



Policy Recommendations-2007

The Coalition believes that a meaningful increase in access to oral health care for underserved populations in Wisconsin will require collaboration from all groups interested in developing a multi-pronged approach through the following policy recommendations:

Develop creative funding mechanisms to increase access to oral health care for Medicaid/BadgerCare, uninsured and underserved by rewarding those providers who see a disproportionate share and by expanding community health center and school-based capacity.

Support creative ideas from various organizations to increase access by increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate based on the Wisconsin Dental Associations findings that 80% of their members who responded would see more Medicaid patients if the rates were raised to the 75th percentile.

Continually work to expand the capacity of dentists in the state by allowing additional incentives, loan repayment programs, or tuition reimbursement programs to graduates of Marquette University School of Dentistry to remain in the state and for Wisconsin students graduating from out-of-state accredited dental schools who return to Wisconsin.

Support the increase of Wisconsin residents from 40 to 50 in each of the incoming classes at the Marquette University School of Dentistry and increase their annual tuition reimbursement to \$11,000 per the recommendations from the Governor's Oral Health Task Force.

Expand dentists and dental hygienists workforce capacity by simplifying the process for qualified dentists and dental hygienists from outside Wisconsin to obtain initial Wisconsin licensure by accepting the results of those who successfully completed Central Regional, Western Regional, Southern Regional, Northeast Regional, and the National Dental Examinations and hold to remaining statutory requirements.

Expand the dentist's authority to delegate dentistry as defined in WI Statutes Chapter 447.065.

Continue to support the dental hygienists ability to practice dental hygiene or perform remediable procedures without the authorization or oversight of a dentist (independently) in three settings (public/private schools, dental/dental hygiene schools, and in or as an employee of a local public health department). In addition, continue working to remove regulatory barriers so that dental hygienists may practice dental hygiene or perform remediable procedures without authorization or oversight of a dentist in additional practice settings that offer services primarily to the uninsured, underinsured, and underserved as well as those who provide for Medicaid and BadgerCare as an employee, independent contractor, or volunteer and to determine the need for those services, as described in WI Statutes Chapter 447.01(3)(a-g) and 447.06 Practice Limitations (2) (d).

Strengthen the public health infrastructure to support community level prevention programs by funding 5 DHFS regionally based public health dental hygienists at a full time level

Provide grants for expanding community water fluoridation.

Fund, maintain and publish data collection and program evaluation systems with the Division of Health and Family Services to assure evidence-based access to oral healthcare.

Continue current efforts for modifying the paperwork required for Medicaid claims processing so that it is the same as dental industry standards.