

# Meeting Summary for Women & Children's Health Committee

## Zoom Meeting

Mar 10, 2025 09:25 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada) ID: 969 0793 3554

### Quick recap

Kate Parker-Reilly provided a comprehensive overview of the Husky Dental Program, highlighting its focus on dental benefits for both adults and children, and its efforts to improve oral health, particularly during pregnancy. The team also discussed the progress of their project, focusing on the percentage of pregnant women receiving dental care, and the importance of tracking the dental treatment provided during the time period.

### Next steps

Kate Parker-Riley to provide Amy with data on the pattern of dental utilization for pregnant patients who had live births, including preventive visits and treatment visits.

Co-Chair Amy Gagliardi to contact Kate Parker-Riley to discuss ideas for improving oral health care during pregnancy.

Connecticut Dental Health Partnership to continue analyzing the new oral health core measure data to inform intervention strategies.

Connecticut Dental Health Partnership to explore ways to provide OBGYN practices with scorecards showing dental utilization percentages among their patient panels.

Connecticut Dental Health Partnership to develop the new oral health training module for community health workers, to be released in June 2025.

### Summary

#### Dental Health During Pregnancy Presentation

Amy introduced the speaker, Kate Parker-Riley, who is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership. Kate gave a comprehensive presentation on dental health during pregnancy.

#### Husky Dental Program Overview and Future

Kate provided a comprehensive overview of the Husky Dental Program, highlighting its focus on dental benefits for both adults and children. She emphasized the program's commitment to improving oral health, particularly during pregnancy, and its efforts to reduce barriers to care. Kate discussed the program's past efforts, including the Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Project (POC) from 2011 to 2018, which aimed to improve oral health outcomes for pregnant women and young children. She also highlighted current initiatives, such as the Access to Baby Care Program (ABC), which aims to increase oral health assessments and fluoride varnish for children up to age 7 at well-child visits. Kate also mentioned future efforts, including a new HRSA grant to improve oral health outcomes for young children and the addition of new measures to the oral health core set for Federal fiscal year 25. She concluded by emphasizing the importance of integrating oral health into comprehensive care models and the need for further capacity building in oral health care.

#### Pregnant Women Dental Care Progress

Amy and Kate discussed the progress of their project, focusing on the percentage of pregnant women receiving dental care. Kate mentioned that the current measure is around 18%, with the previous years being 17%. They also discussed the importance of tracking the dental treatment provided during the time period. Rebecca Petersen (DMHAS) praised Kate's

presentation and mentioned their ongoing assessment of connecting pregnant women to dental healthcare. The next meeting was scheduled for April 14th, but Amy would need to confirm the date and presentation with Representative Keitt.