



Greetings!,

Last week nearly 250 colleagues, friends, and partners gathered at the 8th annual Virginia Oral Health Summit, making it our largest Summit to date!

**Recordings of all Summit speakers are [now available](#) on our newly-updated website, along with slides and [photos](#).**

Keynote speaker Dr. Camara Jones led us in an honest, open conversation about the role racism plays in health outcomes. Through three allegories, she highlighted a system that privileges some while leaving others behind. "Even for people in the same health care system, there are differences depending on your race. How your chest pain is investigated, or how much pain medication you'll receive in the emergency room for a fracture is impacted by your ethnicity," she remarked. Featured speaker Dr. Matthew Allen demonstrated how we can improve health outcomes through patient engagement by making time to listen and creating new ways to communicate.



Senator George Barker opened the day by encouraging us to continue advocating for comprehensive health care, and top leaders from Virginia's Medicaid office delivered updates on expansion. We learned about our partners' successes in caring for vulnerable populations through new approaches to patient care, and we discussed the role water plays in keeping communities healthy. Throughout the day, Summit speakers highlighted the progress we have made to improve access to oral health care for all Virginians and the road ahead toward an integrated, comprehensive health care system that works for all.

If you attended the Summit, I hope the experience reaffirmed for you - as it did for me - that change is possible, and a healthier Virginia is on the horizon. On behalf of all of us at the Virginia Oral Health Coalition, thank you for being part Virginia's oral health community and working to improve health in every corner of the commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bedard Holland  
Chief Executive Officer

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.

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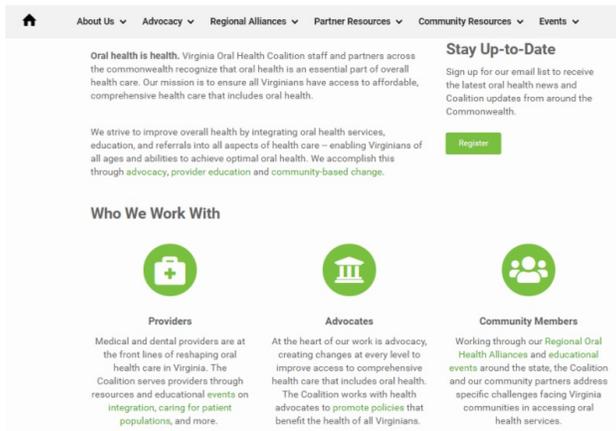
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## Check out our new website!

Our [new website](#) is LIVE. Explore its new features including easy navigation, regional specific information, and new resources and tools for providers!



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Virginia Oral Health Coalition website. At the top is a navigation menu with links for About Us, Advocacy, Regional Alliances, Partner Resources, Community Resources, and Events. The main content area features a header with the text "Oral health is health." followed by a paragraph about the coalition's mission. Below this is a "Stay Up-to-Date" section with a "Register" button. The "Who We Work With" section is divided into three columns: Providers, Advocates, and Community Members, each with an icon and a brief description of their role.