



Oral Health Collaborative
Virtual Meeting
September 17, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Meeting Highlights

In Attendance:

Anabel Bolaños, Iris Corpus, Marty Dellapenna, Jamie Howard, Christine Tran-Le, Ella Nadine Leus, Thomas Lovinger, Stacie McKeehan, Dr. Jila Nikkhah, Jeannette Díaz- Olivera, Cristina Perales, Stephanie Rebollar, Andrea Rosas, Jerome Samonte, Rebeka Sanchez, Deepa Shanadi, Henry Torres, and Dr. Marisa Watanabe.

Welcome & Introductions:

- Deepa Shanadi welcomed all in attendance. Members and guests were invited to place their names and organizations in the chat box.

Review of June 18, 2025, Meeting Highlights:

- Collaborative members reviewed the meeting highlights from 06/18/2025. One spelling error was noted. The highlights will be revised and placed on the LOHP Workgroup webpage <https://smilehabitsoc.org/lohp/>.

Collaborative Member Updates:

- Thomas Lovinger shared he will be presenting during the Center for Oral Health's Symposium on Oral Health and Quality of Life Among Older Adults in Sacramento on 09/18/2025. Click on the link for more information: <https://www.centerfororalhealth.org/2025-symposium/>

CalOptima's Health Programs for Seniors:

One Care: Maria Wahab, CalOptima Member Outreach and Education Manager, provided an overview of CalOptima's OneCare program, which serves 1 in 3 low-income residents in Orange County.

What Is CalOptima Health OneCare?

- The OneCare program is a Medicare Advantage plan. It is an HMO, dual special needs, and fully integrated plan.
- OneCare is designed for low-income older adults and people with disabilities enrolled in Medicare and Medi-Cal who live in Orange County.
- OneCare combines Medicare and Medi-Cal benefits to make it easier for members to access their healthcare.
- In addition, OneCare offers supplemental services and care coordination, which are not covered by Medicare and Medi-Cal. Some benefits include groceries & over-the-counter items, annual physical exams, and vision and dental care.
- OneCare currently contracts with 9 health networks.

CalOptima Health OneCare Eligibility

- To be eligible, one must be 21 or older, live in Orange County, be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B, and receive full scope Medi-Cal benefits.
- Once enrolled, members will receive one ID card, which will allow them access to all their benefits. This minimizes having multiple ID cards.
- For more information, click on the link: <https://www.caloptima.org/en/health-insurance-plans/onecare>

The following OneCare target population metrics were shared as of Sept. 1, 2025:

- ~ 96,700 Medi-Cal/ Medicare eligible members (dual)
- ~ 37.30% are in a fee-for-service plan
- ~ 43.92% are with competitors
- ~ OneCare has about 18.78% members



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- Top threshold languages are English, Vietnamese, and Spanish

Questions and comments:

- Would you elaborate more on the network group providers? The group providers, which include AltaMed Health Services, United Care Medical Group, and Optum, are medical groups that contract with primary care physicians (PCPs).
- Do any of the network group providers contract with dental providers? No. Dental services are managed through Liberty Dental.
- Do PCPs contract with other providers? No. That is not how the system is set up.
- Is Orange County considering its own version of a dental plan, similar to the model from San Mateo County? Not to my knowledge.

PACE: Stacie McKeehan from CalOptima Health PACE provided an overview of CalOptima’s Health Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

About PACE:

- PACE is a health care program that helps older adults live better by giving them specialized medical care and social support. It helps them stay independent and live at home for as long as possible.
- There are 185 PACE organizations and programs across the nation, 37 in California, and 3 sites in Orange County.
- CalOptima is the first PACE in Orange County that covers all of Orange County.

What PACE Offers:

- PACE’s model of care provides medical and social care through an interdisciplinary team (IDT). Every member who comes into PACE is assigned to IDT, which includes a PCP, nurse, and dietician.
- PACE also has activity coordinators, a pharmacy, and physical and occupational therapists.
- Services include day center, healthy meals, rehabilitation, transportation, and home care.
- PACE participants receive full dental coverage, with many of their appointments on-site. They are sent to dental partners for specific dental services, such as in-dept surgery or dentures.

PACE Eligibility:

- Participants must be 55 and older and live in an Orange County zip code.
- Need the level of care given in a nursing home after an assessment is completed by CalOptima Health PACE staff, receive state approval, and be able to live safely in the community.
- PACE services are at no cost if a participant is covered by Medi-Cal or if they are enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medicare with no share of cost.
- For more information on PACE, visit: www.caloptima.org. To receive a PACE referral form, email Staci at Staci.Mckeehan@caloptima.org

Questions and comments:

- How do you promote preventive and routine dental care? Oral hygiene education is provided on the actual day floor, and participants receive dental checkups.
- Do you hire dentists or hygienists in alternate practices through PACE, or are they contracted? PACE is currently with a dental company.
- Golden Age Dental Care provides portable dentistry; our organization would be interested in contracting with PACE. Our staff can discuss that with you.

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- How is a participant's dental need assessed? PACE has on-site RNs and LVNs to assess dental needs. If needed, a dentist can come and further assess. The IDT also assesses participants every 180 days and then every 365th day.
- Could there be an opportunity for funding or a project to collect data on dental assessments from PACE participants? Dental oral needs are assessed half-yearly and yearly.

Orange County Strategic Plan:

Jerome Samonte from the Local Oral Health Program (LOHP) shared that the LOHP will shift back to the Orange County Strategic Plan. Earlier in the year, the LOHP had focused efforts on key priority deliverables requested from the Office of Oral Health as part of California's Oral Health Strategic Workplan – Moving California Forward.

LOHP will continue to work with collaborative members and community partners to help increase access to dental care for Medi-Cal individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and increase the percentage of Medi-Cal adults 65 and older who receive a preventive dental visit.

Fluoride Resources Update:

Jerome Samonte shared the following fluoride resources.

- An audio presentation from the ADA titled, Fluoridation Science and Facts presented by Dr. Scott Tomar, who worked for the CDC. The presentation features Fluoridation in the News: Behind the Recent Developments, and the Public Health Impact. Click on the link to listen. <https://www.ada.org/publications/dental-sound-bites/season-6/fluoridation-science-and-facts-s6e02>

Members were invited to view additional resources from the California Department of Public Health-Office of Oral Health that can be shared with patients or community members who may inquire about fluoride safety.

- [Fluoridation Facts, 2025 E-book](#)
- [Timeline for Community Water Fluoridation | Fluoridation | CDC](#)
- [Fighting cavities with water fluoridation](#)
- [Community Water Fluoridation: How Dental Professionals Can Lead the Conversation | CareQuest Institute for Oral Health](#) (This is a self-paced course with 1 CEU provided)

School Dental Program Implementation Update:

One of the state's oral health goals is to expand dental programs in 50 percent of Title I schools. Deepa Shanadi, HCA Research Analyst, helped develop a GIS map to assist with surveillance. The data identified 226 of 423 elementary schools in Orange County as Title I schools.

A dental program includes screenings, referrals, and preventive dental services, such as cleanings, sealants, and applying fluoride varnish. One primary task is to link children to dental care by developing an electronic referral-managed platform that would track a child from the dental screening to the completion of care.

The role of LOHP is to promote, coordinate, facilitate, and evaluate the dental programs. Due to the limited size, LOHP is seeking the assistance of collaborative members to help implement school dental programs in Title I schools throughout Orange County.

LOHP's strategy is to collaborate with providers to map current coverage, identify gaps and facilitate new dental programs, and support existing programs established in schools to meet the standards of the Office of Oral Health. LOHP is currently conducting surveillance of dental partners who are supporting a school dental program. LOHP would like to schedule a meeting with Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) representatives to discuss MOUs and/or provide a proposal for dental program services that can be offered to support a school dental program.



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A data collection spreadsheet was developed by the MSDA team to help gather and populate annual dental program metrics requested by the state, such as the number of dentists in your dental program and the number of children referred for additional dental services for each school.

The LOHP truly appreciates our partners who have provided their program's metrics and the schools they are serving and hopes to collaborate with other members to help increase access to dental care for students across Orange County.

Questions and Comments:

- Can you share the dental provider list? The list will be shared after the surveillance is complete. LOHP needs consent from all partners involved in disclosing the information.
- Will the list consist of Medi-Cal dental providers and volunteers who would be willing to provide dental screenings? The list will consist of all available dental professionals.
- Does the LOHP have, or will they provide, the materials or resources to conduct the dental screenings? LOHP will review its budget and other funding resources for dental supplies, such as sealants. Schools may also have funding that may be allocated for student health services.
- There may be an opportunity to seek donations from the Long Beach Dental Hygiene Society.

Next Steps:

- LOHP will expand provider partnerships.
- LOHP will schedule a lunch & learn on tobacco use and oral health.
- LOHP will launch dental programs in schools without a program.
- LOHP will support providers to meet CDPH standards.
- LOHP will collect metrics and evaluate progress.
- LOHP will revise and finalize the meeting highlights from 06/17/2025 and post on www.SmileHabitsOC.org/LOHP/.

Next Meeting: December 17, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.