In This Issue

Save the Date: 2013 Oral Health Summit

US National Oral Health Colloquium

UPDATE: State-Supported Dental Clinics

PEW Report

Of Interest

Save the Date

Friday, Nov. 8
2013 Oral Health Summit

The 2013 Virginia Oral Health Summit is scheduled for Friday, November 8 at the Westin Hotel in Richmond.

Dr. Marcia Brand

The Summit will focus on the future of oral health care delivery and will feature a keynote presentation from Dr. Marcia Brand, Deputy Administrator for HRSA at the US Dept. of Health and Human Services. Registration

June 2013 Bulletin

UPDATE: State-Supported Dental Clinics

The Virginia Oral Health Coalition is charged with ensuring that all Virginians have access to optimal oral health care. When funding was eliminated in late 2011 for state-supported Virginia Department of Health (VDH) dental clinics, which treat nearly 20,000 Virginians, the Coalition advocated to restore clinic funding and for the VDH to convene a group of stakeholders to make recommendations to the General Assembly about the long-term operations of the dental clinics. During the 2012 legislative session, members of both the House and Senate agreed with the position of the Coalition and our partners and voted to restore funding to the dental clinics; the legislators' budget language also directed the Commissioner of Health to convene the stakeholder group.

The stakeholder group considered many options to ensure the dental clinic patients continue to receive continuous and accessible care. The group was mindful of the capacity of existing dental safety net clinics and balanced this with the needs of the underserved and current budgetary realities.

In October 2012, the stakeholder group released a report to the General Assembly, which recommends that the clinics be transitioned to a prevention-based care model while clinics operating in areas without enough capacity to absorb the clinic patients remain open and continue to provide comprehensive care. Other localities would replicate a preventive model that has been successful in Cumberland Plateau, Southside and Lenowisco health districts. In this model, dental hygienists work primarily in school-based settings under remote supervision to provide preventive services, such as fluoride varnish and sealants, and to refer children in need of further care to local dentists. A referral relationship is to be in place with an area dentist before the program begins.

Where Are We Now?

The General Assembly responded favorably to the report's recommendations and both House and Senate members voted again in 2013 to restore funding to the dental clinics so the stakeholder group would have additional time to expand upon the current
will open later this summer.

Sponsorship and exhibit opportunities are still available. If you're interested in sponsoring the Summit, please contact Esther Wong Hershman.

**US National Oral Health Alliance Leadership Colloquium**

On June 17-18, Coalition staff and board members participated in the US National Oral Health Alliance's sixth annual Leadership Colloquium in Washington, DC on strengthening the dental care delivery system.

Learn more about this event.

Back to top

**PEW Report: In Search of Dental Care**

A recent PEW report entitled “In Search of Dental Care” reinforces the knowledge that a disproportionate number of low-income children go without seeing a dentist, highlighting two types of dental provider shortages as probable cause. While Virginia does not rank among the worst states in terms of provider shortage, the Commonwealth’s Medicaid utilization rate among enrolled children still hovers around 50 percent.

The Coalition is working with Virginia's Medicaid program provider to increase utilization among children ages 0-3 through its medical and dental collaboration initiative.

Read more about the Coalition's efforts in our May 2013 newsletter.

Back to top

**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 well-being.
Medical Society of Virginia Foundation's Salute to Service Award

Do you wish to honor an outstanding physician? The Medical Society of Virginia Foundation is seeking nominations for its 10th Annual Salute to Service Awards. The awards recognize outstanding efforts by a physician, medical student or resident that have substantially improved patient care, both in Virginia and abroad.

Read more information, including nomination instructions

Back to top

Please visit our website for more oral health information
www.vaoralhealth.org

Subscribe Me