



Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update November 2016

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Upcoming Legislative Events

Legislative Webinar

Wed., Dec. 21, 9:30 a.m.

[REGISTER](#)

2017 Legislative Day

Virginia General

Assembly

Tues., Jan. 31, 2017

[REGISTER](#)

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Free CE: Dental Care for Adults with Disabilities

Election Update

The make-up of Virginia's General Assembly saw little change this election cycle; however, on the cusp of a new administration and Congress, the Virginia Oral Health Coalition (VaOHC) is paying close attention to federal policy proposals that may have a significant impact on care and coverage for Virginians.

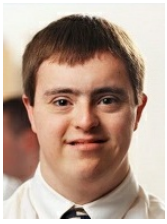


Though President-elect Trump's administration has not provided many details, ACA repeal and Medicaid block grants are getting a lot of air-time; additionally, the recent choices for Secretary of Health and Human Services and leadership of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services signal big changes. Regardless of the political transitions, VaOHC staff and partners will continue to our efforts to ensure all Virginians have of access to affordable comprehensive health care that is inclusive of oral health.

Here are a few of the things we are focused on right now:

FAMIS Funding Renewal: FAMIS will run out of funding at the end of September 2017. Known as the Children's Health Insurance Program or "CHIP" in DC, **in Virginia, FAMIS provides affordable medical, dental and mental health coverage for**

Friday, December 16 Wytheville, Virginia



The Virginia Department of Health and the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services have

partnered with VaOHC to offer a free CE program in **Wytheville, Virginia on Friday, December 16**, for dental providers who wish to improve their skills in treating **adults with special health care needs**. (Note: This program was previously scheduled for November 18.)

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Summit Presentations and Pictures Online



View [presentations](#) and [photos](#) from the 2016 Virginia Oral Health Summit - and, don't forget to tag yourself!

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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.

more than 104,000 children and 4,600 pregnant women. We are joining with national and state partners to advocate at the federal level to ensure those covered under Virginia's FAMIS program do not lose access to affordable, comprehensive health coverage. Given the uncertainty about the ACA and Medicaid, protecting FAMIS is more important than ever. Our friends at the [Children's Dental Health Project](#) have a blog post that provides more details.

Analyzing Health Policy Proposals: Many of the changes the new administration and Congress are likely to consider for Medicaid, Medicare and the ACA could have significant ramifications on medical, dental and mental health coverage for Virginians. We will continue to work at the state and federal levels to educate policy makers about the health and economic value of affordable and accessible comprehensive health care, analyze policy proposals, and advocate to ensure comprehensive health care is accessible, affordable and inclusive of oral health. Our friends at the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) and [Mannatt](#) do a terrific job of outlining some potential policy changes.

Medicaid Expansion: Virginia remains one of the few states that has not expanded Medicaid coverage to provide insurance for nearly 400,000 Virginians. Despite the outcome of the election, Governor McAuliffe and partners from across the state remain committed to advocating for Medicaid expansion to provide comprehensive health coverage to underserved Virginians and bring millions of dollars to the commonwealth.

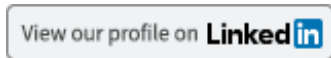
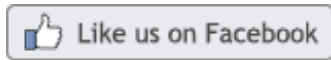
Stay Involved

Register for a **webinar** at 9:30 a.m. on **Wednesday, December 21** to discuss the election, the Governor's proposed 2017 budget and VaOHC's legislative priorities for 2017.

[REGISTER](#)

And, join us **Tuesday, January 31**, for our **2017 Legislative Day** to help us reinforce the importance of oral health in Virginia policies.

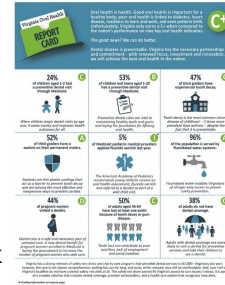
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Report Card Activities

The commonwealth received a C+ on the Virginia Oral Health Report Card which graded the state on nine indicators of prevention, coverage, health status and collaboration with high return on investment. You can check out the Report Card and companion narrative [here](#).



To facilitate change, VaOHC will convene several state and regional [workgroups](#) to leverage and align current activities and coordinate new programs and policy initiatives, where appropriate. Complete our [Partnership Form](#) to join a workgroup.

The first regional meeting (supported in part by the Northern Virginia Health Foundation and the Potomac Health Foundation) is in the **Northern Virginia region on Wednesday, January 25.**

Contact [Regina Potis](#) to receive registration information as soon as it's available.

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Opioid Addiction: A Public Health Emergency



In a November 21 [letter](#), Virginia's Health Commissioner Dr. Marissa Levine declared opioid addiction a public health emergency in the commonwealth.

Dental-related issues are one of the most common reasons many uninsured Virginia adults visit the emergency department; more alarming, 81% of these patients receive an opioid prescription. The American Dental Association [urges dentists](#) to renew their commitment to prevent opioid abuse and offers [comprehensive prescription opioid resources](#) for providers. Dr. Levine also lists [Virginia-specific resources](#) for providers and patients and [recommends](#) every provider [register](#) and check the state's [Prescription Monitoring Program](#) database before prescribing.

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.

- [Obesity and Inflamed Gums in Children](#)
- [Housing and Dental Visits](#)
- [Water Fluoridation and Lower Dental Costs](#)
- [Dentists and Smoking Cessation](#)

Shop and Support Oral Health

This holiday season, shop **Amazon Smile** and a portion of your proceeds will be donated to the Virginia Oral Health Coalition. It's the same Amazon you know and love, with a little something in return. [Start shopping!](#)



AAP's Section on Oral Health

The American Academy of Pediatrics' Section on Oral Health (SOOH) is a "group of pediatric dentists, pediatricians, and other allied health professionals interested in learning about and improving children's oral health through collaborative efforts." The Section focuses on advocacy, education and interprofessional relationship-building. [Learn more about SOOH and membership.](#)