



Catch-up on the latest oral health news by COHI!

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- Oral health advice beyond “avoid sugar”
- Meet two more of our Interns
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Town Hall Meeting
Hartford Public Library
500 Main Street, Hartford
October 27th, 1 - 2 PM

Are you or someone you know concerned with **non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT)** and are enrolled in **HUSKY?** If so, the **Department of Social Services** and **Veyo** will be hosting a Town Hall meeting this Thursday.

The meeting is an opportunity for individuals to share their experiences and concerns to help improve NEMT services. You can find additional information and a virtual option for attending at: <https://ct.ridewithveyo.com/nemt-town-hall-meeting/>

Can't make the meeting? COHI would like to hear directly from you. Please reach out to us at info@ctoralhealth.org.

October is

Dental Hygiene Month

National Dental Hygiene Month was created by **The American Dental Hygienists' Association** (ADHA) to celebrate the work of hygienists and to elevate the importance of dental hygiene for all Americans.



Thank you to all of the hygienists who work daily to help promote and maintain good oral hygiene for Connecticut residents. Be sure to join us in thanking your hygienist on your next visit for an oral health cleaning.

Good oral hygiene starts at home, but with so many products out in the market it can be confusing on which ones to buy. Check out some of the latest advice from oral health professionals!

<https://www.ctinsider.com/connecticutmagazine/home-living/article/tools-for-healthy-teeth-17455713.php>

Oral health advice beyond “avoid sugar”

It's not just sugary food that's responsible for poor oral health in America's children. Consuming sugary foods and beverages can cause tooth decay, but there's much more to good oral health such consistent brushing and flossing; eating healthy foods, avoiding tobacco products; and parental support. Regular visits for dental care are also critical, as they provide an opportunity for cleanings and preventive care.



Click here to read the full article:

<https://theconversation.com/no-its-not-just-sugary-food-thats-responsible-for-poor-oral-health-in-americas-children-especially-in-appalachia-171189>

Meet two more of our Interns!



Funmilola "Funmi" Belie

Funmi earned her Bachelor's degree in Dental Surgery at the University of Lagos, Nigeria. She is currently a 2nd-year master's student in Public Health at Southern Connecticut State University.

Funmi writes "I am presently doing my internship with the Connecticut Oral Health Initiative where I am working on evidence-based projects to support the benefits of Preschool and school-age children and to improve their oral health to enhance better performance, reduce

discomfort, and have fewer missed school days for positive outcomes in their academic performance.

I desire to support and strengthen oral health care approaches to improve the oral health of pre and school-age children as preventive-centered ties in school, improve classroom-based therapeutic interventions, and reinforce Oral health education in classrooms."



Nour Saddouq, D.D.S

Nour is a dentist and is in her second year as an MPH student at UCONN health.

Nour's area of interest is maternal child oral health. She is currently working on her thesis project which focuses on maternal oral health knowledge related to early childhood caries prevention.

Welcome to COHI, Funmi and Nour!

**Pareesa Charmchi Goodwin, former COHI
Executive Director, receives Award**



COHI's former Executive Director Pareesa Charmchi Goodwin was honored October 1st by the [Hispanic Health Council Foundation](#) at its 2022 Gala Event. Pareesa was recognized as the organization's inaugural awardee of its Emerging Leaders Award, for her impact on oral health, children's health coverage, substance abuse services and health policy.

New Oral Health Course Available

This training is designed for community agency personnel who may work with [HUSKY Health](#) members. It will help those better understand the services of the [Connecticut Dental Health Partnership](#) - the dental plan for [HUSKY Health](#). Registration is required.

Click here for more

info: <https://www.train.org/connecticut/course/1104506/>

The image shows the cover of a report. At the top left is the COHI logo (Connecticut Oral Health Initiative). To its right, a yellow box contains the text 'OCTOBER 2022'. Below this, the title 'A MEDICAID GAP ANALYSIS OF ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR ADULTS IN CONNECTICUT' is centered. A photograph of a diverse group of smiling people is positioned below the title. At the bottom, it says 'FUNDED BY CareQuest Institute for Oral Health & Connecticut Health Foundation'.

In Case You Missed It (ICYMI): COHI Issues Vital New Report

We released a new report based on a study conducted from 2021 to 2022 that investigated the potential barriers causing gaps in oral health access and quality care for adults who have dental insurance through [Medicaid](#).

The report also identifies solutions for achieving better outcomes and provides suggestions for further research.

The study focused on several key areas, including historical Medicaid service utilization data, the impact of Connecticut's annual maximum benefits cap initiated in 2018, a geographical study to identify gaps in provider networks across the state, and an understanding of the experiences of providers and enrollees through in-depth interviews.

Read the full report
here: <https://www.ctoralhealth.org/medicaid-gap-analysis-report-2022>

Executive Director Search Update

COHI's search for our next great Executive Director continues. Do you know someone who would be a great leader in the fight for oral health equity?

Please continue to share the [job announcement](#) broadly! If you have any suggestions of individuals who may be interested or networks where the posting might be circulated, please feel free to forward the link directly or contact Steve Eppler-Epstein, (steve@ctoralhealth.org), Interim Executive Director, who is coordinating the search process for the Board Search Committee.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Help us build our network by forwarding this email to others interested in equitable oral health care and urge them to sign up for our newsletter on our [COHI website home page](#).

[COHI](#) is fighting to achieve real and equitable access to oral health across the state. Every donation helps us toward our goal of "oral health care for all". Please make your donation [here](#) or send your check made payable to **COHI, 53 Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106.**

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