Virginia One of Seven States to Receive Perinatal Infant Oral Health HRSA Grant

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) was awarded one of seven HRSA grants for the Perinatal Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Expansion initiative. This four-year award, designed to fund oral health and maternal health integration efforts, will enable the VDH to work with multiple partners (including VaOHC) to:

- Build dental workforce capacity through professional trainings
- Increase integration efforts among oral health, maternal health and pediatric practices
- Enhance data collection
- Develop oral health care integration using VDH remote supervision dental hygienists and home visiting programs

The grant period begins in August. To learn more or to get involved, contact Katherine Libby at klibby@vaoralhealth.org

Making the Case for Oral Health Integration: White Paper and Case Study

Oral health is essential for overall health, yet nationwide there is an unacceptably high burden of oral disease. A new white paper from Qualis Health, Oral Health: An Essential Component of Primary Care, makes the case for including preventive oral health care as a component of routine medical care and enhancing partnerships between primary care and dentistry. The publication presents an Oral Health Delivery Framework for primary care teams of all types to engage patient and families in the prevention and early detection of oral disease, and includes strategies and case examples from health centers - big and small - about how they are integrating oral health into primary care.
VaOHC is partnering with community health centers and clinician groups around the state to raise awareness about oral and overall health, and to help support integration at the local level. Learn more here.

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Share Your Expertise!

Your expertise is crucial! The Virginia Oral Health Coalition has several ways to get involved. By seeking appropriate policy change, providing clinical expertise to inform the Coalition's programmatic efforts and/or serving as a peer educator to improve access to oral health services for young children and pregnant women, you will be a crucial part of the solution. Please share your skills.

View information on how to be involved.

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Supreme Court Upholds ACA Subsidies

The Supreme Court ruled in King v. Burwell to uphold the legality of insurance subsidies in all states under the Affordable Care Act. This means that individuals who receive their health insurance through an exchange established by the federal government - as is here in Virginia - will be eligible for tax subsidies. The ruling brings much relief to approximately 286,000 Virginians who rely on subsidies to purchase health insurance through the exchange. Because a pediatric dental benefit is a mandated coverage option in the exchange, this decision will protect dental coverage for vulnerable children in Virginia.

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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.

- Oral Cancer and Cigarettes
- Mouth Bacteria Connected to Heart Disease
- Enzyme that Links Periodontitis & Cancer

Shared Dental Visits Work Well with Infants and Toddlers
According to research conducted by the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and the Cambridge Health Alliance in Massachusetts, shared dental visits in certain instances can serve dentists and their patients better than traditional one-on-one visits. Read more

Happy Father’s Day!

In honor of Father’s Day and Men’s Health Month, here are some facts that every man should keep in mind regarding their oral health:

- Periodontal disease has a higher prevalence in men
- Men are less likely than women to report having an annual dentist visit
- Less than 50 percent of men brush twice a day and are less likely to seek preventative care until the problem is too painful

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

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