

**Virginia Health Catalyst  
Catalyst Policy Committee  
Wednesday, March 24, 2021  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**Attending:** Tarina Ahuja (The Greater Good Initiative), Scott Burnette (Community Memorial Hospital), Stacy Campbell (Delta Dental of Virginia), Lisette Carbajal (Capital One), Donovan Caves (Southeastern Virginia Health System), Howard Chapman (Tri-Area Community Health), Ronnie Coleman (Benevis), Brooke Crouch (New Horizons Healthcare), Chloe Edwards (Voices for Virginia’s Children), Patrick Finnerty (DentaQuest Foundation), Nia Harrison (Virginia Board for People with Disabilities), Trina Kaur, Nicole Lawter (Williams Mullen), Freddy Mejia (The Commonwealth Institute), Kathy Miller (Dept. for Aging and Rehabilitative Services), Amy Pittelkau, Carole Pratt (VDH), Polly Raible (Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation), Sri Vedachalam (Environmental Policy Innovation Center)

**Staff:** Sarah Holland, Danny Hillard, Chloe Van Zandt

Meeting recording [link](#)

**Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am March 24<sup>th</sup>

***Welcome and Introductions***

- The Policy Committee’s charge is to guide, advance, and identify policies and initiatives that are in line with the mission of Virginia Health Catalyst.
  - The Policy Committee is integral to Catalyst’s forward trajectory. It’s meant to represent the Commonwealth as a collective and is intentionally one of the most diverse and far-reaching committees that exist under the Catalyst umbrella. As such, this group provides recommendations to the Catalyst Board of Directors about policy positions, helps develop and implement strategy, and serves as advocates to the GA and other decision-makers.

***2021 Legislative Session Updates:*** see attached slides

- Increased Medicaid Eligibility
  - End of the 40 quarter rule: This policy change will allow individuals to become eligible for benefits much sooner. Virginia was one of the last states to have this law in place prohibiting people who’ve worked less than 40 quarters (about 10 years) from receiving Medicaid.
  - Expanded Postpartum: This policy change will extend postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days after birth to 12 months after birth. Catalyst is working with DMAS to insure this expansion includes dental coverage.
  - Pregnant people coverage independent of immigration status: This policy change allows pregnant people regardless of their immigration status to receive FAMIS benefits. Previously, individuals who became pregnant were only eligible for Medicaid during birth. Now they are eligible for prenatal care.
- Water is a Human Right
  - A resolution passed in 2020
- Racism is a Public Health Emergency
  - A resolution passed in 2020

***Medicaid Updates:*** see attached slides

- Adult Dental Benefit July 1, 2021

- Benefit Design Complete [Webinar, Feb. 3rd]: Right now it's focused on preventive and restorative services due to demand. Visit Catalyst's website for more detailed information on adult dental implementation.
- Provider recruitment
- Member Awareness
- Medallion + CCC + Cardinal Care
  - A legislative directive that DMAS merge Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus and Medallion to create a single managed care program called Cardinal Care. The goal is to streamline care processes and build a system that blends seamlessly into the 'fee for service' backbone of adult dental. This will go into effect on July 1, 2022.

### **Potential 2022 Policy Opportunities**

- Reimbursement of Dental Services
  - Researching other states and models to determine an appropriate ask, is it a percentage increase?
  - Ongoing education/ close collab with VDA/VDHA
  - Determine ask and fiscal impact
  - Reimbursement rates are low for dental coverage, they have not been adjusted for 16-years and what was once a really great reimbursement rate is now unacceptable. A lot has changed in the world, and this archaic policy makes it difficult to break even when providing care. This change is imperative to the seamless implementation and longevity of the adult dental benefit.
  - Discussion
    - Considering subpopulations (i.e. people with disabilities etc.) often need more time for appointments, and have other barriers that increase difficulty accessing dental care. As a result, other states have used these population issues to propel the issue of reimbursement rate adjustments forward.
- Water in Schools
  - AHA grant
  - Identify best practices - other states
  - Ongoing education/close collab with WET [intern]
  - Catalyst has created the water equity task force to address water in the commonwealth from every possible angle. The goal of this task force is to ensure that every Virginian has access to clean fluoridated water drinking water. The Water is a Human Right resolution that passed last year moved Catalyst's water equity work from the last several years to the forefront of our mission.
  - Discussion
    - Sarah needs an "I love water" hat!
    - The fact that Virginia has most of its water fluoridated looks great, but there are still many rural communities that don't have access to clean drinking water. Many people buy sodas instead of water because it's cheaper and more accessible. Catalyst is addressing the issue of water access in rural Virginia via our WERV workgroup
- Improving Oral Health Outcomes for Young Kids (dental exam prior to kindergarten?)
  - Research other states models and determine the effectiveness
  - Ongoing education
  - Discussion
    - It will be a challenge for school staff to follow through with these requirements due to their workload.
- Reg. Changes to Remote Supervision
  - VDA/VDHA lead
  - FPOH workforce committee

### **Next Steps:**

Next meeting will be June 22, 2021 from 10-11



Meeting Adjourned 11:00 am March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021