

**BOH
MAC**

**BETTER
ORAL HEALTH
MASSACHUSETTS
COALITION**

Policy and Advocacy

Shannon Wells, MSW

Committee Chair

Oral Health Affairs Manager

Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Committee Updates

This year BOHMAC has joined forces with Health Care for All's Oral Health Advocacy Taskforce (OHAT) to combine policy efforts and increase advocacy awareness among members.



Key Policy Priorities for Both Groups:

- Restoring Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits:
- Increase or Maintain Level Funding for the Department of Public Health's Office of Oral Health
- An Act Relative to the Oral Health Work Force

Policy Priorities: How did BOHMAC Do?

Restoration of Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits:

- In 2014 MassHealth will restore all dental fillings-
resulting in a partial restoration.



R.E.D-
Restore
Essential
Dental

Policy Priorities: How did BOHMAC Do?

Funding for the DPH's Office of Oral Health:

- Continues to be level funded- no increases this year

Act Relative to the Oral Health Workforce:

- Provided testimony to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing in April- has not moved out of committee.

An Act Relative to Pupil Dental Health:

- BOHMAC supported this bill with modifications that included dental screenings by hygienists; and allowing the child more time once enrolled in school to have screening vs. having one prior to school enrollment.
- Joint Committee on Public Health just held hearing in September.

Committee Updates:

- We continue to work hand in hand with other committee work groups on issues such as fluoride, prevention, workforce, and access to ensure optimal oral health for all residents.
- For questions and/or information on joining committee: Contact Shannon Wells at swells@massleague.org or 617-988-2203.