



October 2020 Newsletter

Adult Dental is IN!

During the special session, legislators heard from Virginians all across the commonwealth about the need for a dental benefit for adults enrolled in Medicaid, and in large part because of your grassroots engagement – **funding for an adult dental benefit was included in the budget!** The Governor needs to sign the budget – and Catalyst staff will watch the next steps closely. You can learn a bit more about what comes next [here](#).

As Catalyst's CEO shared in a recent [Virginia Mercury article](#), the budget reflects the values of the commonwealth, and the decision by legislators to reallocate funding demonstrates that the members' value equitable access to comprehensive health care that includes oral health.

The Virginia Health Catalyst team is already preparing for the hopeful rollout on July 1, 2021. Check the [Adult Dental Resource page](#) for new resources as they become available, or for specific material requests, contact Lauren Sawyer at lsawyer@vahealthcatalyst.org.

Highlights from the 2020 Virginia Oral Health Summit

This month Catalyst hosted the 10th annual Virginia Oral Health Summit. While the event looked different, the same energy and innovative ideas remained. Across three days the summit featured speakers who are moving health care forward in Virginia. We heard from youth leaders promoting healthy practices in schools, providers about opportunities to improve clinical care, and from speakers like Dr. Rhea Boyd who offered a data-driven presentation about the links between systemic racism and health outcomes.

If you were unable to attend the summit but are interested in accessing the recordings of each summit session email Alle Witt at awitt@vahealthcatalyst.org to learn more about purchasing opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the summit and made it the great event it was!

Catch up with Catalyst!

Join Virginia Health Catalyst for an informal catch-up for partners across the commonwealth! Drop-in from 9:15 – 10:00 AM on Thursday, November 19th to connect with members of the health care community and share what you're working on as we head into 2021. Find log-in details [here](#).

Additional Resources

- New FREE Training – Increasing Access to Oral Health Care in Virginia: The Home Visitor's Role

Virginia Health Catalyst, Families Forward Virginia, and Early Impact Virginia are providing a webinar for home visitors in Virginia on **November 5, from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**. Exciting changes took place in 2019 and 2020 that affect how Virginians access and receive oral health care. Join us as we discuss:

- The important role oral health plays in overall health;
- How home visitors can help pregnant women and other adults understand the importance of dental care and accessing resources for this care;
- The policies impacting oral health; and
- The options for affordable dental care in Virginia.

[Registration is available here](#). Those who are unable to attend the live webinar may access a recording of it on The Institute For Family Support Professionals website at a later date. Please contact Brita Allen at ballen@vahealthcatalyst.org for more information.

- Register for Rev Your Bev Day

If you work with young children in Virginia join early child care providers for Rev Your Bev Day on November 13! Rev Your Bev Day is an annual statewide day of action to raise awareness about the health benefits gained by children when they choose water instead of sugar-sweetened beverages. This year, Rev Your Bev is offering [resources](#) for Virginians who work in preschools or in early childhood settings, like daycares. For additional information or questions, contact Hannah Robbins hrobbins@vfhy.org.

- New Article Highlights Virginia Health Catalyst's Name Change

In August 2019 the Virginia Oral Health Coalition became Virginia Health Catalyst. A new article from Catalyst CEO Sarah Bedard Holland in the Journal of Public Health Dentistry shares how the name change is allowing Catalyst to meet its mission and ensure all Virginians have equitable access to comprehensive health care that includes oral health. Find the article abstract and options to read the full article, [here](#).

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