclusiveness was felt by all. PCOH is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this work, and attendees left the summit knowing their passions and interests will be the top priorities of the coalition moving into 2019 and beyond. The relationships that were newly established and the ones that were refreshed during the event will allow all PCOH stakeholders to work together and accomplish better oral health for all Pennsylvanians.



For more information on the PA Coalition for Oral Health, please visit www.paoralhealth.org.