



## Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update March 2016

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### Save the Date!

**2016 Virginia Oral  
Health Summit**  
**Thursday, November 10**  
**The Westin Richmond**

Sponsorship and exhibit opportunities are available. Contact [Samantha Dorr](#) for details.

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**Adult Dental  
Access Workgroup  
Meeting**

### NEW Project Launch: Virginia Oral Health Report Card

Virginia Oral Health Coalition (VaOHC) staff and leadership are facilitating the development of a **Virginia Oral Health Report Card**. As envisioned, the Report Card will serve as a tool to measure our collective progress toward meeting the [Virginia Oral Health Plan goals](#) and provide a framework for partners to align efforts and identify areas for action. Once designed, VaOHC staff will aggregate report card measures by region and work with regional work groups to identify stakeholder-driven quality improvement activities.

#### **Help Design the Report Card!**

Please join your partners at the first **Report Card Design Meeting on Monday, May 2** in Richmond. The meeting will provide an overview of the initiative and include an opportunity to refine the vision, discuss potential data sources, and define a process to determine the measures. The final Report Card will be presented at the 2016 Virginia Oral Health Summit on Thursday, November 10.

For questions about the Report Card, contact [Lauren Gray](#). **To RSVP** for the May 2nd Design Meeting, contact [Regina Potis](#).

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**Wed., April 13, 2016**  
**10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
**[VHHA Bldg](#) | Richmond**

At this meeting, we will discuss the cost of providing a dental benefit in Virginia Medicaid and the return on investment for the coverage.

To **RSVP** for the Adult Dental Access Workgroup meeting, contact [Regina Potis](#).

[Learn about our workgroups.](#)

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## Rev Your Bev



**Rev Your Bev** is a statewide campaign to raise awareness about the health effects of soda and other sugary drinks.

**Rev Your Bev day is May 18.** Consider [hosting an event](#) and [promoting healthy messages](#).

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## Fluoridation Mini Grants

The **Campaign for Dental Health** has funding available (up to \$500) to help communities that are engaged in an effort to fluoridate the water system or fighting an attempt to remove it. For more info about the funding and application process, contact [Hollis Russinof](#).

## Senate Passes Opioids Bill



In Virginia, heroin and opioid overdose deaths outnumber motor vehicle fatalities. Opioid abuse often leads to heroin dependency and affects Virginians from every walk of life.

Health professionals, as prescribers and trusted health advisers, have the ability to positively impact the drug crisis. Of note, the U.S. Senate recently passed [bipartisan legislation](#) that, if passed by the House, will authorize \$300 million in grants to develop local support services and best practices for pain management and prescribing; it also enhances prescription monitoring to track individuals who receive prescriptions from multiple providers.

State leaders are working collectively to address the issue in the commonwealth. Dentists, physicians, pharmacists and other prescribers can use the [Prescription Monitoring program](#) to track a patient's prescription history with controlled substances. Additionally, the FDA recently added new [black box warnings](#) for immediate-release opioid pain medication to emphasize the risks associated with abuse, including death. The ADA also has a [wealth of information](#) about the dental provider's role in preventing opioid diversion, misuse and abuse.

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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.

- [Nutrition and Healthy Teeth](#)  
*March is National Nutrition Month*
  - [Gum Disease and Cognitive Decline](#)
  - [Oral Health and Kidney Disease](#)
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**Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits: An**

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## Webinar: Integrating Oral Health and Primary Care

The **HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce** will host the free webinar "Integrating Oral Health and Primary Care Training" on **Tuesday, April 12 at 2:00 p.m. ET**, with a robust lineup of speakers from academia, policy and health care delivery.

[REGISTER](#)

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## Welcome New VaOHC Staff!



**Lauren Gray, MPH, MSW**, is our program and engagement manager. Contact Lauren for questions about our Report Card initiative and other programmatic opportunities. Email: [lgray@vaoralhealth.org](mailto:lgray@vaoralhealth.org)



**Regina Potis** is our office and program assistant. Contact Regina for questions about

## Overview

A recent study identified \$2.7 billion in dental-related hospital emergency department visits over a three-year period in the U.S.; 30 percent of these visits were by Medicaid-enrolled adults. The **Center for Health Care Strategies** fact sheet [Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits: An Overview](#) explores health care access, utilization and benefits for low-income adults, and reviews the scope of Medicaid benefits currently available in each state.

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## Access to Dental Care in Medicaid: Spotlight on Nonelderly Adults

Dental disease and tooth loss disproportionately affect low-income individuals. Poor oral health can worsen chronic conditions, like diabetes, and impact employ-ability. The **Kaiser Family Foundation** issue brief [Access to Dental Care in Medicaid: Spotlight on Nonelderly Adults](#) takes an in-depth look at health status and access to care among low-income adults, and explores how Medicaid dental benefits could impact well-being for this population.

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## National Nutrition Research Roadmap

March is National Nutrition Month! The [National Nutrition Research Roadmap](#) incorporates the role of oral health and dentistry in nutrition, suggesting that dental professionals play a major role in influencing eating patterns and have an opportunity to participate in nutritional sciences research.



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## RWJF Clinical Scholars Program

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's [Clinical Scholars Program](#)** is described as a national leadership opportunity for clinically active health providers spanning a range of disciplines to engage in intensive learning, mentoring and networking to lead to transformative change - centered on health equity - in their communities.

[REGISTER](#) for an informational webinar about the program on Wednesday, March 30 at Noon ET.

workgroup membership, updating your contact information and VaOHC event registration.  
Email: [rpotis@vaoralhealth.org](mailto:rpotis@vaoralhealth.org)

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

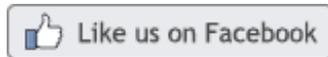


Please check with your HR department to find out if your gift can be matched.

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