



2016 Delaware Oral Health Coalition Annual Convening Bridging and Bonding Partnerships Coalition Member Survey Analysis and Recommendations

*Prepared by Bobbi Jo Muto, MPH, RDH & Gina Sharps, MPH, RDH
November 2, 2016*

Introduction

The 2016 Delaware Oral Health Coalition Annual Convening was held on October 7, 2016 at Dover Downs. The meeting was well attended by community members and was successful in highlighting efforts focused on fulfilling the DOHC mission from a wide range of coalition members/organizations.

A main focus of the convening was on coalition growth and sustainability. Virtually every carefully crafted coalition will have an impact. Since mutual trust is built up over a period of time, coalitions should consistently evaluate and prepare the way for greater and more sustained future efforts. ¹

Taking the time to evaluate the effectiveness of coalition efforts is a way of acknowledging that the skills and contributions of coalition members are important. Honest reflection also assures that the coalition grows from its experiences, regardless if strategies and goals are achieved.²

Evaluating a coalition can lead to changes in a coalition's approach. In addition, evaluation can increase a coalition's effectiveness and can assure that the community and participants benefit from the coalition's activities. ³

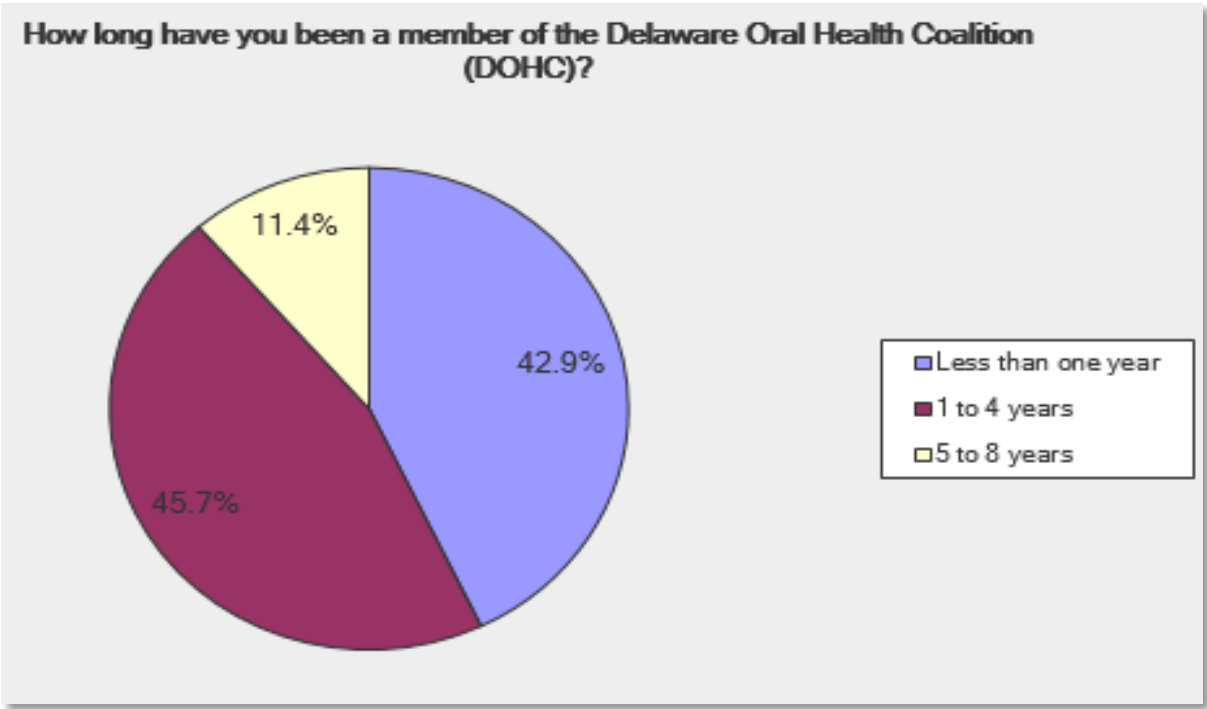
During the 2016 Delaware Oral Health Coalition Annual Convening, members were asked to complete a 12-question survey about the state coalition. The intent of the survey, consequent analysis and recommendations was to quantify strengths/weaknesses and identify opportunities for coalition growth.

Survey questions were focused on (1) frequency of coalition convenings and attendance, (2) content of the coalition convenings, (3) diversity of the coalition, (4) value of the coalition, and (5) overall purpose of the coalition. The number of respondents is included for each question, as some coalition members did not respond to all questions.

Coalition Membership

Figure 1 illustrates the number of years each respondent has been a member of the DOHC. The majority (45.7%) of coalition members have been with the coalition for 1-4 years. In addition, 42.9% of the general membership indicated they have been a member of the coalition for less than one year.

Figure 1. How long have you been a member of the Delaware Oral Health Coalition? (n=35)



Coalition Meetings

Members were asked about the frequency and duration of coalition meetings. Results to these questions are shown below in Figure 2 and Figure 3. Most respondents (79.55%) indicated that meetings should be held quarterly along with a majority (53.7%) noting they prefer meetings to be held at a half day in length.

Figure 2. Frequency of Delaware Oral Health Coalition convenings (n=44)

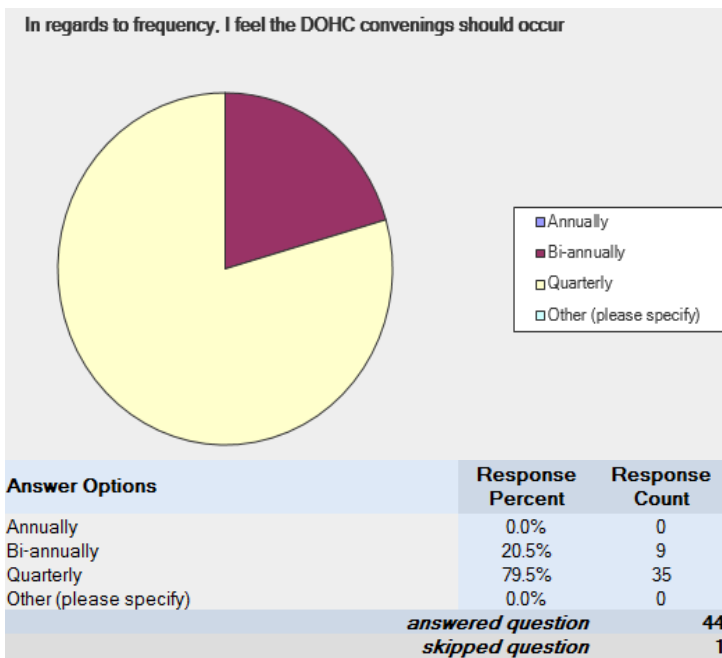
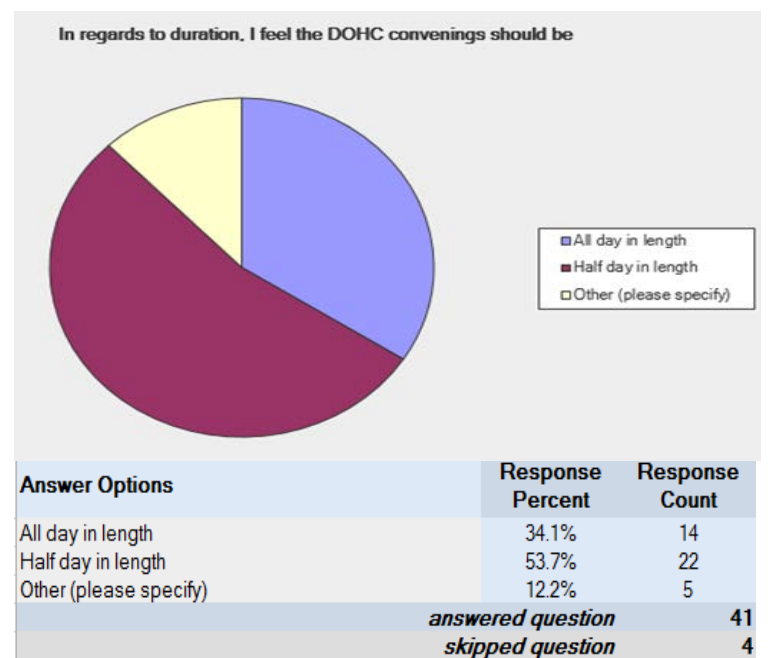


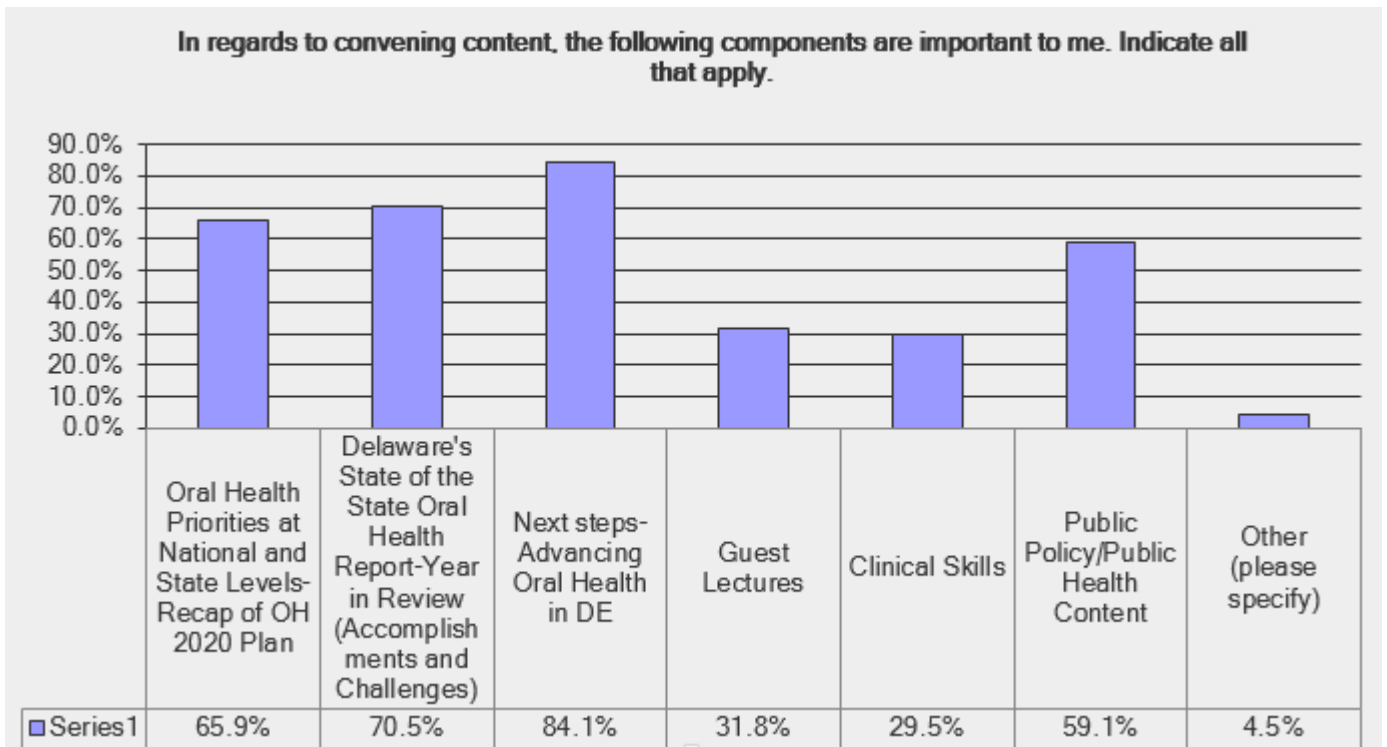
Figure 3. Duration of Delaware Oral Health Coalition convenings (n=41)



Convening Content

Members were asked about content of coalition convenings-specifically components that they deem of importance to them personally as members. Results of this question are shown below in Figure 4. When asked what other components were important respondents identified the following: alternate delivery models, telehealth, and education.

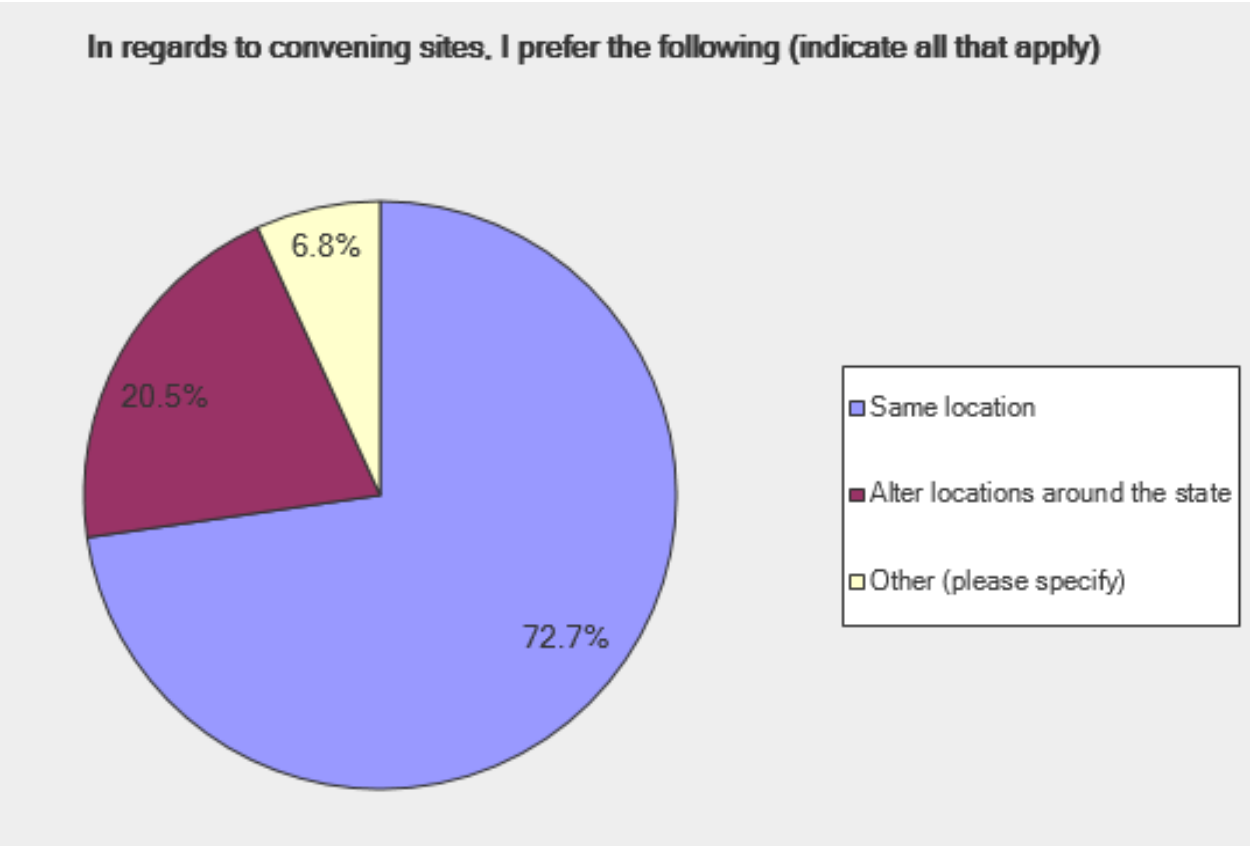
Figure 4. Delaware Oral Health Coalition Convening Content (n=44)



Preferred Convening Site

Members were asked about the location of convening sites. Results to this question are displayed in Figure 5. Most respondents (72.7%) indicated they prefer the convening site remain at the same location. Other suggestions offered by members included virtual meetings and a centralized locale for coalition convenings.

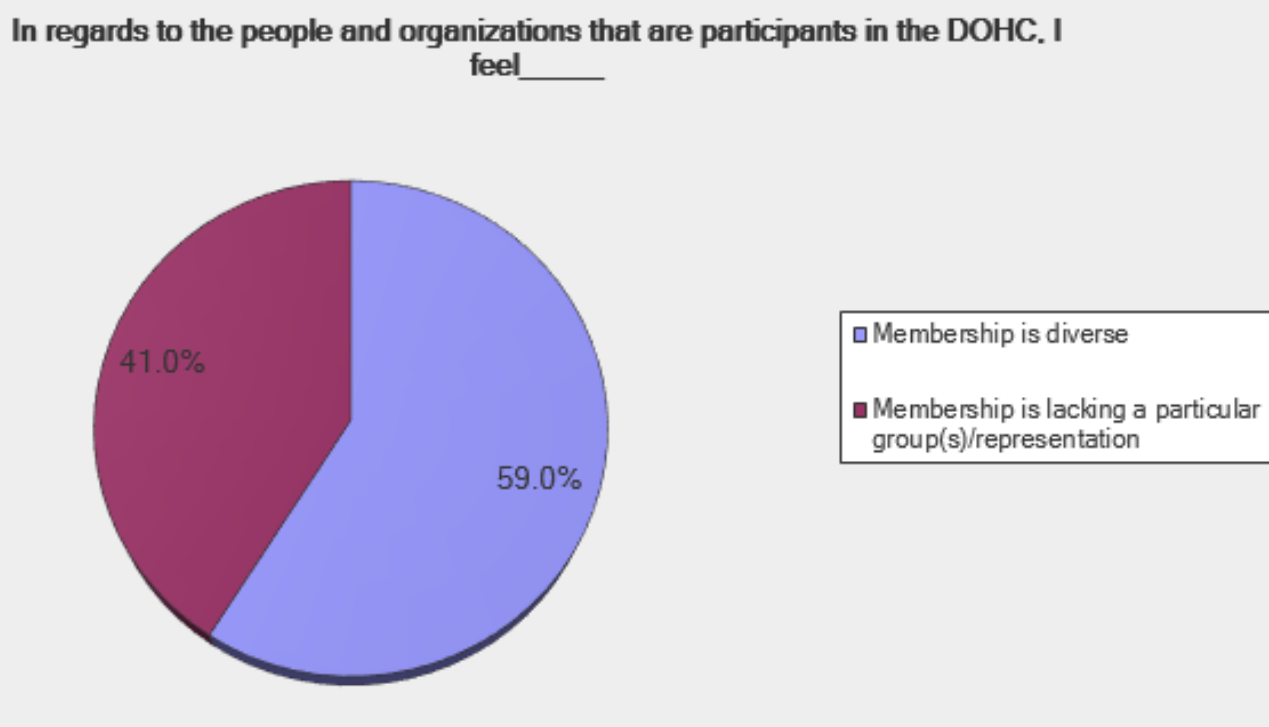
Figure 5. Sites preferred for DOHC (n=44)



Coalition Diversity

Members were asked about the diversity of the DOHC along with identifying individuals and organizations that they felt were currently missing. Results to these question are displayed in Figure 6 and Figure 7. The majority of respondents (59%) stated that they feel the DOHC membership is diverse.

Figure 6. DOHC Membership Diversity (n=39)



Coalition Diversity

Figure 7. Individuals and Organizations identified by DOHC members as missing from the coalition. No respondents indicated a means in which to invite those missing individuals or organizations.

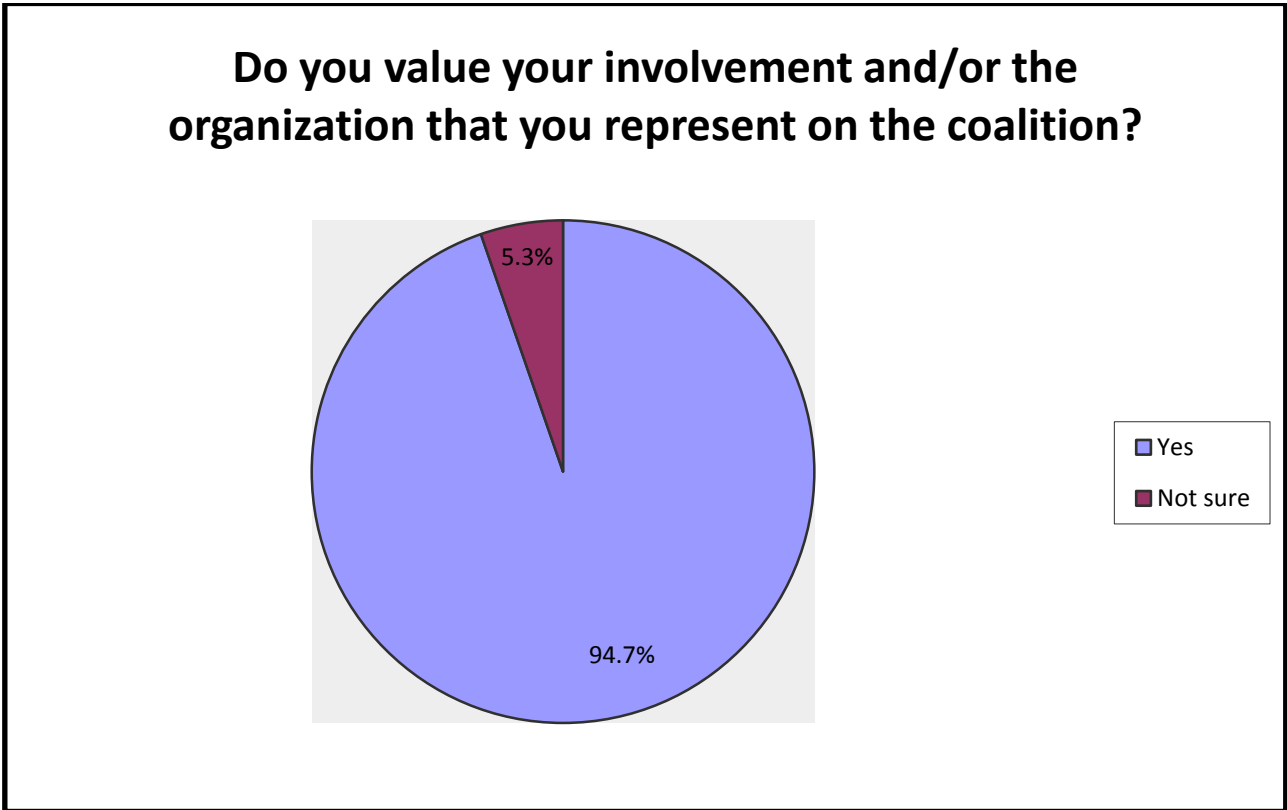
Heart Association
Community Outreach Navigators
Dentists In DE
School/Education Representatives
Elderly Advocate/Senior Living Reps
Should Have State
Representatives/Senators
More Dentists
Males
Dentists
Government
Policy Makers
Payers
Other Health Related Coalitions
Legislative Champion
Legislation
School Officials
Legislators
Payers
3rd Party Payers

DOE (this entry was noted three additional times)
More Representation From Legislature
Legislators
Dsds
Legislators, Dentists, Headstart,
Medicaid
Dentists
Community Members
Faith Based Organizations
Civil Groups
PTA
We Need More Dentists In Attendance
Insurance Companies
More Dentists
Providers
Community Partners Around Child Care
DSCYF
More Dentists, Policy Makers, Decision
Makers

Value of Coalition

Members were asked *if and why* they valued their involvement on the coalition. Figure 8 indicates that the majority (94.7%) of DOHC members perceive value while a small minority (5.3%) are not sure as to whether they value their involvement.

Figure 8. Value by Membership of the DOHC (n=38)



Reasons of Value

Figure 9 lists the reasons offered by members around their sense of value to the DOHC.

Figure 9. Reasons of Value (n=24)

Allows Me To Know The Needs Of Our State And What Is Being Done To Help It
Not Knowledgeable About Oral Coalition
Just Became Aware In June 2016
Updated Info
Future Plans
I Work In Public Health, And Appreciate The Populations I Treat
Learned About What Other Services Are Provided By Other Groups
I Believe That Dhss Can Play A Vital Role In Assisting The Clients With Their Dental Care; We Are Director
Community Involvement
Serving Population 0-3
I Am A Dental Hygienist By Trade
Oh Is A Major Component Of Whole Health
Needs Of Geriatric Population
Great Opportunity To Partner With Other Groups
Support System
Personal Passion
It's My Sole Source Of Income
Early Intervention
Collaboration
I Enjoy Trying To Make A Difference
Focus As Telehealth Director-Leads To Interest In Teledentistry
Personal Feelings About Oral Health
New-Not How Involved My Group Will Be
Unsure What Contributions I Can Work
Receive Training
Contact With Members
It Is Quite Educational
The Resources Are Valuable
Community Health Is Closely Tied To Oral Health
My Passion Is To Educate The Community About Prevention
I Provide Education (Oral Health) In The Community
Any Resource Or Information Needed Is Always Available Through This Organization
Important To Align Priorities With State Agencies
Collaboration
Team Work Concept
Informative
Networking Opportunity
Networking
My Passion For Oral Health Care For All

Purpose Of Coalition

Members Were Asked What *they feel the purpose* Is Of The DOHC.

Figure 10. Purpose of the DOHC as reported by membership (n=29)

To Increase Oral Health Awareness And Prevention Of Dental Diseases
Educate And Change Policy Around Oral Health
To Utilize All Resources And Educate All About Importance Of Oral Health, To Get State To Make Necessary Changes Due To Need In De
Communication
Make That Smile Count, Education And Prevention=Pound Of Cure
To Improve The Oral Health Of All Residents In De
To Heighten The Awareness And Collaborate For Oral Health For Everyone
To Drive Change In The System, To Seek Funding For Clients And Increase Access To Resources That All Delawareans Can Utilize
Prevention/Services To All People
Advocate Moving Oh Policy Forward In Our State
Promote Oral Health With Multiple Groups That Need Increased Help With Maintaining Care
Promote Awareness Of Value Of Oral Health Across Life
Promote Oral Health And Prevent Disease
To Improve Oral Health Statewide And Nationwide
Align Multiple Constitutencies To Reach The Common Goal
To Assist In Providing Adequate Care And Access To Oral Health In De
To Fulfill Its Mission And Vision
Bring State And Community Together To Accomplish Goals
To Assist With Dental Health In De Especially In Rural Area
Bridge Partnerships Between Diverse Demographics And Population Needs
To Build Connections Between Departments, Providers, And Organizations
To Promote Change
Bring People Together Every Year To Talk About Oral Health
To Ensure That All Delawareans Receive Oral Health
To Help All Of De And Help Promote Dental Care For All Through Involvement In The Community
Bringing Partners For Networking
Work Together To Achieve The Mission And Goal
Improve Oral Health For All
Collaboration

Purpose of Coalition

Members were asked what they feel the purpose of the DOHC *should or needs to be*.

Figure 11. Proposed purpose of the DOHC as reported by membership (n=24)

Increase Scope Of Practice For Providers (RDH) To Help More Of Population Same

Coalition That Members Can Share Resources And Help Other Organizations/Groups Improve Oral Health To Include Many Different Professionals In Cohesively Working Toward DOHC Vision

To Help Delawareans Know About Resources For Dental Care

To Promote Oral Health For Everyone As It Promotes A Total Health And Well Being Health Equity

Outreach With Mission, Vision, Etc

Continue To Grow And Promote Practical Ways To Promote Improved Oral Health Care

Eradicate Oral Disease Especially In Children And Pregnant Women

Promote Better Affordable And Access To Care

I Believe That Hours Of Volunteering For Dentist And Hygienist Should Be Required To Renew License Achieve

Help Direct Actions To Accomplish Goals

To Fulfill Its Mission And Vision

To Improve Access To Oral Health Care Leading To Improved Oral And Overall Health On Target

Assist With Dentists Providing Services To Uninsured/No Insurance, Continue To Move Forward In Their Mission, Jobs, And Help Educating Children And Adults On Importance Of Dental Health

Continue To Foster Partnerships And Expand Knowledge Of Other Programs Statewide

To Further Promote Affordable Oral Care

To Drive The Public Policy And Systems Change Needed To Advance Oral Health Equity In The State

To Ensure That All Delawareans Receive Oral Health

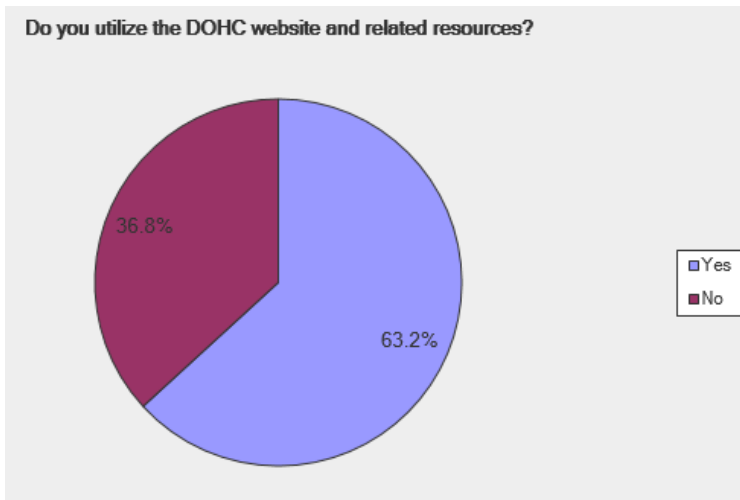
Umbrella Organizations For Resources But Also To Advocate For Legislation To Bring Medicaid Coverage For All Delawareans

Accomplish All The Excellent Idea To Work

DOHC Website And Related Resources

Members were asked to indicate whether they utilize the DOHC website and related resources. 63.2% responded in the affirmative.

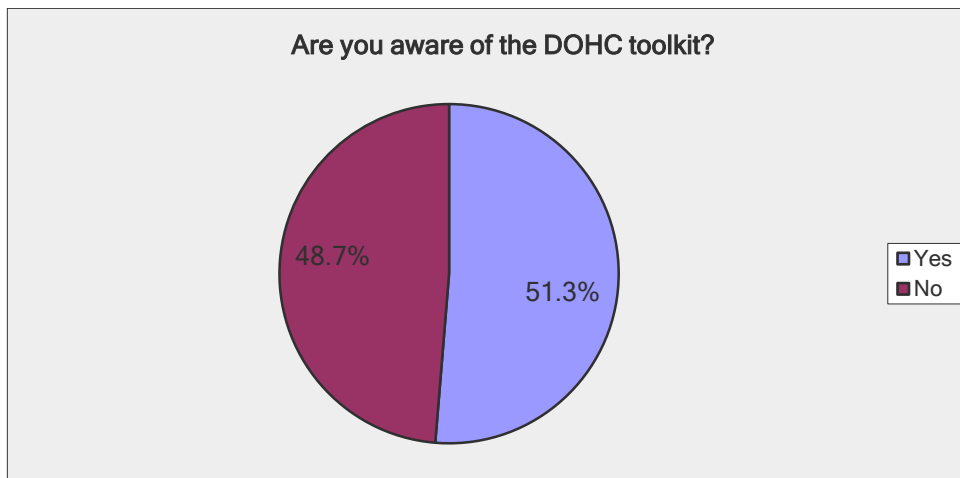
Figure 12. Utilization of website and related resources by DOHC members (n=38)



Delaware Oral Health Coalition Toolkit

Members were asked to indicate whether they were aware of the DOHC toolkit. Figure 13 indicates that the majority (51.3%) of DOHC members are aware of the toolkit.

Figure 13. DOHC members aware of toolkit (n=39)



DOHC Toolkit

Members were asked to provide specific examples of how they have utilized the toolkit. Figure 14 demonstrates the various uses of the toolkit as reported by members.

**Figure 14. Examples of toolkit uses
(n=6)**

Website, Powerpoint, Oral Health 101
Pamphlets, Guide To Services
Distribute It
Information For Clients
Reviewed The Toolkit For Educational Resources
Utilize Toolkit In Educating The Community

Comments And Suggestions Related To The DOHC

Figure 15 displays comments and suggestions of DOHC members related to the DOHC.

**Figure 15. Member Comments and
Suggestions (n=12)**

Very Well Organized Conference
This Is My First Time Attending
Get Legislation Passed To Fund Program (Grant In Aide)
Please Continue To Include All RDH's
Great Day
Leadership Is Essential To Such An Important Mission
Thank You
Recruitment Of Active Members
Need More Effective Identification Of Issues And Distribution Of Data, Utilize Telemed/Dentistry,
Dental Coverage For Adults, Provide Strong Leadership And Good Facilitation To Accomplish Go
Great Organization. Very Helpful Staff
Great Job. Don't Let The Enthusiasm Wane
Thank You Gina And Bobbi JO

Recommendations for the DOHC

The following six recommendations are adapted from the work entitled Building Effective Early Childhood Coalitions: A Literature Review by Altarum Institute for the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.

The recommendations have been specifically selected to advise members of the DOHC not to operate in isolation but to work together to support their individual successes.

A coalition that develops each of these components will be able to create a positive dynamic that engages coalition members and mobilizes the resources and partners necessary to accomplish its goals. ⁴

Recommended Strategies for DOHC

1 Leadership

Ensure that strong leadership is established early in the grant period and sufficiently nurtured

2 Membership

Ensure that the "right mix" of organizations are recruited and prepared for coalition work

3 Coalition Structure and Governance

Create a positive work environment and coalition structure that supports common purpose and productivity

4 Assessment and Planning

Undertake assessment and planning process that will identify community needs, assets, and priority areas, and develop a plan for implementation

5 Public Engagement and Stakeholder Involvement

Engage stakeholders whose involvement or support is critical to plan implementation

6 Sustainability and Finance

Develop a plan to sustain coalition and coalition priorities

References

^{1,2,3} Cohen L, Baer N, Satterwhite P. Developing effective coalitions: an eight step guide. In: Wurzbach ME, ed. Community Health Education & Promotion: A Guide to Program Design and Evaluation. 2nd ed. Gaithersburg, Md: Aspen Publishers Inc; 2002:144-161.

⁴ Building Effective Early Childhood Coalitions: A Literature Review by Altarum Institute for the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, http://www.smartbeginnings.org/Portals/5/PDFs/ToolKit_for_Building_Effective_Smart_Beginnings_Coalitions.pdf