

**Greater Richmond and Petersburg Oral Health Alliance**  
**Grassroots Advocacy Workgroup**  
**Monday, May 21, 2018, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**  
**Blue Jeans Video Conference**  
<https://bluejeans.com/524955805/3882>

Participants

Tiffany Cox  
Juanita Epps  
Lauren Gray  
Freda Williams

Agenda & Minutes

**1:00 pm - 1:05 pm      Brief legislative update (not much to report!): Medicaid expansion**

- The Senate will reconvene tomorrow (Tues., 5/22) to continue deliberating on the budget
- The Senate finance committee has not been scheduled yet
- The House reconvenes on Weds. 5/23 in anticipation that they will have something to react to from the Senate
- Regardless of what's going on in the legislature, state agencies (DMAS in particular) are gearing up as if Medicaid expansion will pass
- If expansion passes, the state will initiate the process on July 1st of doing a State Plan amendment to change Virginia's Medicaid eligibility, and drafting an 1115 waiver to design what the program will actually look like.

**1:05 pm - 1:20 pm      Discuss process for setting up legislative visits, map out groups**

- Alisa Brewer sent her list of folks and their delegates/senators
- Freda can do visits and talk to others
- Tiffany didn't identify any one yet; after PWC mtg
- Timeline:
  - July - September
- Fill out spreadsheet
- Questions?
  - <http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>
  - Freda: With scheduling do you call their office directly?
    - Lauren: Yes: use district office phone

**1:20 pm - 1:40 pm      Review sample leave-behind and talking points**

- Reviewed 2017 legislative day talking points and leave behind (pp. 3-4 of this document)

- Helpful to have talking points and script
- For youth, it would also be good to include some information on the value of oral health to overall health that impacts school attendance, school achievement, and ultimately graduation rates
- Fewer days out of school for youth means fewer days of missed employment for parents

**1:40 pm - 2:00 pm      Next steps and close**

- Workgroup members: Send list of constituents to Lauren; Lauren will update on [this spreadsheet](#)
- Workgroup members: Set up appointments with legislators for constituents between July - September
- Lauren: Send invitation to larger alliance re: legislative visits prior to July 10th meeting
- Workgroup members: Forward Lauren's invitation to join advocacy efforts as appropriate before July meeting
- Next full alliance meeting: Tuesday, July 10, 2018, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Location TBA
- Next workgroup meeting: Monday, September 24 2018, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Coalition offices
- Past meeting minutes available [here](#)



# Oral health is an essential part of comprehensive health care.

**Virginia only earns a C+ for oral health** when graded against the nation on nine key oral health indicators measuring prevention, health status, utilization and collaboration. The good news is that, with low-cost programmatic and policy changes, we can ensure Virginians have access to affordable, comprehensive health care that includes oral health — raising our grade, saving the commonwealth money, and improving the health of Virginians.



## *Key Health and Economic Data:*

- Studies show that diabetics who receive adequate treatment for periodontal disease can better manage their blood sugar levels and reduce medical costs (Sources: Cigna & United Concordia)
- Studies have shown uninsured adults visit the emergency department (ED) for dental issues more than any other diagnoses. On discharge, 81% of ED patients with dental issues receive opiates and 61% receive antibiotics. (Source: The Pew Center on the States & American Journal of Public Health)
- Dental disease is the number one chronic disease in childhood; it is five times more common than asthma. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

## *Key Legislation*

### **Dental hygienists, remote supervision (HB 1474, Orrock)**

This legislation, which passed the House unanimously, authorizes dental hygienists employed by safety net dental clinics to provide preventive services in the community under the remote supervision of a licensed dentist. This legislation has no fiscal impact on the commonwealth and will directly impact access to preventive oral health services for children and vulnerable adults.

Virginia Oral Health Coalition (VaOHC) partners believe **oral health is an essential part of overall health care**. We strive to ensure Virginians' oral health needs are met through integrated care and adequate coverage.

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**Learn more about VaOHC at [www.vaoralhealth.org](http://www.vaoralhealth.org).**

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Questions or requests for more information may be directed to Sarah Bedard Holland, VaOHC Executive Director, at 804.269.8721 or [sholland@vaoralhealth.org](mailto:sholland@vaoralhealth.org), or to Nicole Pugar, Williams Mullen, at 804.420.6437 or [npugar@williamsmullen.com](mailto:npugar@williamsmullen.com).

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## Legislative Committee

A. Omar Abubaker BDS,DMD,PhD  
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Tricia Rodgers  
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## Virginia Oral Health Plan

**Goal 1 - Public Awareness:** Virginians know that good oral health is essential to overall health.

**Goal 2 - Prevention/Early Diagnosis and Treatment:** The prevalence of dental disease is reduced in Virginia through prevention activities and early diagnosis and treatment.

**Goal 3 - Medical and Dental Collaboration:** Medical and dental providers and educators understand the links between oral health and overall health and work together to ensure Virginians receive comprehensive care.

**Goal 4 - Insurance and Reimbursement:** Virginians have access to quality, affordable, and comprehensive dental coverage.

**Goal 5 - Workforce:** The oral health workforce in Virginia adequately meets the needs of its citizens by working to the full extent of their education and training.

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Find us online | [www.vaoralhealth.org](http://www.vaoralhealth.org) |



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## VaOHC Legislative Day Tuesday, January 31, 2017

### Meeting Tips

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- **Introduce yourself and the Virginia Oral Health Coalition (and your fellow group members).**
- Provide a brief background on your role with VaOHC or with oral health.
- Explain talking points.
- Hand out Leave Behind, Report Card and chattering teeth (provided Tuesday).
- Thank policy makers for their time.

### Talking Points

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**Overall message:** *Thank you for continuing to support policy that promotes comprehensive health care that includes oral health.*

#### **Key Points:**

***Virginia earned a C+ for oral health. The following initiatives and legislation will help improve this grade, ultimately saving the commonwealth money and improving the health of all Virginians.***

- ***The Virginia Oral Health Report Card (copies included in packet)***
  - Virginia got a C+ when compared to the nation on nine key oral health indicators.
  - This grade can improve with low-cost programs and smart policy initiatives.
  - Efforts are underway in legislative districts across the state to improve our grade! Northern Virginia stakeholders met last week (Thursday, January 26) and identified programmatic strategies to improve the grade. Hampton Roads and Central Virginia are up next with spring meetings.
- ***Dental hygienists working under remote supervision (HB 1474, Orrock)***

**NOTE: If you are meeting with a member of the House, please THANK them for their support. If a member of the Senate please ask for their support and let them know it has passed the House unanimously.**

  - This legislation will enable dental hygienists employed by dental safety net clinics to provide preventive services in the community under remote supervision – this will help improve the commonwealth's grade by increasing the number of children who receive preventive dental services, including dental sealants.
  - This is a model that has worked for years in public health departments.
  - This legislation fully supported by the Virginia Oral Health Coalition and the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association and the Virginia Dental Association.
  - Status (1/30/17): This bill passed the full House and was referred to the Senate Education and Health Committee.
- ***As the legislature works to ensure health care in Virginia is efficient and effective, and responds to changes in Medicaid funding and delivery, please continue to recognize that oral health is an essential part of comprehensive health care.***



## VaOHC Legislative Day Tuesday, January 31, 2017

### Virginia-specific Data

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- Virginia earned a C+ for oral health, when compared to the nation on nine key oral health indicators (refer to Report Card in packet).
- Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease among Virginia's children -- five times more prevalent than asthma.
- Over 47,000 hospital emergency department visits occurred for dental issues in 2013.<sup>1</sup> Over 80% of adults that visit the emergency department for a dental issue leave with an opioid prescription but without treatment.<sup>2</sup>

### Coalition Background

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- VaOHC's mission is to ensure all Virginians have access to affordable, comprehensive health care that includes oral health.
- We do this through advocacy and provider education to support clinics and providers to better integrate oral health services, referrals and information.
- VaOHC is made up of over 150 individual and organizational partners.
- VaOHC and our partners advocate for policy changes that will impact access to oral health services; we seek to ensure every Virginian can access comprehensive health care that includes oral health.

### Virginia Oral Health Report Card – In the News

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Several publications across the state published articles about the Virginia Oral Health Report Card. They include:

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| • Richmond Times-Dispatch (Richmond)   | • The News Virginian (Waynesboro)      |
| • The Daily Progress (Charlottesville) | • The Free-Lance Star (Fredericksburg) |
| • The News Advance (Lynchburg)         | • The Herald-Courier (Bristol)         |

### The Virginia Oral Health Plan

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VaOHC drives the Virginia Oral Health Plan. The Plan's five goals are:

#### **Goal 1 - Public Awareness**

Virginians know that good oral health is essential to overall health.

#### **Goal 2 - Prevention/Early Diagnosis and Treatment**

The prevalence of dental disease is reduced in Virginia through prevention activities and early diagnosis and treatment.

#### **Goal 3 - Medical and Dental Collaboration**

Medical and dental providers and educators understand the links between oral health and overall health and work together to ensure Virginians receive comprehensive care.

#### **Goal 4 - Insurance and Reimbursement**

Virginians have access to quality, affordable, and comprehensive dental coverage.

#### **Goal 5 - Workforce**

The oral health workforce in Virginia adequately meets the needs of its citizens by working to the full extent of their education and training.

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<sup>1</sup> ESSENCE Health Surveillance Data, Virginia Department of Health

<sup>2</sup> American Journal of Public Health