Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update
August 2017

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Policy Issues to Watch After Labor Day

Members of Congress are in recess until September 5; once the members are back they must address issues related to the budget and debt ceiling immediately in order to keep the government open. In addition, there are health policy issues in need of immediate attention, issues that are vital to the health and well-being of Virginians and to the health of Virginia’s budget:

- **The Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is about to run out of funding.** Virginia’s CHIP program is known as FAMIS (Family Access to Medical Insurance Security). FAMIS provides medical and dental coverage for children and pregnant women in families with incomes too high to be eligible for Medicaid but too low to afford medical coverage—less than $39,581 a year for a family of three. **CHIP funding expires on September 30.** If CHIP is not funded, coverage for over 100,000 Virginia children and pregnant women is at immediate risk. The Children’s Dental Health Project fact sheet is a good resource if you’d like more information.

- **ACA markets need attention to ensure they are stable sources of health coverage.** Attention will turn from ACA repeal to preserving cost-sharing reductions (CSRs) and renewing bipartisan pushes for broad market stabilization legislation.

- **Medicaid threats will continue as part of other policy discussions.** While the effort to repeal the ACA is stopped for now, VaOHC will watch other federal legislation and budget language to ensure it does not include continued efforts to reduce funding for the Medicaid program and its oral health coverage. **Tax reform, budget processes, and CHIP refunding could all include changes to Medicaid as a way to pay for other things.**

CCC+ Includes Limited Adult Dental Benefits

Nearly 200,000 Virginia adults will soon have access to a limited dental benefit, in addition to medical, behavioral health, long term services & support and care coordination through the Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus Medicaid Program (CCC+). The CCC+ program was created to provide enhanced coverage to several Medicaid waiver and population categories so that virtually all Medicaid-enrolled individuals who are aged (over 65), blind or disabled receive coverage under one program.

CCC+ includes new benefits such as care coordination and the insurance plans that are providing coverage to individuals enrolled in CCC+ are offering **limited dental services as a value-add benefit**, in addition to the extraction benefit already available through Medicaid. Each participating plan is offering a slightly different benefit. This chart provides additional details. [Adult Dental in CCC+](#)

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[Image]
Upcoming VaOHC Meetings

View our online Event Calendar

September 25 | Richmond Richmond/Petersburg Oral Health Steering Committee RSVP

September 26 | Richmond Report Card Workgroup RSVP

October 12 | Oakton NOVA Subcommittee on Children RSVP

October 12 | Fairfax NOVA Subcommittee on Adults RSVP

October 13 | Chesapeake South Hampton Roads Oral Health Forum Save the date

November 2 | Richmond 2017 Virginia Oral Health Summit Save the date

January 11, 2018 | Oakton NOVA Oral Health Steering Committee RSVP

April 12, 2018 | Oakton Northern Virginia Oral Health Steering Committee RSVP

Featured Speaker: Mary Otto 2017 VA Oral Health Summit

Many of you know Mary Otto as the former Washington Post reporter who broke the story of Deamonte Driver, a young Maryland boy who died after a tooth infection spread to his brain. Ms. Otto’s new book Teeth: The Story of Beauty, Inequality, and the Struggle for Oral Health in America is another sobering look at oral health, poverty, and public health.

Join us at the 2017 Virginia Oral Health Summit on November 2 to hear Ms. Otto speak about her research and fascinating perspective on oral health in America. Save the date - registration opens soon!

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.

- Your zip code might be as important to your health as your genetic code (NPR)
- Gum disease is associated with a higher risk for some cancers in older women (WaPo)
- Key ingredients for trauma-informed care (CHCS)

Study: Racial Disparities in ED Utilization for Oral Conditions

A recent study published in Frontiers in Public Health found significant racial disparities in emergency department (ED) utilization for dental/oral health-related conditions in
Maryland. The results reflect a lack of access due to cost and geographic barriers. Study authors state that policies and action plans which combine community and state efforts are potential solutions.

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### Interactive Maps on Child Well-being

Voices for Virginia's Children (VVC) has developed Virginia-specific interactive maps and charts on child well-being, including demographic, economic, education, and health information. [View their interactive maps online](#).

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### September 8: Gubernatorial Candidate Forum on Children and Families

Join gubernatorial candidates Ed Gillespie and Ralph Northam on September 8 at 4:30 p.m. to hear them speak about early education, health care, mental health, foster care, and other topics focused on kids, hosted by VVC. [Register here](#).

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### Catch Memories at the Virginia Dental Association’s Annual Meeting

The VDA’s 2017 Virginia Meeting is at the Omni Homestead Resort September 14-17. This year’s meeting will feature over 20 CE courses, a dozen networking events, and countless opportunities to enjoy all the resort has to offer. Discounts are available if you register by August 25. [Register today](#)! And, stop by our booth!