

Northern Virginia Oral Health Alliance Spring Convening
Monday, May 14, 2018, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Greater Prince William Community Health Center, Manassas, VA

Desired Outcomes:

- Shared understanding of the Virginia oral health network and NOVA Oral Health Alliance activities
- Shared understanding of Virginia’s policy context that affects access to dental care for various populations

Agenda:

- 11:30 am - 12:00 pm Lunch (provided)**
- 12:00 pm - 12:15 pm Welcome & Introductions**
Sarah Bedard Holland, Virginia Oral Health Coalition
- 12:15 pm - 12:45 pm NOVA Oral Health Alliance Update**
Lauren Gray, Virginia Oral Health Coalition
- 12:45 pm - 1:15 pm Policy Landscape for Oral Health**
Sarah Bedard Holland, Virginia Oral Health Coalition
- 1:15 pm - 2:00 pm Discussion: Affecting Change in Northern Virginia**
- 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Tour of Greater Prince William Community Health Center**

Attendees:

Jeanette	Bowman	Virginia Department of Health
Erin	Burns	ServiceSource, Inc.
Kathy	Channell	Prince William County Schools
Eliana	Cuellar	Greater Prince William Community Health Center
Jenny	Dang	Northern Virginia Family Service
Brandi	Day	People Inc.
Melissa	DeAngelo	Fairfax County Public Schools
Thomas	Fonseca	The Fenwick Foundation
Cassandra	Hawkins	SL Nusbaum
Althea	Huggins	Alexandria City Public Schools
Jody	Kelly	Arlington Free Clinic
Randi	Knights	Department of Social Services, City of Manassas Park
Melissa	Laitinen	PWCS Head Start/VPI/VPI+
Betsy	Lindberg	Manassas City Public Schools
Allen	Lomax	Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria
Jackie	Maldonado	Greater Prince William Health Center
Ondrea	McIntyre-Hall	Northern Virginia Family Service
JQ	McMillion	Prince William Area Free Clinic
Dana	Myers	Dana Myers, RDH

Northern Virginia Oral Health Alliance Spring Convening
Monday, May 14, 2018, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Greater Prince William Community Health Center, Manassas, VA

Karen	Narvaez	Inova Health System
Barbara	Nowak	Alexandria City Public Schools
Mary	Pease	Prince William Area Agency on Aging
Betty	Peebles	Jon C Burr Foundation
Carmen	Regan	Northern Virginia Dental Clinic
Leticia	Rivera	Greater Prince William Community Health Center
Tricia	Rodgers	Northern Virginia Health Foundation
Eva	Starrak	Medical Care for Children Partnership Foundation
Sarah	Stemrich	Virginia Oral Health Coalition
April	West	Lifetime Dental Care
Jeanne	Yang	Fairfax County Health Department

Virginia Oral Health Coalition Staff

Sarah	Holland	Executive Director (sholland@vaoralhealth.org) Program and Engagement Manager
Lauren	Gray	(lgray@vaoralhealth.org) Office and Program Coordinator
Sarah	Stemrich	(sstemrich@vaoralhealth.org)

Proceedings:

Welcome & Introductions:

Sarah Bedard Holland welcomed the full Northern Virginia Oral Health Alliance to the Spring Convening and introduced Lauren Gray, the Program and Engagement Manager of the Virginia Oral Health Coalition. Topics of discussion will include a NOVA Oral Health Alliance Update and a discussion on policy issues facing Virginia and in NOVA particularly. Sarah reviewed the desired outcomes (listed above) and noted that policy affects goals that we all commonly have- that is why we are here together to chat. Sarah reminded attendees that a tour of the clinic would happen immediately after the discussion. Sarah began an introduction ice breaker.

- The Virginia Oral Health Coalition (VaOHC) is a statewide agency that strives to ensure all Virginians can access comprehensive, affordable health care that includes oral health. This statement is really intentional to have 'oral health care' at the end of the sentence because we view oral health as one component of the larger picture of overall health, but it is still worth calling attention to because of the need in Virginia.

Lauren Gray: Thanked the group for attending. Acknowledged that for some this is their first meeting- feel free to connect afterwards to see how they could be plugged into the alliance.

- [Presentation Slides](#)

Northern Virginia Oral Health Alliance Spring Convening
Monday, May 14, 2018, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Greater Prince William Community Health Center, Manassas, VA

- The NOVA alliance has been around for a year and a half. Over this time span they have collaborated with various organizations and representatives of different sectors that all touch a piece of oral health.
- One of the goals of this alliance is to be strategic and work together, not to just add more services and programs. While they are all good and necessary, those are just a piece to the solution that is much bigger than that.

Who We Are:

- We are focused on bringing together all of Virginia in what they are doing through advocacy and educating providers about integration of medical and dental.
- VaOHC is convening regional alliances. These are made up of three regions
 - Northern Virginia
 - Greater Richmond and Petersburg
 - South Hampton Roads
- Community Partners are our community based affiliations with specific oral health projects.
 - VaOHC mainly keeps tabs on their activities and helping when we can.
 - LENOWISCO Oral Health Partnership is currently working on oral health workforce for a better care model.
 - Smart Beginnings is working with home visiting agencies on supporting families to get access to care and utilize dental benefits.
 - Petersburg Oral Health Engagement Project is working to build community capacity to do peer-to-peer oral health education and is working with middle school and high school youth.
- Statewide Workgroups include the Legislative Committee, Early Dental Home and [Virginia Oral Health Report Card](#).
 - The Virginia Oral Health Report Card is the framework for measuring how Virginia compares to the U.S. on nine indicators of oral health to reflect how Virginia is doing as a whole as a state.
 - The Coalition worked with a multidisciplinary stakeholder group to identify what data we would use, what metrics would best capture our progress over time, and what action steps would stem from these measures.
 - Each of the workgroups we convene is working towards improving these oral health indicators.
 - 2016 was the most recent Report Card, but updating will be done as more studies continue.

What are some examples of activities happening elsewhere in Virginia?

- Oral Health Alliances
 - Greater Richmond and Petersburg Oral Health Alliance: VaOHC facilitates four workgroups which have created their own action plans, share information and advocate for improved access to oral health care. **Their current project includes setting up home office visits with legislators. VaOHC will be assisting with the front end of this interaction.**

Northern Virginia Oral Health Alliance Spring Convening
Monday, May 14, 2018, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Greater Prince William Community Health Center, Manassas, VA

- Grassroots Advocacy Workgroup
- Pregnant Women’s Oral Health Workgroup
- Safety Net Workgroup
- School Age Oral Health Work Group
- South Hamptons Roads
 - Newest alliance
 - Primary focus on strengthening safety net service coordination and referral system to increase awareness of and utilization of dental service.
 - The alliance also plans to address specific subgroups: older adults, adults with disabilities and ESL cultural groups.
 - The group also wants to better strategize on the safety net that exists and how to make it better.

Where does VaOHC fit?

- Provide the backbone support to this effort, convene the group, get the needed expertise in other spaces. We know that oral health is a small part of the work most of you do; we want to connect the dots for all of the people who serve populations with the greatest need for oral health care. We provide the expertise and tools for the community to collaborate to improve oral health at the local or regional level.

Why are We Here Today?

- Prior to today, the workgroup has been convening in the Fairfax area. This was losing the regional perspective so VaOHC wanted to bring everyone together in a new location to be more inclusive of the larger region. The NOVA Oral Health Alliance is comprised of two workgroups: Adult Oral Health and Children’s Oral Health. These groups meet every other month and have created these shared goals:
 - Increase public awareness and engagement around the issue of oral health and health equity in the NOVA region.
 - Identify and address the clinical and non-clinical barriers to delivering dental care to older adults residing in community settings and in LTC facilities.
 - Implement collaborative partnerships to improve access to care for older adults.
 - Increase dental home referrals and oral health integration practices by pediatric medical providers.
 - Increase follow-up care from initial dental visit for young children.
- A recent survey was built with questions to gather necessary information- patient base, Medicaid usage, demographics- to try and identify the community dental care resources for older adults.

Opportunities:

- Home office visits with state legislators during the summer months to promote an adult dental benefit in the Medicaid.
- Utilizing home visitors and community wealth workers (CHW) to help community members understand importance of oral health and navigate the system. The Institute for Public Health Innovation and its advisory board are leading efforts to pass legislation to establish a [certification process](#) for CHWs – VaOHC is working to ensure that oral health is a piece of

Northern Virginia Oral Health Alliance Spring Convening
Monday, May 14, 2018, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Greater Prince William Community Health Center, Manassas, VA

their certification requirements. Importantly, certification is the first step necessary for potential Medicaid reimbursement for CHW services.

- Higher Education: In Virginia there is just one dental school and several hygiene schools. These schools can be invaluable partners for community-based research.

Sarah Holland began her presentation/group discussion, “Policy, Education and More!”

[Presentation Slides](#)

Virginia Oral Health Facts

- Community Water Fluoridation (CWF)
 - 1,600 water systems- 96% of public water supply is fluoridated. We often take this for granted in Virginia, but we need to be aware of threats to community water fluoridation (CWF). There is a lot of junk science out there that falsely states fluoride is bad for you. We are partnering with the Virginia Department of Health to create **rapid response teams** around the state who will have information ready to combat the misinformation and champion the protection of CWF in local disputes.
 - Just because we are at 96% does not mean we are done- talk about the importance of water fluoridation!
 - Spotsylvania had a big water battle recently. ONE vote was the deciding factor to stay fluoridated.
 - In order to keep the 96% we all need to work hard on it like we haven’t had to in the past. VaOHC in the future will make a water fluoridation research page for partners to use and have talking points with facts attached.
 - Jeanette Bowman (present) is the Community Water Fluoridation Coordinator at VDH for the entire state. [Community Water Fluoridation Resources](#)
- Virginia only has one dental school, VCU, and they have a fixed number of dental students a year. There are three dental residency programs, VCU, Carillion and UVA. There are six dental hygiene programs.
- 1/3 of Virginia dentists accept Medicaid
- Medicaid dental reimbursement rates have not been increased since 2006.

Coverage in Virginia

- Medicare currently offers no dental benefit.
- We need to stop talking about the federal poverty level- people make up their mind about what they think it is, but we need to acknowledge just how low it is – put it into dollar amounts so that the average person will understand.
 - The CCC+ program is the managed care program that covers all of Medicaid’s aged, blind, and disabled enrollees. Medallion 4.0 is the managed care program (which will begin rolling out in August 2018) for Medicaid children and pregnant women.

Northern Virginia Oral Health Alliance Spring Convening
Monday, May 14, 2018, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Greater Prince William Community Health Center, Manassas, VA

- CCC+ and Medallion 4.0 is managed by 6 different managed care organizations (MCOs). All six MCOs offer a value-add dental benefit to CCC+ members (view a [comparison chart](#) of each benefit).
 - Aetna provides the richest dental plan , but it has a \$500 cap. This won't get you too far. The other 5 plans are exams and only 1 or 2 cleanings per year.
 - The CCC+ rollout has not been very smooth. Many meeting attendees noted difficulties with billing (e.g., the MCO has to be billed for cleanings, but extractions are still to be billed under Medicaid *Smiles for Children* program).
- Five of the six Medallion 4.0 plans will also offer value-add dental (except for Anthem HealthKeepers). That information has not been shared by the state Medicaid agency yet.
- The difficult rollout of these programs plus possible Medicaid expansion means that we all need to be well-informed and sharing information about benefits and eligibility widely with our networks. There is a lot of misinformation out there and clarification needed by patients and providers.
- There was a discussion about how older adult patients can access some dental services by using the Medicaid incurred medical expense (IME) benefit.
- In brief, "In an institutional setting, such as a nursing home, most of the participant's income is used to help pay for the care provided in that setting and the participant has a small monthly allowance to pay for personal expenses. The Incurred Medical Expense is a mandatory Medicaid rule that allows an individual to spend their own money on medical expenses and have the cost of care deducted from their payment to the nursing home or other institution." More information is available at the resources below:
 - Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) and National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD): "Medicaid Oral Health Coverage for Older Adults and People with Disabilities" (2016)
 - [Presentation Slides](#)
 - [Policy Brief](#)

Expansion Update

- 2018 Session Update
 - Adult dental benefit in Medicaid did not make it into the final budget for 2018, but we made significant headway by developing champions (Sen. Barker and Del. Sickles sponsored budget bills in both chambers). We will need more grassroots voices from partners (such as you all) to lift up this issue before the 2019 session.
 - Community Health Worker (CHW) certification did not pass, but will be reconsidered next year.
- Budget Update - Medicaid Expansion
 - The governor called a special session in April to establish a budget; the sticking point is that the Senate and House cannot agree on Medicaid expansion.
 - House has passed a budget with expansion

Northern Virginia Oral Health Alliance Spring Convening
Monday, May 14, 2018, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Greater Prince William Community Health Center, Manassas, VA

- Stronger language related to work requirement
- Waiting for the Senate to come up with their budget
- Budget must be done by June 30, 2018 to avoid a government shutdown.

How can you help?

- Meet with your legislator this summer!
 - The alliances have been spearheading the process part of home office visits. Collectively we will work to make sure anyone volunteering to go to a home office visit will be prepared but not scripted to speak for all who support the adult dental benefit in Medicaid
 - Alliance member duties include appointing community members to go to the visits.
 - VaOHC duties include gathering information to speak on prior to the visit and helping coordinate the appointments with the legislators in your districts.

Next Steps

- Join a workgroup if you are not yet involved. Upcoming meetings (more information [here](#)):
 - NOVA Adult Oral Health Workgroup
Tuesday, June 5, 2018 | 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm | Northern Virginia Dental Clinic, Fairfax, VA
Meets first Tuesdays every other month, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at NVDC
 - NOVA Children’s Oral Health Workgroup
Friday, July 13, 2018 | 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm | Fairfax County Government Center
Meets the second Friday every other month, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm at Fairfax Government offices
- Participate in a workshop to build regional oral health alliance sustainability.
 - 2-Day Workshop: Collaboration and Leadership to Improve Oral Health with Community Tool Box
Tuesday, August 21 – Wednesday, August 22, 2018 | Richmond, VA
Pre-Register here: <http://bit.ly/VaOHCAug2018>
- Save the Date for the Virginia Oral Health Summit!
 - Virginia Oral Health Summit
Thursday, November 8, 2018 | Richmond, VA
Registration opens in September at www.vaoralhealth.org