



Policy Committee

Thursday, November 12th, 2020 | 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Attending: Beatriz Amberman (Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations); Chelsi Bennett (American Heart Association); McAllister Castelaz (General Dentist); Donovan Caves (Southeastern Virginia Health System); Brooke Crouch (New Horizons Healthcare); Julie Duregger (Smart Beginnings Virginia Peninsula); Ali Faruk (Families Forward); Patrick Finnerty (PWF Consulting); John Green (UVA graduate student); Nia Harrison (Virginia Board for People with Disabilities); Frank Luorno (Virginia Dental Association); Nicole Lawter (Williams Mullen); Travis Lucas (Lucas | Compton, PLLC); Freddi Mejia (The Commonwealth Institute); Maghboeba Mosavel (VCU and Petersburg Wellness Consortium); Cheryl Harris Sutton (DentaQuest);

Staff: Sarah Holland, Ericca Facetti, Lauren Sawyer, Brita Allen, Chloe Van Zandt

Meeting Recording: [here](#)

Proceedings:

Coffee Chat with Catalyst: Nov. 19, 9:15-10:00 a.m. ([zoom link](#))

- Informal gathering of partners to catch up, talk about what you've been doing and identify collaboration opportunities

Adult Dental is in the final budget!

- Start date: July 1, 2021
- Funds: \$17,486,839 for year one, came from ADA HPI fiscal analysis for Virginia
- Benefit design is in the works
- Eligible adults: approx. 830,000, this is a temporary increase in enrollment, up from 670,000 when budget amount was determined
 - o Maintenance of Effort: no one is rolling off Medicaid in the state of public health emergency, expiration date is TBD
 - o DMAS is doing a reforecast every November, and adjustments can be made as necessary
- Medicaid Dental Spending is currently down 45%, FMAP bump expires
- Catalyst is working on rollout to ensure everyone has the information and resources they need to implement the benefit well
- Focus on integration to ensure everyone is aware of the coverage, mirror success of pregnant women dental benefit

2021 Legislative Session

- House plan is TBD, we will know before thanksgiving. It will likely be virtual like the 2020 Special Session
 - o Number of bills that each legislator is able to introduce will be significantly less
- Senate plan is TBD, in Special Session they met in person at the Science Museum once a week
 - o Senate bill limit is 25 bills per member
- Public testimony will all be online, no in-person opportunities
 - o Need to be strategic with communication and advocacy

- Probably won't see a lot of legislation that introduces new ideas, but more time pressing issues
 - o Anticipate limited changes to the proposed state budget, released Dec. 16th
 - o Session starts Jan. 13th

Protentional Legislation Priorities

We just had a huge success of an adult dental benefit, we recognize now is not the time to make a big ask of the general assembly, but rather to start gearing up for a multi-year

- Improve Oral Health Among School Age Kids
 - o Policy change to improve oral health outcomes for school age kids
 - o Require dental visit prior to kindergarten enrollment
 - Currently 13 states require an assessment or an exam
 - Six require an exam
 - Implementation is key
 - Fiscal impact (West Virginia has seen progress)
 - o Beyond policy request, would need infrastructure to support the workforce
 - o Teledentistry can increase access- can gather data and perform an tele exam
 - o Next steps:
 - Update research
 - Stakeholder feedback
 - Evidence analysis
 - o Ensure "school-age children" includes ages before Kindergarten
- Improve adult dental utilization and access
 - o Increase dental Medicaid reimbursement rates:
 - Have not been increased since 2007
 - Potential to increase # of dentists that accept Medicaid patients
 - Could tie to value based care- consistent with recommendation of future of public oral health taskforce
 - o Lot's of work needed, adult dental benefit will provide additional data and understanding of utilization
 - o VDA members see need to decrease administrative barriers to better provide care to Medicaid patients

Partner Initiatives and Goals

- American Heart Association:
 - o Tobacco control: tobacco retail licensing, importance of enforcement, and create licensing program. Delegate Hope and Senator Edwards. Purpose is to decrease youth initiation to tobacco products.
 - o VA food access investment program and fund: Del. McQuinn, appropriate 2.25\$ million from 6\$ million ask, will ask for the remaining 4.75\$ million, grant process to allow retailers in food deserts to receive grants for construction and rehabilitation, and must accept SNAP to apply and receive grants.
 - o Healthcare Access: opposing Association Health Plans (AHPs) bills, could exclude certain groups of people based on their occupation, geographic location, or in some cases, even their age and gender
- The Commonwealth Institute:

- Health care access in the ACA marketplace: planning and implementing state based exchange
 - Create reinsurance program: to lower costs for middle income Virginian's that don't qualify for subsidies on the marketplace
- Immigrant health care: COVID has highlight disparities, advocate for CHIP to cover all pregnant people regardless of Medicaid status, extend coverage for legal permanent resident children extended from 19 years of age to 21 years of age
- Maternal health initiatives: reimbursement for doula care and home visiting services, home visiting was funded in 2020 session but was defunded in the 2020 Special session
- Virginia Dental Association:
 - No significant ask, watching for vaccine and testing legislation
- Families Forward:
 - Postpartum care was extended to up to 12 months, exciting win from 2020.
 - Home visiting to be included in Medicaid was unfunded. In 2021 asking it to be refunded, more than a health care services, also education and relationships (11-12 million)
 - Early impact Virginia home visiting alliance completed needs assessment across the state, getting ready to communicate where the need is.
 - Child welfare system was unfunded in Special session, significant invested for foster care system, almost \$50 million was reduced to \$5-6 million. Many systems are chronically underfunded, starting to discuss revenue sources.
- Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations:
 - Focusing on COVID vaccine outreach that it's reaching immigrant populations
 - Ensure sufficient education in Latino communities around trust in public health agencies and vaccines

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.