



Office of Dental Health

Office Updates and Strategic Focus

Gwen Sullentrup
Chief

OUR MISSION

**To improve the oral health of all
Missourians through access,
education, prevention, and
leadership.**

OUR VISION

**Optimal oral health for
all Missourians.**



Office of Dental Health

Values

Access

We deliver oral health services and education to Missourians in a manner that is sensitive to their individual and unique needs.



Collaboration

We engage and communicate openly with oral health partners in Missouri to improve oral health for all Missourians



Integrity

We maintain a high level of ethics and professionalism when serving Missourians and collaborating with oral health partners to help build and maintain public trust



Excellence

Empower team members to be thought leaders in oral health while continuously improving to exceed the needs of Missourians



Accountability

We value the responsibility to ensure all Missourians trust us as an oral health partner and source of reliable information



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH &
SENIOR SERVICES**



Strategic Priorities

The roadmap for the work our office completes.



Prevention and Oral Health Education

- Preventive Services Program (PSP)
- School-based sealant program
- Education for partners

Workforce

- Long-term care facility pilot
- Dental Assisting Training Programs
- Innovative Training Programs for Dental Hygiene
- Loan Repayment

Access to Care

- Elks' Mobile Dental Program
- Donated Dental Services
- Veterans' Oral Health Care
- PSP Expansion Program

Quality

- Infection Prevention & Control
- Medical Dental Integration
- Diabetes Outcomes
- Oral Health Disease Burden Tracking (Data)

Population Health Strategies

- Community Water Fluoridation
- Trainings for
 - Water Operators
 - Maternal and Infant Health Providers



Access to Care



Increase the
number of
Missourians who
have access to
oral health care



Actions 2027:

- Baselines for data measurement
- Oral health education for home visiting programs
- EPSDT periodicity schedule
- Perinatal Oral Health
- Dental provider resources



Population Health



Ensure all
Missourians
have access
to fluoridated
drinking water



Actions 2027:

- Community Water Fluoridation data collection and dissemination
- Community water fluoridation trainings



Quality



Ensure whole
person health
includes oral
health



Actions 2027:

- CHW + Oral Health
- Data backbone and dashboard creation
- Oral health scorecards
- Dashboard and report creation supporting work



Workforce



Create an oral health workforce that meets the needs of all Missourians



Actions 2027:

- Hybrid dental hygiene program expansion
- CTC DA training program expansion
- Training and development
- Oral Health Workforce Taskforce



Prevention and Education



To a recognized
thought leader
for oral health
education in
Missouri



Actions 2027:

- Modernization of PSP program
- Expansion of PSP program
- Expand oral health footprint for public consumption

Program Updates



Preventive Services Program

- 25-26 school year final number: 63,795
- Future plans: Expand to reach high-risk adults and special health care needs patients

Long Term Care Facility Pilot Project

- Final data being submitted
- Pilot sunsets August 31st 2026
- Colgate project will provide healthcare worker (CNA) training and impact measured

Community Water Fluoridation

- Legislation did not advance this year
- Federal updates
- Continued CWF training provided by ODH
- Currently eight opportunities available through October 2026

Veteran's Oral Health

- Sponsored a total of 12 scholarships to students serving veterans
- Sponsored direct care for veterans through the Smiles for Vets and Smiles for Hope clinic

Workforce

- Expanded CTC DA training program sites
- New hybrid dental hygiene training sites
- RHTP funding to support WF
- HPLRP for hygiene open Fall 2026



Non-Traumatic Dental Complaints Emergency Room Visits

Non-Traumatic Dental Complaint ER Utilization Dashboard



Key Developments to Watch

Missouri Oral Health



- MDB Rule Changes:
 - Dental hygienists' utilization of expanded functions certifications under general supervision; Final publication expected August 31st
- ODH Workforce programs:
 - Expanding hybrid dental hygiene training programs
 - Enhancing opportunities for dental assistant training
- HR 1 Medicaid changes:
 - No communication about proposed cuts
 - Expect heavy administrative burdens
- Community Water Fluoridation:
 - Expect modified legislation to be presented

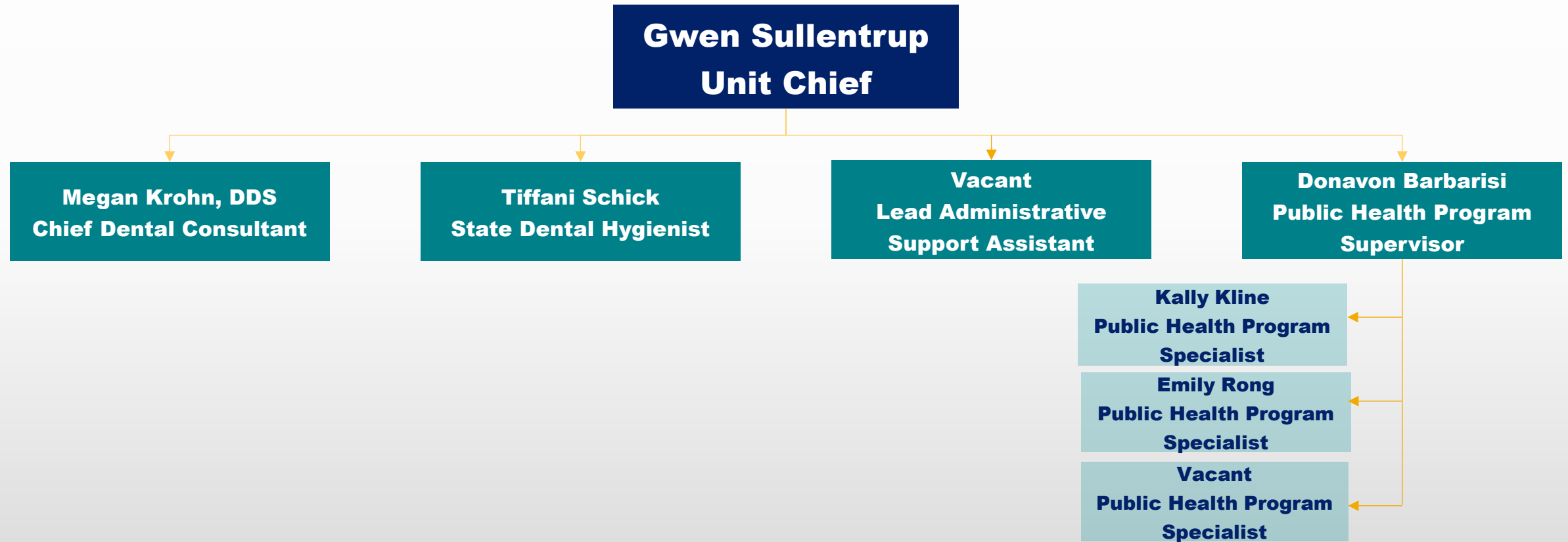


How will ODH support and partner with you?



- Current school-based PSP program model
- Expanded community-based PSP program model
- ODH oral health trainings
- Oral health technical assistance
- Community water fluoridation education and technical assistance
- Oral health educational literature
- Access to statewide contracts to purchase oral health care supplies
- Brushing for Two kits

Office of Dental Health





QUESTIONS?



Gwen.Sullentrup@health.mo.gov



[\(573\) 751-5874](tel:(573)751-5874)



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