Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update
March 2016

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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.

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.

Adult Dental Access Workgroup Meeting
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.

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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
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.

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.

欢迎新 VaOHC 员工！

Lauren Gray, MPH, MSW, 是我们的项目和参与经理。联系 Lauren 对我们的报告卡倡议和其他项目的机会有疑问。Email: lgray@vaoralhealth.org

Regina Potis 是我们的办公室和项目助理。联系 Regina 对此问题有疑问。

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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.

Virginia Oral Health Coalition
4200 Innslake Drive
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060
sholland@vaoralhealth.org
804.269.8720