

ORAL HEALTH FLORIDA  
SENIOR ACTION TEAM  
CONFERENCE CALL

MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, December 2, 2014  
TIME: 1-2 p.m.  
CHAIR: Nolan Allen, DDS

---

**Call to Order**

The chair called the conference call to order at 1:05 p.m., Tuesday, December, 2, 2014.

**Opening Remarks**

The chair welcomed the participants to the OHF Coalition Senior Action Team conference call.

**Approval of Minutes (September 17, 2014)**

The minutes were approved as distributed.

**Oral Health America Tooth Wisdom Program**

Ms. Corbin discussed the Oral Health America Regional State Partner Conference Call scheduled for December 17. The action team discussed recommendations for enhancing the OHA Tooth Wisdom Program state pages. It was suggested that there needed to be a clear means to access dentists or dental organizations that provide oral health care for the vulnerable elderly. The action team agreed that the marketing plan to reach the public needed to be upgraded as it was difficult to move from one site to another. Ms. Corbin also mentioned that OHA received a grant for \$299,450 from the DentaQuest Foundation for Older Adults Care.

The chair asked for volunteers to participate in the conference call. Ms. Corbin said that she would be on the call and relay the Oral Health Florida Senior Action Team's recommendations about the current tooth wisdom program website.

The chair also recommended that action team members participate in a webinar on dementia being held on December 10.

**NECAC Update**

The chair provided an update on the National Elder Care Advisory Committee's (NECAC) project dealing in the development of an on-line continuing education program to train dentists on the best practices to provide dental care in long-term care facilities. He said that there were eight modules which would provide ADA members with 10 hours of CE credit. The cost of the course was \$475 for members, \$650 for non-ADA member dentists and \$150 per staff member of ADA members. He said that the FDA Foundation was discussing whether to provide grants to two member dentists who agree to take the course.

**FDA Workforce Innovation Task Group and Sub-Workgroup on Elder Care**

The chair discussed the formation of FDA's Workforce Innovation Task Group and the Sub-Group on Elder Care. He said that the Florida Dental Association was one of 10 ADA constituent dental associations selected to implement a comprehensive plan for dental health. He said that the task group

consisted of the FDA leadership and representatives from the association's six component dental associations. He also said that he was appointed chair of the sub-workgroup on Elder Care and that Dr. Cesar Sabates and Mr. Macdonald who are members of the action team were also appointed to the sub-workgroup. The chair said that the sub-workgroup would meet via conference call on December 22.

### **Florida's Action for Dental Health**

The chair said that the FDA Workforce Innovation Task Group was in the process of implementing Florida's Action for Dental Health whose major goal is to identify and address the public's obstacles to dental care in the state. The objectives are to promote attainable dental care for the uninsured and underserved; maximize utilization and capacity of the current dental workforce to optimally serve Floridians with preventive and therapeutic dental care; and expand opportunities for public health dentistry to serve Floridians.

The chair said that one of the objectives will be to encourage dentists to practice in rural and underserved areas and for those who agree to this to have a method of student loan repayment for serving in these areas. The task group will also seek funding support for the FDA's Donated Dental Services to provide dental services for those persons with special needs and who are medically compromised.

He surmised that much of the work done by the OHF Senior Action Team to determine the status of oral health care for the vulnerable elderly may become part of the action plan.

### **ADA Letter to CMS Re: Florida's Medicaid Managed Care Program**

The chair reviewed with the action team a letter sent from the ADA and FDA presidents to CMS regarding the problems with Florida's Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance program (MMA). The letter outlined how plan administrators are reimbursing dentists at fees less than what are allowed under the program. This has led to an inadequate number of Medicaid provider dentists willing to participate in the program.

El Harris, President, PrevMED provided his insights on the problems and updated the action team on meetings he had in Atlanta with CMS regional administrators. He explained the problems with reimbursement for services provided in nursing homes to Medicaid eligibles. He provided an update on problems and how they may be addressed and said that two carriers were involved in dental care...United Healthcare and Sunshine Health. He discussed the need for nursing home staffs to provide basic oral hygiene care to long-term care residents between dental professional visits. He said there was little brushing or flossing of residents teeth by the nursing staffs.

Ms. Corbin said that the State of Kentucky may have approved a nursing home reform plan. The chair asked her to provide information about the program at the next conference call.

### **American Medical Directors Association Support of Oral Health Care**

Mr. Harris reported that the American Medical Directors Association had developed a Tool Kit for oral health which it was promoting to all its members to use a teaching guide for proper oral health care for long-term care residents.

### **Dates of Next Meetings**

The chair recommended the following dates for future conference calls: February 3, 2015, April 7, 2015 and June 2, 2015.

**Adjournment**

The OHF Senior Action Team conference call was adjourned at 1:55 p.m., Tuesday December 2, 2014.