



Excellent Oral Health for ALL Virginians

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### 2013 VA Oral Health Summit Speaker Profile



**Marko Vujicic, PhD**

**Register by Tuesday, Oct. 1 and save!**

Marko Vujicic, PhD, is the managing vice president for the American Dental Association's Health Policy Resource Center, where he's responsible for overseeing all of the Association's policy research activities. At the 2013 Summit, Dr. Vujicic will take a look at dentistry's past and offer insights on its future, based on data and trends in the industry. This thought-provoking talk is a *can't miss* opportunity!

# September 2013 Newsletter

## ACA Implementation Update: Exchange and Expansion

### Exchange: Oral Health Resources Available for Assisters

Open enrollment in the Virginia's Health Insurance Marketplace or [Exchange](#) begins Tuesday, October 1 (tomorrow!). As discussed in the Coalition's [August newsletter](#), the Exchange is an online marketplace where individuals can purchase health and dental insurance, with subsidies available for qualified individuals and families.

Many individuals may be unaware of the critical link between oral health and overall health. This, coupled with the myriad of dental insurance options within the Exchange, may raise questions for individuals about the importance and affordability of dental coverage. In response, the Coalition has partnered with the Children's Dental Health Project to create a [fact sheet](#) for assisters and navigators (those assisting with Exchange enrollment), consumers and other community outreach providers to help them sift through options for dental coverage. The Coalition is also creating other oral health-related resources that will be available online.

[Download this dental coverage fact sheet for exchange enrollment](#)

### Medicaid Expansion: Comments Requested from MIRC

Because Medicaid expansion is no longer required under the ACA, Governor McDonnell has tasked the [Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission](#) (MIRC) with determining whether or not Virginia has met the reforms necessary to expand Medicaid coverage to approximately 400,000 individuals. The expansion will cover emergency dental extractions for eligible Virginians, which can directly improve their health and prevent costly emergency department visits.

MIRC is now accepting public comments on Medicaid expansion through **Wednesday, October 16 at 5:00 p.m.** There are two ways to submit a comment:

- Complete the [online public comment form](#); or,
- Attend the public comment session on Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. in Richmond ([register here](#)).



**Early registration ends Tuesday, October 1;** all registrations must be received by October 25.

[Click here to register](#)

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

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

Virginia Consumer Voices for Healthcare has offered a list of sample comments [here](#). If you're interested in seeing where Virginia's gubernatorial candidates stand on this issue, [click here](#).

For additional information and inquires about ACA implementation in Virginia, contact Coalition executive director, Sarah Bedard Holland, at 804.269.8721 or [sholland@vaoralhealth.org](mailto:sholland@vaoralhealth.org).

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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.



- [Oral Health Care During Pregnancy](#) (it's safe!)
- [Metabolic Control in Diabetes and Periodontal Treatment](#)
- [Colon Cancer and Mouth Infection](#)

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### Analysis: Cost Benefits of Early Dental Visits

A new analysis of a prior study of early dental care shows that preventive pediatric dental visits do lead to better oral health outcomes, even though overall care costs are not reduced.



[Read the paper from Consultant for Pediatricians](#)

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### Survey Shows Virginia Voters Over 50 Support Medicaid Expansion

A recent [survey](#) from AARP Virginia shows that just over half of the state's registered voters over age 50 support Medicaid expansion.



[Read the full article from the AARP](#)

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### Online Calculator Estimates Marketplace Costs and Subsidies

The Kaiser Family Foundation has created an online [subsidy calculator](#) that Americans can use to view ZIP code-specific estimates of the insurance premiums and tax subsidies available in the new state health insurance marketplaces in 2014.



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