



**Virginia Health Catalyst  
School-Based Health Workgroup  
Friday, January 10, 2020  
2:30-3:30pm | BlueJeans call**

**Attending:** Eric Tolkin (Smile Virginia), Ronnie Coleman (Benevis), Monalisa Mbaitisi (VDH), Julie Duregger (Smarter Beginnings Virginia Peninsula), Julie Bilodeau (Crossover), Nancy Davis (VDH), Elaine Gerard (Alexandria City Public Schools), Teresa Isom (Chesterfield County Public Schools), April Shuck (Dr. Byrd and Associates), Sharon Logue (VDH), Tonya Adiches (VDH)

**Staff:** Brita Bergland, Sarah Holland, Lauren Sawyer

**Action items:**

- Join us on **January 28** for **Legislative Action Day** to help make the case for adding an adult dental benefit in Medicaid. All of our voices matter! [Learn more and register here.](#)
- Finalize draft of RFP to VDH.
- Put together a “pre-RFP webinar” to let DSNs know about the opportunity and how to prepare to apply

**Next meeting:** TBD

**Proceedings**

**Policy update** (Sarah Holland, Catalyst)

- Medical assistants applying fluoride varnish (two companion bills):
  - Senate: Sen. Barker – **SB 239**. Bill heard in committee on 1/9 and passed with slight edits to broaden the language. Our partners are still on board with this change.
  - House: Del. Sickles – **HB 299**. Working to ensure language matches the Senate’s bill
- Water bottle filling station: paperwork is submitted, but no assignment to committee
- Adult dental benefit in Medicaid:
  - Sen. Barker and Del. Sickles both submitted paperwork but no bill number yet
    - Great patrons and strong partners
  - Del. Jenkins introduced bill (**HB 968**) - another dedicated partner
  - Media pieces:
    - [Virginia Mercury, 1/14/20](#)
    - [Virginia Mercury, 1/7/20](#)
    - [DMAS report](#) about ER visits for dental issues (2018)
- Legislative advocacy opportunities:
  - [Join our Legislative Action Day - 1/28/2020](#)
    - Help us make the case to the legislature that this cause needs our attention! We are calling to a broad group of advocates to raise their voices. Catalyst will schedule meetings with legislators, give you talking points, and guide you through the day. [Register here!](#)

- [Send advocacy postcards](#): Tell your legislators that an adult dental benefit is important with one of Catalyst's advocacy postcards. Each of the five versions highlights a way in which an adult dental benefit would support Virginians. Bring the postcards to your next meeting or event to share with your partners; fill out our postcard request form [here](#).

### **SBH Assessment Results**

- For context: after our first meeting, we needed to understand what is currently happening in Virginia around school-based dental programs in order to give VDH the best recommendations about how and where to focus their efforts to increase sealant rates through school programs. The information we've gathered is just a snapshot of what is happening now.
  - In December, we went over the results of our initial assessment of school-based dental programs across the state: a map of VDH's school sealant programs, Smile Virginia's school-based programs, and 6 dental safety net clinics about their programs and locations. We used this data to create a map of the number of programs in each county.
  - Then, we overlaid the map of programs with a map of counties with high numbers (>50%) of schools with a majority of students on free/reduced lunch.
    - We determined our SBH counties to be those with **0-5 school-based programs AND a majority of their schools with high number of students on FRL.**
  - At December's meeting, we realized we needed to understand our possible partners in those counties. Our next step was to determine which of the SBH counties had dental safety nets, and list the schools that they could potentially reach. *Find these results/map in the PPT slides.*

### **Discussion**

- This is the outside looking in - we don't know how receptive the communities are to this work. A lot of DSNs are already in touch with schools, making connections.
- Request for proposals (RFP) review:
  - VDH timeline: want to get the RFP up and ready to apply within next 3 months
  - Possible letter of support from schools
  - Pre-RFP webinar to discuss what needs to be done ahead of time – public awareness
  - Catalyst communicating to schools about a statewide initiative – possibly contact DOE to send out to schools
- Consider referrals to local dental providers if DSN can't handle them alone
- Opportunities to enhance what is already happening and expand services
- VAFCC, VACHA: represent clinics
  - Can they support DSNs in submitting applications?
- Julie (CrossOver): could put together a panel of school-based dental programs among free clinics at a meeting on March 25
- After RFP: SBH group can address consent rates – VDH aims to increase consent by % and increase # of schools
  - Understand what are baseline consent rates across the state, pivot the conversation