

2009 Director's Task Force on Oral Health and Access to Dental Care

We want to hear from you.

Dr. Alvin Jackson, Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), has convened the 2009 Task Force on Oral Health and Access to Dental Care to make recommendations on how to increase statewide access to oral health and prevention services. In February and March ODH will hold regional meetings in 6 locations to get input from consumers, providers and other stakeholders.

Each day there will be two facilitated dialogue sessions, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. Morning sessions will focus on the needs and challenges facing patients/consumers of services. Afternoon sessions will focus on the needs and challenges of providers. Participants may attend one or both sessions.

From a patient/consumer perspective there are a number of questions we intend to explore:

- What barriers make it difficult for you or your clients to access oral health care and prevention services?
- If you have successfully overcome barriers to getting oral health care or prevention services, what or who helped you succeed?
- What experiences have you had accessing oral health care or prevention services through safety net clinics, private dentists or other providers such as physicians, school nurses, dental hygienists, etc.?
- Where do oral health care and prevention services fit among the many choices you and your family face each day? Why?
- What public policy recommendations do you have related to increasing access to oral health care and prevention services?

From a provider perspective there are a number of questions we intend to explore:

- What barriers make it difficult for you to provide oral health care and prevention services to those most in need?
- If you have successfully overcome barriers to providing oral health care or prevention services, what or who helped you succeed?
- What experiences have you had accessing oral health care or prevention services through safety net clinics, private dentists or other providers such as physicians, school nurses, dental hygienists, etc.?
- Where do oral health care and prevention services fit among the many choices those you serve face each day? Why?
- What public policy recommendations do you have related to increasing access to oral health care and prevention services for those most in need?

The dates and locations for the meetings are as follows:

Region	Location	Date	Times
East Central Ohio (rural)	Community Action Agency of Columbiana County 7880 Lincole Place Lisbon, OH 44432	February 24, 2009 (Tuesday)	Patient/Consumer Focus: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Provider Focus: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Northeast Ohio	North Royalton Public Library 14600 State Road North Royalton, OH 44133	February 25, 2009 (Wednesday)	Patient/Consumer Focus: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Provider Focus: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Central Ohio	Columbus Public Health 240 Parsons Ave. Columbus, OH 43215	March 3, 2009 (Tuesday)	Patient/Consumer Focus: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Provider Focus: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Southeast (rural)	Nelsonville Public Library 95 West Washington Nelsonville, OH 45764	March 5, 2009 (Thursday)	Patient/Consumer Focus: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Provider Focus: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Northwest Ohio	Wood County Health Department 1840 East Gypsy Lane Road Bowling Green Ohio 43402	March 10, 2009 (Tuesday)	Patient/Consumer Focus: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Provider Focus: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Southwest	Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati 3805 Edwards Road, Suite 500 Cincinnati, OH 45209	March 16, 2009 (Monday)	Patient/Consumer Focus: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Provider Focus: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For additional information link to the Director's Task Force Website at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/ohs/oral/oralfaq/Taskforce.aspx> or contact Chris Kloth from ChangeWorks of the Heartland at chris@got2change.com or 614.239.1336.