



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

In Attendance:

Anabel Bolaños, Iris Corpus, Marty Dellapenna, Stephanie Hernandez, Christine Tran-Le, Jose Morales, Janira Perez, Jerome Samonte, Gabriela Saldana, Rebeka Sanchez, Deepa Shanadi, Danielle Vicencio, and Dr. Marisa Watanabe.

Welcome & Introductions:

- Anabel Bolaños, Interim Supervisor for the Local Oral Health Program (LOHP), welcomed all in attendance. Members and guests were invited to place their names and organizations in the chat box.

Review of September 17, 2025, Meeting Highlights:

- Collaborative members reviewed the meeting highlights from 09/17/2025. One spelling error was noted. The highlights will be revised and placed on the LOHP Workgroup webpage <https://smilehabitsoc.org/lohp/>.

Collaborative Member Updates:

- No additional member updates were shared at this time. Members were encouraged to submit updates after the meeting if needed.

Medi-Cal Program Updates for 2026-2027

- Stephanie Hernandez, Program Manager of Healthcare Operations at Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers, provided updates on federal and state policy changes impacting Medi-Cal and related public benefits, including anticipated impacts to access and renewals for vulnerable populations.
- HR1 (“One Big Beautiful Bill”) was referenced as federal legislation passed in 2025 that includes major changes to Medicaid funding and access. It restricts access to federally funded health benefits to certain immigrants and creates financial policy procedures that leads States to limit full scope Medi-Cal coverage for the undocumented adults.
- Asset limits beginning January 1, 2026 (for affected Medi-Cal groups):
 - \$130,000+ for one person; \$65,000 for each additional member (up to 10 people).
 - Assets may include bank accounts, cash, and additional homes/vehicles (first home and first vehicle excluded).
- Undocumented adults, 19 and older, enrollment freezes effective January 1, 2026:
 - New applications limited to restricted/emergency Medi-Cal.
 - Children under 19 and pregnant individuals remain eligible for full scope coverage.
 - Current full scope recipients may keep coverage if renewals are maintained.
- Work requirements beginning January 1, 2027 (for non-exempt populations):
 - Must earn \$580/month OR complete 80 hours/ month of employment/training/community services OR be enrolled at least half-time in school.
 - Exemptions include: Parents of children under 13, individuals with disabilities/chronic illness, Native Americans, and former foster youth under 26 (among others).
- Renewal changes beginning January 1, 2027:
 - Medi-Cal renewal frequency shifts from annual to every 6 months.
- Premium requirement discussed for July 1, 2027 (pending confirmation):
 - Approximately \$30/month per individual for undocumented adults ages 19-59 to maintain full scope (as presented).

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- Dental benefits reduction effective July 1, 2026 (as presented):
 - Full scope dental benefits eliminated for undocumented adults 19+.
 - Emergency dental services (e.g., severe pain, infection, extractions) remain covered.
 - Routine care (e.g., cleanings, fillings) no longer covered for the affected group.
 - Projected savings shared: \$308M (2026-2027) and \$336M annually thereafter.
 - Pregnant individuals maintain full dental benefits during pregnancy and 12 months after pregnancy ends.
- Coalition services overview:
 - 20 community health centers; 70+ sites; serving 350,000+ patients annually.
 - Enrollment/navigation support for Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, and Covered California.
 - Three bilingual healthcare navigators deployed in community settings.
 - Contact shared: 714-352-5998.
 - Coalition offered to participate in community outreach events.
- Stephanie confirmed she will share the PowerPoint with the Collaborative.
- Questions:
 - When someone receives the enrollment packet, do you help them via phone or in person? What does the time frame look like? Enrollments can be over the phone or in person. New enrollment packets (depending on family size) are roughly 1-1.5 hours. Renewal packets take about 30-45 minutes.

Council of Aging – Southern California: Overview of Services

- Christine Tran-Le, MPH, Community Engagement Supervisor, provided an overview of no-cost services for older adults and caregivers in Orange County.
- Orange County's older adult population is shared: approximately 529,000 adults aged 65 and older, projected to double by 2050. Annually serving over 100,000 older individuals, partly in Orange County and the Inland Empire.
- Programs highlighted included:
 - HICAP: Medicare counseling and advocacy.
 - Senior Protection Program: Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) - fraud/scam education and response.
 - Long-Term Care Ombudsman: Advocacy for residents in care facilities.
 - Behavioral health programs: Reconnect Early Intervention (1-12 months), Friendly Visitor Program, PEARLS.
 - Enhanced Care Management (ECM) for Medi-Cal members with complex needs.
- Volunteer opportunity shared:
 - Flexible commitment of 1-2 hours weekly to support isolated older adults.
 - Christine shared that there are 157 older adults receiving Friendly Visitor services and an ongoing need for additional volunteers.
- Christine confirmed she will share service information and referral forms with Collaborative.

Orange County Needs Assessment Update

- Jerome Samonte from the LOHP provided an update on the LOHP's Community Oral Health Needs Assessment work as part of the current grant cycle.
- LOHP is requesting collaborative support to distribute a countywide needs assessment survey focused on families with children.
- Survey details shared:
 - Estimated completion time: 5-7 minutes.



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- Topics include dental access, barriers, insurance, and preventive care behaviors.
- Data will inform future programs, funding, and policy decisions.
- Timeline note:
 - The survey deadline was discussed as December 22, 2025, and it was noted that the deadline may need to be extended.

Program Accomplishments (LOHP Highlights)

- Increased Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) compliance across districts through training and outreach.
- Continued work toward integrating KOHA data collection with Aeries student information systems to support tracking and reduce duplication.
- School- based dental progress:
 - Dental presence achieved in 50% of Title I schools (as reported).
 - Continued partnerships with mobile dental teams; ongoing efforts to develop MOUs for data sharing to support closed-loop follow-up and program evaluation.
- Training and capacity-building continued, including:
 - Oral Health literacy training
 - Tobacco Cessation training
 - Intellectual/developmental disabilities training
 - Additional future trainings (including community water fluoridation) were mentioned as ongoing planning items.

Next Steps:

- LOHP to revise the September meeting highlights and redistribute/post online.
- Collaborative partners to support distribution of the Needs Assessment Survey (deadline to be confirmed/extended).
- Stephanie Hernandez to share PowerPoint slides with the Collaborative.
- Christine Tran-Le to share service information and referral forms.
- Continue collaboration on community outreach events and follow up on MOU development for school dental program data sharing.

Next Meeting:

April 22, 2026, 10 am