



Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update August 2017

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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+](#)

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 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.**

[Read on...](#)

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](#)

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Please take a moment and
support the Coalition's work.

[Donate](#)

Please check with your HR department to
find out if your gift can be matched.

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VaOHC staff will continue to share updates and
resources, particularly as efforts to renew CHIP
heat up. Feel free to reach out to [Sarah Holland](#)
with questions.

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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.



*Otto to speak at
VA Oral Health
Summit, Nov. 2*

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!*

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Of Interest

Oral Health and Overall Health

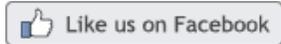
Oral health and overall health are fundamentally
intertwined. The following links present current
information on how oral health is connected to
overall health and well-being.

- [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

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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.

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.](#)

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.](#)



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!**

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