



Excellent Oral Health for ALL Virginians

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Get Involved!

There are lots of opportunities to use your skills and talents to help improve oral health in Virginia.

Join a VaOHC Action Team

Action teams are made up of stakeholders from throughout the state and work to meet the objectives of the [Virginia Oral Health Plan](#). Teams include:

*Teledentistry
Early Dental Home
VA Oral Health Summit*

[Read descriptions](#)

[Contact Katherine Libby](#) to join an action team.

Volunteer at a VDA Foundation Event

March 2014 Newsletter

Sine Die Report

The 2014 session of the Virginia General Assembly adjourned on March 8th. The budget remains unresolved because of an impasse over whether or not to expand Medicaid; the members will reconvene in a special session on March 24th to address the budget. Following is an update of legislative issues pertinent to access to oral health services.



Comprehensive Dental Benefits for Pregnant Women

If included in the final budget, 15,000 pregnant women currently enrolled in Medicaid will gain coverage for comprehensive dental care. While the Senate budget included funding for comprehensive dental benefits for pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid and FAMIS MOMS, the House budget did not. Because this is a budget amendment, it remains in conference committee.

Medicaid Expansion

If Medicaid eligibility expands in Virginia, nearly 400,000 Virginians will have access to an emergency extraction benefit - reducing use of the emergency department for dental issues. This issue remains unresolved, and the debate about whether or not to expand Medicaid coverage in Virginia will likely continue beyond the special session on the 24th.

Teledentistry Pilot Program

[SB647](#) and [HB147](#): *Carried over; will not be enacted at this time*

This bill would have created a pilot program which utilizes teledentistry to supervise dental hygienists providing care in a school-based setting. The bill was continued to the 2015 Session, which means that, at this time, the bill will not become a law and the program will not be funded.

Reasonable Assurance of Pediatric Dental Benefit

[HB33](#): *Awaiting the Governor's signature*

This bill was introduced to require insurers that offer a health plan outside of the exchange in either the small group or individual market to prominently disclose to consumers upon purchase if a plan does not provide the required essential pediatric dental benefit. This



VSU Cares Mini-MOM

Saturday, April 12
VA State University
[Volunteer Info](#)

Special Olympics MOM

Saturday, June 7
University of Richmond
[Volunteer Info](#)

If you have an opportunity to get involved, please contact [Samantha Dorr](#).

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Dine Out with VaOHC on Monday, June 2!

[Add this event to your calendar](#)

Join VaOHC staff at Toast restaurant in Richmond on Monday, June 2! A portion of all food sales (including carry out!) from 11am to 11pm will be donated to VaOHC.

*Make your mouth
happy!*

Toast

7007 Three Chopt Rd
Richmond, VA 23226
[Visit Toast's website](#)

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

legislation passed in both chambers.

Deferred Compensation for Medicaid Providers

[SB412](#) and [HB147](#): Awaiting the Governor's signature

Dentists and oral and maxillofacial surgeons who participate in Virginia Medicaid may place payment they receive for treating Medicaid patients in a Virginia Retirement System deferred compensation plan.

[Read the complete Sine Die report](#), which includes additional oral health-related legislation.

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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.



- [Pregnancy and Oral Health](#)
- [Oral Health and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities](#) (fact sheets)

AAPD Report: The State of Little Teeth



The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's report "[The State of Little Teeth](#)" addresses the growing epidemic of tooth decay among US children.

[Read a summary article from Contemporary Pediatrics](#)

Report: Rising Oral Health Emergency Room Spending in Florida

A study by the Florida Public Health Institute shows that Floridians are using the emergency room (ER) for preventable dental conditions in ever increasing numbers at an extremely high cost to the state.



Read the [press release](#) and [view the ER data](#)

Help Grow the Oral Health Social Media Network



In an effort to grow a collective, web-based network of oral health stakeholders, VaOHC has created an online clearing house for social media account listings - and we need your help to fill it out! Please visit the list online and enter as much information as you'd like about your organization's social media presence. Be sure to follow the other accounts on the list as well. Questions? Contact [Samantha Dorr](#).

[Donate](#)

[Access the Oral Health Social Media List](#)

[Read about the
Coalition's
accomplishments](#)

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your gift can be matched.

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