



Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update August 2018

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Please Sign Our Partner Letter for an Adult Dental Benefit in Medicaid

Share your organizations support for including a comprehensive dental benefit for all adults enrolled in Medicaid by [signing our partner letter](#) today! Click [here](#) to lend your organizations support and join the Coalition and Virginia organizations in advocating for comprehensive health care for all Virginians.

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Upcoming VaOHC Meetings

**View our online
[Event Calendar](#)**

Medicaid Expansion in Ohio Creates Improved Health Outcomes

A [new report](#) from the Ohio Department of Medicaid highlights the state's success in reducing the number of uninsured adults and healthcare costs since expanding Medicaid four years ago. After expanding Medicaid to approximately 640,000 Ohioans, the number of uninsured individuals was cut in half. Of those enrolled in Medicaid, one-third reported improved health and a majority reported having insurance through Medicaid made it easier to secure and maintain employment.

The results from Ohio so far are incredibly promising as Virginia begins its Medicaid expansion process; however, Ohio Medicaid includes a comprehensive dental benefit for all adults, something that Virginia's recent expansion did not include. To see similar results in Virginia - improved health outcomes, and positive employment experiences - we must ensure Medicaid expansion includes a comprehensive dental benefit.

To share your support for a comprehensive dental benefit for all adults in Medicaid, join the Virginia Oral Health Coalition and organizations across the state by [signing our partner letter](#).

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On the Blog:

- [Partner Profile: How the Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations is Creating an Equal Virginia for All:](#) Ahead of their Freedom From Fear Through Civic Engagement conference on September 8, Beatriz Amberman

September 4 | Richmond
[Impacting Oral Health in the Community Training](#)

September 6 | Norfolk
[South Hampton Roads Alliance Dental Safety Net Workgroup](#)

September 14 | Video Conference
[NOVA Oral Health Alliance Children's Workgroup](#)

September 17 | Video Conference
[Greater Richmond & Petersburg Oral Health Alliance Pregnant Women's Workgroup](#)

September 19 | Richmond
[Early Dental Home/Project Advisory Board](#)

September 24 | Richmond
[Greater Richmond & Petersburg Oral Health Alliance Grassroots Advocacy Workgroup](#)

September 27 | Harrisonburg
[Impacting Oral Health in the Community](#)

October 2 | Fairfax
[NOVA Oral Health Alliance Adult Workgroup](#)

October 15 | Video Conference
[Greater Richmond & Petersburg Oral Health Alliance Pregnant Women's Workgroup](#)

October 30 | Norfolk
[Impacting Oral Health in the Community Training](#)

November 8 | Richmond
2018 Virginia Oral Health Summit
Save the Date

November 19 | Video Conference
[Greater Richmond & Petersburg Oral Health](#)

shares her experiences with community engagement and oral health.

- [Why the Census Matters for Health Care](#): VaOHC CEO Sarah Bedard Holland explains the role the census plays in representation and funding and what's at stake in 2020.

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Of Interest

Oral Health and Overall Health

Oral health and overall health are fundamentally intertwined. The following links present current information on how oral health and other social factors impact overall health and well-being.

- [New studies link perio health to kidney health](#) (Dr. Bicuspid)
- [To improve health disparities, focus on oral health](#) (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)
- [How data can help improve community health](#) (The Roanoke Times)

Join the Virginia Department of Health at Health Equity Conference and Think Tank

On October 17-18 join the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity, for a free conference in Richmond on health equity. The conference will look into the root causes of health disparities and inequities in Virginia and will be an opportunity to hear from speakers and panelists on how to improve health outcomes in



the Commonwealth. Reserve your seat [here](#).

Findings Highlight Strategies to Reduce Opioid Prescriptions for Wisdom Teeth

New findings published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that a majority of those surveyed received, and filled, an opioid prescription after a wisdom tooth surgery. As Virginia Dental Association

[Alliance Pregnant Women's Workgroup](#)

December 4 | Fairfax
[NOVA Oral Health Alliance Adult Workgroup](#)

December 14 | Fairfax
[NOVA Oral Health Alliance Children's Workgroup](#)

December 17 | Video Conference
[Greater Richmond & Petersburg Oral Health Alliance Pregnant Women's Workgroup](#)

Check out our [event calendar](#) to view meeting times and exact locations for all dates listed above.

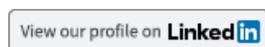
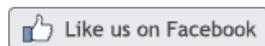
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Please take a moment and support the Coalition's work.



Please check with your HR department to find out if your gift can be matched.

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president Dr. Benita Miller highlights in a recent Richmond-Time Dispatch article, many of these opioid prescriptions are going to teens who are using opioids for the first time and may become addicted. [Learn more](#) about the steps the Virginia Dental Association and others around the country are taking to educate providers and parents on alternative pain treatment plans to reduce opioid prescriptions.



New Study Reviews Opportunities for Medical and Dental Integration

A new study by the University of Iowa Public Policy Center addresses opportunities to improve health outcomes across the country through medical and dental integration in public health settings. The report, which you can read in full [here](#), identifies and describes examples of integration already happening and aims to serve as a guide for future integration efforts.

Medical-Dental Integration in Public Health Settings: An Environmental Scan

McGowan, S.C., Bhatia, R.A., Reynolds, L.C., Tuglio, L., Garcia, D.C.

et al.

Abstract

Noncommunicable chronic diseases (NCDs) account for almost 70% of total deaths in the United States. The four most common NCDs—cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory disease—share common risk factors, including cigarette use, alcohol use, and dietary behaviors associated with obesity and elevated blood sugar. The most common oral disease—dental caries, periodontal disease, and oral cancer—also share these same risk factors.

Register to Attend Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics Annual Conference

Registration is now open for the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (VAFCC) annual conference on October 21-23. This year's conference will provide professional development and insights on operational and administration topics that will be impacted by impending Medicaid expansion as well as innovative programs and best practices for patient care. To register, visit the [VAFCC website](#).



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