



**EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3, 12:01 a.m., PST**

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**December 1, 2014**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **City Club of Portland – Civic Labs releases Children’s Dental Health Task Force report.**

*Supporters and opponents of water fluoridation develop consensus  
recommendations to improve the dental health of Multnomah County’s children.*

(Portland, Ore.) The City Club of Portland – Civic Labs and the Children’s Dental Health Task Force on Wednesday, Dec. 3, will release their much-anticipated report titled “A path forward for children’s dental health: Alternatives to community water fluoridation in Multnomah County.” The task force makes 11 attainable, effective recommendations that can win broad public support and improve the dental health of Multnomah County children. The full report will be available online Wednesday at [www.pdxcityclub.org/dental](http://www.pdxcityclub.org/dental). It also accompanies this press release.

“If Portland, Multnomah County and Oregon are willing to invest in innovative approaches to delivering services, progress is possible,” the report states. “Greater education, expanded preventive services and stronger leadership are the three cornerstones upon which city, county and state can build success. Health officials and providers can do many things for children’s dental health that do not generate the same level of controversy as water fluoridation.”

The Children’s Dental Health Task Force formed in the aftermath of Portland’s contentious 2013 vote on water fluoridation. It spent a year studying the issue and interviewing 29 experts and stakeholders.

The six-member task force was composed of three opponents and three supporters of water fluoridation: Kellie Barnes, Cyreena Boston-Ashby, David Crandall, Matt Morton, Mel Rader and Lurelle Robbins. Their unanimous recommendations include steps to promote dental health



education, to increase use of fluoride varnish and sealants, to fund varnish and sealants, and to build community partnerships.

“Public health officials and community leaders must maximize opportunities for children to receive preventive services in diverse settings, both clinical and non-clinical. Community-based organizations are willing partners, if the county collaborates with them to deliver services to underserved, culturally diverse communities,” The report states.

Barnes and Rader will be available on a media conference call on Tuesday, Dec. 2. They and other stakeholders will hold a press conference for the formal release of the report on Wednesday. All members of the media are invited to attend. (Details for both events below.)

The task force received funding from water fluoridation proponents – Northwest Health Foundation and Kaiser Permanente – and the largest in-state donor for the anti-water-fluoridation campaign – Daniel Deutsch.

The City Club of Portland – Civic Labs provided a facilitator, lead writer and other support services to the task force. Civic Labs projects use City Club’s research rigor to find solutions that will lead to lasting civic improvements, but they do not reflect an official position of City Club.

City Club will host a Friday Forum about children’s dental health on Friday, Dec. 5 at the Sentinel Hotel. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and the program begins at 12:15 p.m. Visit [www.pdxcityclub.org](http://www.pdxcityclub.org) for more information.

City Club of Portland brings together civic-minded people to make Portland and Oregon better places to live, work and play for everyone. For more information about City Club of Portland, visit [www.pdxcityclub.org](http://www.pdxcityclub.org) or call 503-228-7231.

**Media conference call**

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 10:30 a.m.

Call: (800) 444-2801

Code: 9346971

**Press conference**

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.

Native American Youth & Family Center

5135 NE Columbia Blvd.

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