

Hello everyone!

Thank you so much for your time and brain power at the Early Dental Home (EDH) meeting on Friday. It was a packed agenda! The meeting started with celebrating Susan's retirement and expressing our thanks for her strong and steady partnership throughout the years, then we heard program updates from several group members. Please read below for a recap.

Virginia Department of Health PIOHQIE Grant Update- Susan Pharr

VDH was one of seven states to receive the Perinatal Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Expansion (PIOHQIE) grant. The mission of the grant is to close some of the gaps that are currently impeding the availability of care for pregnant women and infants across the country and in the state of Virginia. Each awardee is to develop models of how to connect pregnant women with dental providers. It is a four year grant with most of the funding allotted for a program manager. The grant also requires an advisory group; in February the EDH group agreed to serve in this role. Given the requirements of the grant, and the focus on quality measurement it may be appropriate to have a subcommittee of this (the EDH) group fulfill that role, rather than the full workgroup. Additionally it may be necessary to include additional organizations. The VDH will continue to update the group as grant implementation begins.

VDH will hire a full time grant manager for the PIOHQIE grant, however the position description is currently going through the VDH hiring approval process. As soon as the job is posted, VaOHC will circulate. VDH will also hire a replacement for Susan, in wake of her retirement.

Policy and Health Reform Update- Sarah Holland

Pregnant Women Dental Benefits

Pregnant Women Dental Benefits has had over 3,000 claims filed between March 1, 2015 and October 31, 2015. Thank you for everyone's efforts to disseminate information about the benefit! In the early days of benefit roll out, DMAS changed the pre-approval protocol for periodontal treatment – pregnant women do not need to have an x-ray (unless clinically indicated) prior to periodontal screening. The goal is to continue to get the word out about the benefit. Please continue to share feedback and/or stories you hear from clients utilizing the benefit with the group.

SIM/DSRIP

A workgroup was convened to look at oral health integration into primary care. Out of this group, five care models were created that focused on integration. Two of those models include perinatal integration and pediatric integration. The models are frameworks for providers/systems to use for integration purpose. VaOHC is currently in the process of developing a web-based integration tool kit that will be useful for providers and for the community.

Jackie Wake, from DentaQuest, attended a Capital Area Health Network (CAHN) presentation regarding the pregnant women dental benefit. Most of the attendees were pregnant, Medicaid eligible women and feedback received from the attendees was positive. CAHN is going to call the attendees and connect them with a dental provider.

Virginia Oral Health Plan

As many of you know, partners gathered in August to revisit the Virginia Oral Health Plan. We sent out a survey to elicit additional feedback from stakeholders regarding the updated plan. A few participants noted they would like to see an increased emphasis on dental hygienists scope of work, but overall feedback has been positive. The final plan and white paper will be published in the VaOHC January Update.

Workgroups

VaOHC is convening several work groups to focus on different oral health policy issues. These groups include:

- Kindergarten Dental Policy
 - o The kindergarten dental policy group goal is to identify policy strategies to ensure Virginia children have an established dental home by the time they enter kindergarten. EDH is programmatic focused whereas the kindergarten dental policy group is policy focused. As of now, the group has looked at what other states are doing and have determined that they are not interested in screenings, but exams only.
- Adult Dental Access
 - o The adult dental access group goal is to identify policy strategies to increase access to dental care for all Virginia adults. The group will have a focus on ID/DD waivers, Fee For Service population, etc.

If you are interested in more information regarding the workgroups, [click here](#).

Updates and Information from the Group

DentaQuest Dental Home Pilot Program:

As many of you may recall, DentaQuest has been implementing a pilot project in the greater Richmond area to establish early dental homes for young members ages 5 and under (using a variety of strategies). Between 2013-2015 there was a 1% increase in dental service utilization compared to the same age group in the state of .5%. Unfortunately the program had to be cut due to budget restraints.

Virginia Department of Social Services:

Kathy Gilikin shared information about a new precertification program that all childcare providers will be required to take. The training will include a section regarding oral health. Workgroup members will provide support to ensure they have the training and educational materials necessary to implement the online learning module. Kathy will keep us posted on the status of the project.

Head Start:

Head Start program information report data revealed the number of completed dental exams for participating children is lower than the national average. Several group members met to discuss strategies to engage Head Start programs and improve the numbers as a whole. Jackie Wake is going to identify and reach out to the localities that have a dental exam rate below 85%. Any support to assist with this is appreciated. As envisioned, we can then identify champion dentists and encourage them

treat Head Start children and encourage other providers to do so as well. Contact Jackie for more information and to share ideas for outreach.

VDAF:

The Foundation is gearing up for a number of Give Kids a Smile Days, where children are able to access dental services. Contact Tara Quinn if you are interested in learning more, participating or help share information about the event (which all of us will help do, of course!).

Next Steps

- Read through the PIOHQIE grant abstract and executive summary (see attached) and determine if it is a proper fit for you or your organization. If so, email [Susan Pharr](#) with 2 ideas on how you/your organization can be involved.
- VaOHC/VDH will share the PIOHQIE job description when it is available.
- Julie will connect with Susan regarding the Smart Beginnings pregnant women screening tool and how oral health information is included, what data can be captured and how this may fit into the PIOHQIE grant.
- Jackie will look into the school board association conferences for potential exhibiting opportunities.
- VaOHC will create newsletter templates to help EDH partners continue to share information. If you have specific resource needs please contact VaOHC staff.
- VaOHC put together a revised EDH member contact list (see attached) to aid continued communication between face to face meetings. Please review and let me know if anyone is missing or of changes that need to be made.
- **Please respond to the [doodle poll](#) with your availability for our next meeting.**

It was a great meeting with a lot to share! Please share additional ideas and information with the group as it comes up. Thank you again for your time and energy – I hope you all have an enjoyable holiday!