December 2013 Newsletter

Governor Releases Final Budget

Governor McDonnell unveiled his final budget for 2013-2014 earlier today.

Of note:

- There is no funding to support providing dental benefits for pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid, despite support from many in the administration;
- Virginia Department of Health dental clinics will continue to transition to a prevention-based model of care that utilizes hygienists providing preventive services and education in school-based settings;
- Three Virginia Health Department clinics, located in Mount Rogers, Western Tidewater and Norfolk health districts, will continue to provide comprehensive dental services;
- The Governor included language continuing the Medicaid Innovation Reform Commission; and,
- Governor McDonnell included a substantial sum in the general fund ($50.9 million) to provide Governor-elect McAuliffe with latitude for his budget priorities. This is the largest amount since 1991.

To learn more about the Coalition’s response to the budget, including how you can advocate for pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid to gain access to oral health benefits, join us for a webinar on Wednesday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m. For login information, email Samantha Dorr at sdorr@vaoralhealth.org.

Also, plan to let your voice be heard on Oral Health Legislative Day, Wednesday, January 29, 2014. This is a dynamic opportunity to directly impact access to oral health services. Click here to register or view more information.

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 High Blood Pressure
- Oral Health and Obesity
- Periodontal Therapy and Hemodialysis Mortality

2014 MATRC Summit: Adding Value through Sustainable Telehealth

The 2014 MATRC Telehealth Summit will be held March 30 - April 1 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The event will feature an opportunity to learn more about teledentistry and other applications of telehealth, visit with vendors of telehealth technology, see live telehealth demonstrations, and network with over 200 health professionals in the MATRC region.

Visit the MATRC website to view more info and register online

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