

3228

From: Karen Omniewski  
To: ST. Regulatory Counsel  
Subject: [External] Pertaining to rulemaking 16A-4633 (Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner Practice Sites)  
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 8:22:14 PM

RECEIVED  
IRRC

2019 APR 23 A 10:02

**ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to [CWOPA\\_SPAM@pa.gov](mailto:CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov).

Regulatory Counsel,

For the past 10 months, I have worked as the Dental Health Program Coordinator and PHDHP at the Erie County Department of Health (ECDH). In that capacity, I received numerous calls from multiple preschools required by the state to have screenings completed for their children. They called multiple dentists in the area to no avail. One local dentist recently served over 110 students in charter or non-traditional schools for exams, yet does not accept Medicaid, so the children are left without even preventive services. Thankfully, they asked me to distribute materials to these schools so they could possibly receive services at the ECDH in our free clinic assuming they have access to transportation.

In any event, having worked this year with Head Start and the teledentistry program has been very successful in providing preventive services on site for the children of lower income families who are under insured or uninsured. I have been successful in referring all of the children to dental homes (although not all have scheduled).

With the verbiage changes in the rulemaking 16A-4633 (Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner Practice Sites), clarifying "facilities" will enable me, and numerous other PHDHPs to serve those children, and refer them to dental homes for any needed treatment and continuity of care. Additionally, knowing how we reach pregnant women in the Nurse Family Partnership and Maternal Child Health programs by teaching oral health education during pregnancy and good oral hygiene habits from birth, the idea of PHDHPs in ob/gyn or pediatricians' offices would be a huge benefit by teaching good oral health habits right from the start and applying fluoride at well baby checks!

Do everything in your power to make these changes a reality!

Thank you for your hard work.

--  
Karen Breindel Omniewski, RDH, BSEd, MS  
email: [komnie62@gmail.com](mailto:komnie62@gmail.com)