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Oral Health Investments to Improve Care and Reduce Costs, NCSL

Andrew Snyder from the National Academy for State Health Policy recently presented to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) on the innovative ways states are investing in oral health to improve care and reduce costs. The presentation was based on recent case studies from seven states and highlighted the impact of dental benefits for pregnant women in Virginia's Medicaid program.

[View Mr. Snyder's NCSL presentation](#)

Scholarship Available for Collaborative Leadership Development

SYNC - Transforming Healthcare Leadership is an interprofessional leadership program, offered by the Medical Society of Virginia, Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association and the Virginia Nurses Foundation, to empower health care teams to work collaboratively on topics that impact patient care and the healthcare environment.

Virginia Oral Health Coalition (VaOHC) is offering one partial scholarship (\$2,500) to the SYNC program for an interprofessional clinical team that includes a dental provider and intends to focus on integration for the capstone project.

To apply for SYNC, [complete the online application](#) and indicate "Applying for a Scholarship" on the application form. VaOHC will send scholarship application materials to eligible SYNC applicants.

The program requires participation in four learning sessions from October 2015 - March 2016 and completion of a capstone project.

If you have questions about the VaOHC scholarship, please contact [Samantha Dorr](#) at 804.269.8722.

Improving Children's Oral Health in Medicaid:

Learning Opportunities

Oral Health Integration Tooth Talk

September 11, 2015

Medical and dental safety net providers are invited to join us for the Virginia Health Care Foundation Tooth Talk on **September 11, 2015**, to hear from experts and gain practical knowledge and strategies to help integrate oral health into patient centered care.

[Click here](#) for meeting details and registration.



2015 Virginia Oral Health Summit

Achievable Wellness: Engaging Communities and Clinicians for Better Health

November 13, 2015

The 2015 Virginia Oral Health Summit will be held at the Westin Hotel in Richmond Virginia on **November 13, 2015**.

The Summit is expected to attract over 200 multi-sector leaders from all regions of Virginia. CE credit will be provided for clinicians and social workers.

Registration will open in September.

Sponsorship and exhibit options available. Contact [Carrie Wampler](#) for details.

New Resources

The Center for Health Care Strategies has partnered with Mathematica Policy Research through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to develop several new resources to guide states, health plans and other oral health stakeholders with information regarding oral health care access, quality and outcomes for children enrolled in Medicaid. Resources include:

- [Moving from Goal to Impact: A Quality Improvement Approach to Advancing Children's Oral Health in Medicaid](#)
A step-by-step approach to help states design effective State Oral Health Action Plans for meeting oral health improvement goals
- [Engaging Schools to Support Better Oral Health for Low-Income Children](#)
Describes the role that school-based oral health programs can play to address oral health concerns in low-income children, and outlines opportunities for state Medicaid agencies and public health programs to advance these efforts
- [Template and How-To Manuals for States and Health Plans Implementing Oral Health Performance Improvement Projects](#)
A template and two "how-to" manuals guide states and health plans through the process of planning, implementing and evaluating children's oral health PIPs (Performance Improvement Projects)

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Teledentistry Forum

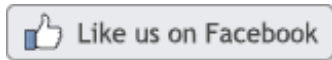
The Virginia Board of Dentistry held a Teledentistry Forum on August 14 to hear from stakeholders about the potential use of teledentistry in Virginia. In alignment with the Virginia Oral Health Plan, VaOHC recently convened a teledentistry workgroup; VaOHC shared the workgroup's recommendations at the forum. Other forum participants offered testimony on the potential benefits of teledentistry and how it might affect access to care in Virginia.

[View the meeting agenda](#)

[Read a full transcript from the forum](#)

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Blog: Medals, Dental Care and System Wide Change at the Special Olympics

by Katherine Libby



I recently had the honor of attending the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry conference, held in conjunction with the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. [...] Outside of the Special Olympics venue, the streets buzzed with over 6,500 athletes from all over the world and hundreds of thousands of spectators waiting to watch the athletes compete. Inside the conference, there was a different but equally invigorating energy...

[Read the entire blog post](#)

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Of Interest

Oral Health and Overall Health

Oral health and overall health are fundamentally intertwined. The following links present current information on how oral health is connected to overall health and well-being.

- [Oral Health and Hypertension](#)
- [Oral Health and Poor Sleep](#)
- [Oral Health and Older Adults](#)

Most States Lag on Delivering Valuable Preventive Dental Care to Low-Income Children

School sealant programs can be found in 48 states and DC; however, a recent [Pew](#)

[report](#) noted that, in 2014, 39 states and DC lacked sealant programs in most of their high-need schools (defined as those with at least 50 percent of students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch). Less than 25 percent of Virginia's high-need schools offer a sealant program. [Read more](#)

Dentists Help 360 Athletes at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games

Over the course of seven days, about 360 athletes with intellectual disabilities received dental treatment, some of whom had never seen a dentist. The care helped to improve their competitive edge and quality of life. [Read more](#)

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