Support Integrated Care through Public Comment

The oral health community has a critical opportunity to support integrated, person-centered care that is inclusive oral health in Virginia’s Medicaid delivery system. The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) recently released a draft of its application, in follow up to the summary document released in October, and seeks public comment by Wednesday, January 6 at 4:30 p.m. The application noticeably excludes oral health.

Please join the Coalition in providing comment. Relevant information is below:

- DMAS’s DSRIP Application
- Talking Points Regarding Oral Health and DSRIP
- A Draft of VaOHC’s Comment

Instructions to submit a written public comment:

- DMAS requires that comments be in a Microsoft Word Document.
- Send your comment as an email attachment to 1115waiver@dmas.virginia.gov by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6.

We encourage you to take part in this key opportunity to impact healthcare for vulnerable Virginians. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Bedard Holland at 804.269.8724.
Williamsburg Health Foundation Grant

VaOHC will receive a **grant** from the Williamsburg Health Foundation to support oral health integration efforts in the Greater Williamsburg area. Thank you to the Williamsburg Health Foundation!

ADA Health Policy Institute Report


Virginia analysis:

- Between 2003 and 2013, reimbursement rates for child dental services in Medicaid decreased 5.7%.
- 96% of Virginia’s population on community water systems receive fluoridation, compared to the 75% national average.
- In 2014, 31% percent of Virginia dentists participated in Virginia’s Smiles for Children Medicaid program; nationally, 42% of dentists accept Medicaid.

**View Virginia specific infographic.**

**Hear More About the Report:**
[Register](#) for an interactive webinar by the ADA Health Policy Institute on Wednesday, January 6 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. to learn more about this new resource.
Shop & Support Oral Health!

Last-minute holiday shopping on your to-do list? Shop Amazon Smile and a portion of your purchase will be donated to VaOHC!

Start Shopping

Workgroup Opportunities

Stakeholders are working collectively to advance the goals of the Virginia Oral Health Plan through workgroups convened by the Virginia Oral Health Coalition.

We invite you to join one of three active workgroups:

- Kindergarten Policy
- Early Dental Home
- Adult Dental Access

If you are interested in joining a workgroup, contact Carrie Wampler and indicate the group(s) of interest.

View workgroup descriptions and upcoming meeting dates.

Marketplace Dental Coverage Not Comparable to CHIP Coverage

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released a report which determined Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage, known as “FAMIS” in Virginia, offers more comprehensive and affordable dental benefits for children than quality health plans (QHPs) in health insurance marketplaces. The report concludes QHPs are not comparable to CHIP coverage.

CHIP funding is set to expire in September 2017; if this happens children currently enrolled in CHIP will be expected to purchase coverage through the exchange, despite the diminished coverage. This is an issue VaOHC is monitoring closely.

Read more about CHIP from the Children’s Dental Health Project.

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 Diabetes
- Oral Health and Athletics
- Oral Health and Hookah Smoking

Dental Hygiene Is Public Health

The goal of public health is to protect and promote the health of the public across three essential domains: health protection, disease prevention and health promotion. As described in this RDH magazine article, dental hygienists exemplify public health science and practice by counselling on nutrition, educating patients about plaque removal, promoting restorative dentistry to decrease infection in the body, and explaining the relationship between oral health and overall
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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Thank you to all the dental hygienists for your expertise and dedication to public health!

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