

June 8, 2026 Women & Children's Health Committee Zoom Meeting

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The MAPOC Women and Children's Health Committee meeting featured a presentation by Kate Parker-Reilly, Executive Director of CT Dental Health Partnership, who discussed the HUSKY Dental Program and efforts to improve oral health evaluation during pregnancy. Kate provided an overview of HUSKY dental benefits, explaining that Connecticut is one of approximately 20 states that provide comprehensive dental benefits to adult Medicaid recipients, with benefits grounded in functional dentistry. She detailed the organization's structure and services, including their member services call center, oral health navigation program, and community engagement efforts, highlighting their approach of providing "humanity first" in interactions with members and providers. The presentation covered reimbursement rates for children and adults, noting that while children's rates remain high at 79% of private insurance rates, adult rates are lower at 49%, though recent rate increases in 2026 have begun to address some parity issues. Kate also described their community outreach efforts through five regional specialists who work with local organizations to provide oral health education and connect people to dental care services.

Next steps

Kate Parker-Reilly

- [Share the link to the community partner tool \(for requesting trainings, accessing the online referral portal, and downloading free materials\) in the meeting chat.](#)

Collaboration

- [Attendees/Committee members: Provide feedback on the draft outreach materials and strategies designed for OBGYN providers regarding oral health evaluation during pregnancy \(as requested by Kate during the presentation\).](#)

Summary

HUSKY Dental Program Presentation

State Representative Sarah Keitt and Co-Chair Amy Gagliardi hosted a meeting of the MAPOC Women and Children's Health Subcommittee, where Kate Parker-Riley, Executive Director of CT Dental Health Partnership, presented on the HUSKY Dental Program. Kate discussed efforts to improve oral health evaluation during pregnancy and sought feedback on outreach strategies to

OBGYN providers. The presentation included an overview of the Husky dental plan and recent initiatives from the past state fiscal year.

Connecticut Dental Benefits Overview

Kate provided an overview of HUSKY Dental benefits in Connecticut, explaining that the state offers comprehensive dental benefits to adult Medicaid recipients, which is required for children but optional for adults under federal law. She detailed the commonly covered services including exams, cleanings, sealants, root canals, crowns, and orthodontia for eligible children. Kate also discussed the history of reimbursement rates, noting that while there were reductions in 2016, Connecticut's children's rates remain among the top 15 highest in the country at 79% of private insurance payment rates.

Connecticut Dental Program Rate Updates

Kate explained the evolution of dental rates for adults and children in Connecticut's dental program, noting that adult rates were previously set at half the children's rates but recently increased to about 49% of private insurance rates in 2025. She described how Benecare, the organization she works for, administers the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership as the smallest ASO with 44 employees in Farmington, Connecticut. Kate emphasized their organizational philosophy of "humanity first" and their role in providing seamless administrative services for the HUSKY Dental Plan.

Connecticut Dental Health Partnership Overview

Kate discussed the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership (CTDHP) program, focusing on how it supports three main constituent groups: members, community partners, and providers. For members, CTDHP operates a bilingual call center staffed by Paulette Sapp, providing outreach through half a million annual phone calls and emails to high-risk members, and offering oral health navigation services with care managers who support members with complex barriers to care. For community partners, CTDHP deploys five regional engagement specialists who operate pop-up resource centers and provide oral health education and training materials, including distributing 20,000 toothbrushes annually and launching an Oral Health Training Academy in 2024.

Traci McComiskey

Seeing more info on the CT Husky Perinatal Case Mgmt- landing page may be helpful in the "pregnancy checklist"

https://www.huskyhealthct.org/members/members_healthybeginnings.html

Kate Parker-Reilly, CTDHP

Resources: [Oral Health Campaign Toolkit](#)

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