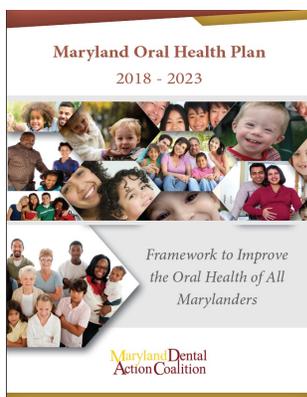


Maryland Dental Action Coalition

November/December 2018

MDAC MAKES INROADS TO IMPROVE ORAL HEALTH OF MARYLANDERS Significant progress made in 2018; exciting year ahead

Over the past year, MDAC has made significant progress as it works to improve the oral and overall health of Marylanders. With a laser-like focus on the issues, well-developed strategies, and the excellent cooperation and collaboration of coalition members, partners, and stakeholders, MDAC has been a strong voice in support of policies that break down oral health inequities, address disparities, and improve access to care for our most vulnerable citizens. It's also been an active participant and leader in the national debate about oral health. Key 2018 initiatives and key accomplishments include:



Conducted a statewide rollout of the Maryland Oral Health Plan.

In January 2018, MDAC issued the 2018-2013 Maryland Oral Health Plan (MOHP), a five-year roadmap to improved oral health for all Marylanders. The plan builds on the oral health improvements achieved since the release of the first state plan in 2011, identifies critical remaining gaps, and outlines strategies to expand access to oral health care, prevent oral disease and injury, and improve the oral health and overall health of all Marylanders.

MDAC issued a media release to regional and local newspaper outlets to call attention to the updated plan and statewide efforts to improve oral health in Maryland. MDAC distributed the plan at MDAC convenings and regional stakeholder meetings, posted the plan to the MDAC website and social media channels, and featured key programs and initiatives to achieve plan goals in the MDAC newsletter.

Secured funding in the state budget for Medicaid adult dental coverage.

MDAC's advocacy efforts resulted in the unanimous passage of SB 284 on April 7, 2018, which established a Medicaid adult dental pilot program scheduled to go into effect early next year. During the 2018 legislative session, MDAC briefed the state Senate on the results of the *Financial Impact of Emergency Department Visits by Adults for Dental Conditions* study, and testified before both the Senate and House. MDAC also distributed copies of the study and individual county reports to all 24 county public health officers in Maryland, and presented the study results at three national convenings.

To maximize its advocacy efforts, MDAC garnered the support of more than 20 local, state, and national organizations who testified in person in support of the bill. During the legislative session, MDAC issued media releases on the challenges many Marylanders face in obtaining dental care and the need for a Medicaid adult dental benefit, resulting in key media hits in the hometown papers of influential Maryland legislators.



Supported and augmented implementation of the Maryland Medical Assistance – Dental Coverage for Adults – Pilot Program.

Representatives from Medicaid attended last June's MDAC statewide convening to participate in a facilitated discussion on the implementation of the Maryland Medicaid adult dental pilot program. Discussions centered on how to encourage provider participation in the program; make beneficiaries aware of their new dental benefits and encourage their use; and the collection of meaningful outcomes data. Following the convening, MDAC submitted a letter to Maryland Medicaid in support of their application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a §1115 waiver application amendment. In August, MDAC sent a letter to CMS citing the importance of oral health to overall health, and expressing its support for the proposed §1115 waiver amendment submitted by the Maryland Department of Health.

In response to a request from Medicaid to provide feedback on the pilot program's proposed fee schedule and procedure codes, MDAC convened providers to solicit their comments and recommendations. Overall, the providers agreed that the draft coverage package was a strong starting point, and recommended

modest changes and additions. MDAC forwarded their recommended revisions to Medicaid, several of which were accepted.

Hosted a statewide convening of oral health stakeholders.

MDAC's statewide convening, *Oral Health and Overall Health: Opportunities for Continued Success in Maryland*, was held in June 2018. Plenary and breakout sessions addressed topics including the impact of the uninsured on the public health system; how community health workers provide a critical link to better health; hypertension screening in the dental setting; understanding the health behaviors of the Latino and immigrant communities in Maryland; racial disparities and oral health; and the Medicaid adult dental pilot program.



Fostered and supported a positive transition to a new state dental director of the Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health. Debony Hughes, DDS became an ex-officio member of the MDAC board of directors last May, shortly after assuming her position at the Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health. An interview with Dr. Hughes was featured in the May 2018 MDAC newsletter, and she gave the opening keynote address at MDAC's statewide convening last June.

Participated in the OH2020 Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit Learning Collaborative.

At the end of last year, the OH 2020 policy workgroup formed a Medicaid adult dental learning collaborative for oral health advocates, including MDAC, who actively work to expand or defend adult dental benefits offered through their state Medicaid program. The collaborative, an opportunity for partners to learn from and support one another, met via conference call every other week during the legislative session. MDAC Executive Director Mary Backley gave several featured presentations on MDAC's work to secure an adult dental benefit in Medicaid. At the end of the legislative session, the collaborative explored advocacy strategies for use in future campaigns.

MDAC ED appointed to the Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness.

The Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness promotes evidence-based programs for developing healthy lifestyles, and for the prevention, early detection, and treatment of chronic diseases. The council makes recommendations to the Maryland Department of Health on chronic disease prevention, health, and wellness. The council is comprised of four committees focused on arthritis, diabetes, heart disease and stroke, and physical fitness. MDAC Executive Director Mary Backley was appointed to the heart disease and stroke committee, where she helps ensure that oral health is included in conversations about overall health.



Protected pediatric dental coverage as an essential health benefit.

MDAC and its national partners successfully advocated to renew CHIP and protect coverage for the more than 137,000 Maryland children covered by the program. MDAC worked to ensure that commercial dental plans have enough dentists and safety net providers in their networks, resulting in passage of the most robust network adequacy requirements in the nation.



Improved access to and availability of dental services for children with complex dental needs.

MDAC met with key stakeholders to discuss actions needed to improve access to facilities for pediatric dental surgeries, address the reduction of operating room access for pediatric dental surgeries, and ensure oral health services for children with complex needs is addressed.

Updated the Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids website.

MDAC updated the Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids website with information on the importance of good oral health for children with special needs and teens.

Kept abreast of and advocated for national policy initiatives to improve access to care.

In August, MDAC Executive Director Mary Backley, DentaQuest Foundation's Patrick Finnerty, Senior Advisor for State Oral Health Programs and Marcia Brand, Senior Advisor, National Health Programs visited Capitol Hill. They met with senior legislative staff in the offices of Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), and Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) to discuss the OH 2020 Network and the need for dental coverage in both Medicaid and Medicare.



Although we have made good progress, there is still much to do as we work collaboratively to implement the Medicaid waiver program for dually-eligible adults. MDAC is here to help.

**PILOT PROGRAM FOCUS OF DECEMBER 10 MDAC MEMBERS' MEETING
MSDA's Dr. Greg Allen to share experiences treating special needs patients**

SAVE THE DATE

Join your fellow oral health stakeholders at the MDAC members' meeting on Monday, December 10 from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM for a discussion of the Medicaid adult dental pilot program and MDAC's on-going work to improve the oral health of children.

Dr. Greg Allen, President-Elect of the Maryland State Dental Association and Lilian Marsh, Executive Director of the Maryland Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped, will share their experiences working with persons with special needs and thoughts on the keys to making the Medicaid waiver program a success.

MDAC looks forward to your comments, suggestions, and sage advice as we discuss the following MDAC initiatives:

The formation of a Medicaid adult dental collaborative:

How do we remove barriers to provider participation, increase provider engagement, and help ensure that those eligible to participate in the pilot program are aware of their new benefit and how to access it?

A statewide mapping project to determine gaps in access to Medicaid adult dental care:

How can we work with Medicaid to increase provider participation in regions of the state that lack a sufficient number of providers?

MDAC hopes to have a draft of the map for those in attendance at the forum. The map will not be broadly distributed until finalized.

Work to remove gaps in workforce and capital needs:

What type of capital funding and workforce development support is needed to expand the capacity of safety net providers?

Outreach to social service agencies:

How can we work with social service agencies to inform dual-eligibles about their new benefit and how to access it?

Work to improve the oral health of children and youth:

What are the facilitators and barriers to the expansion of school sealant programs in the state? How can we best engage youth and encourage good oral health habits?

This next year is critical as we work collaboratively to ensure the success of the Medicaid adult dental pilot program and improve the oral health of children. Let us know what you plan to do and what you need to improve oral health in your region. We look forward to your participation and a very productive discussion on December 10th!

TRANSITIONS MARK OH2020 NATIONAL CONVENING

DentaQuest announces new brand, restructuring, and progress towards OH2020 goals



More than 400 oral health advocates from across the nation, including MDAC staff, met in Denver, CO, for the sixth annual national convening of the Oral Health 2020 (OH2020) Network. The convening was most notable for the many transitions that were marked: the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) launched as the new face for the OH2020 Network; DentaQuest Partnership announced its new brand and restructuring; and the Network took stock of progress on its six goals to

incorporate oral health across the lifespan by 2020. [Click here](#) for a executive summary of the Network's progress to date.

The Network's guiding values of social justice and health equity were interwoven throughout, with presentations from the Poor People's Campaign, the National Collaborative for Health Equity, youth advocates, among others. The convening ended with capacity-building workshops around a wide variety of topics, including campaign planning and advocacy to meeting design and community engagement.

SURVEY SHOWS DRAMATIC INCREASE IN E-CIGARETTE USE

FDA takes forceful steps to confront, reverse youth epidemic

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new findings from the National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) showing that more than 3.6 million middle and high school students were

current (past 30 day) e-cigarette users in 2018, a dramatic increase of more than 1.5 million students since last year. The sharp rise in e-cigarette use has resulted in an increase in overall youth tobacco product use, reversing a decline seen in recent years, and is prompting a series of steps by the FDA to curb youth use trends.



The number of U.S. high school students who reported being current e-cigarette users increased 78 percent between 2017 and 2018 to 3.05 million (or 20.8 percent). Numbers among middle school students rose 48 percent to 570,000 (or 4.9 percent). The study authors suggest the rise in e-cigarette use in the last year is likely due to the recent popularity of certain types of e-cigarettes. These products include ones that are cartridge-based, can be used discreetly because of their resemblance to slim USB flash drives, have a high nicotine content and come in appealing fruit and candy flavors.

"The markedly accelerating rate of e-cigarette use among U.S. youth within the past year is a cause for grave concern," said CDC Director Robert R. Redfield, M.D. "E-cigarette use is unsafe among youth, and it's critical that we implement proven strategies to protect our Nation's youth from this preventable health risk."

The FDA has taken a series of actions over the past several months to target the illegal sales of e-cigarettes to youth, as well as to target companies engaged in kid-friendly marketing that increases the appeal of these products to youth. "The Real Cost" Youth E-Cigarette Prevention Campaign, launched by the FDA, targets nearly 10.7 million youth aged 12-17 who have used e-cigarettes or are open to trying them. Additionally, the agency plans to explore additional restrictions on the sale and promotion of e-cigarettes to further reduce youth exposure and access to these appealing products.

ADA ADOPTS POLICY ON HPV VACCINATION

Urges dentists to support use of HPV vaccine for the prevention of oral HPV infection

With the number of cases of HPV-associated cancers on the rise, the American Dental Association (ADA) has adopted a policy that urges dentists to support the use and administration of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

The combined estimate by the American Cancer Society is that there will be more than 50,000 new cases of oral and oropharyngeal cancers in 2018, of which 70 to 80 percent will be attributable to HPV. The HPV vaccine could help prevent the vast majority of the oropharyngeal cases, but compared to other vaccines in the U.S., it is underutilized. According to the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs, the single best predictor of whether a young person or adolescent receives the vaccine is a recommendation from a trusted health care professional.

"There is incontrovertible evidence that this virus is responsible for the sharp uptick in oropharyngeal cancers, especially in younger patients and young adults," said Paul Eleazer, D.D.S., immediate past chair of the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs. "I'm pleased the ADA is taking action to combat this crisis."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that boys and girls receive the HPV vaccine during adolescence. For adults who did not receive the vaccine in adolescence, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently announced approval for persons ages 27 to 45 to be vaccinated.

"You can't be healthy without good oral health."

- C. Everett Koop, Former U.S. Surgeon General

NEWS

[Congress Finalizes Action for Dental Health Legislation](#)

[Science Says Fluoride in Water is Good for Kids. So Why are These Towns Banning It?](#)

[Results from 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey Show Dramatic Increase in E-Cigarette Use Among Youth Over Past Year](#)

2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS

[Research Study Finds Sweet Flavors in E-Cigarette Liquids May Increase Risk of Dental Cavities](#)

[Treating Gum Disease May Help Manage Diabetes](#)

[Statement from FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D., on Proposed New Steps to Protect Youth by Preventing Access to Flavored Tobacco Products and Banning Menthol in Cigarettes](#)

ARTICLES

[Addressing Health Disparities through Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Programs](#)

[Prescribing Opioids for Women of Reproductive Age: Information for Dentists](#)

[Five Things to Know About CDC's 618 Initiative](#)

[Morning Rounds: What You Need to Know about Dental Health](#)

[Journal of Dental Infection Control & Safety Inaugural Issue](#)

[Progress to Build On: Recent Trends on Dental Coverage Access](#)

[Innovations in Whole Person Care: Health Literacy Across the Lifespan](#)

[Integrating Oral Health Curricula into Nurse Practitioner Graduate Programs](#)

[Perinatal Oral Health: Thinking Outside the Dental Office](#)

[Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care: Communication, Coordination and Referral](#)

EVENTS



Maryland Oral Health Plan

2018 - 2023



*Framework to Improve
the Oral Health of All
Marylanders*

**MarylandDental
ActionCoalition**

The 2018-2023 Maryland Oral Health Plan outlines 11 oral health goals in three key areas:

Access to oral health care:

- All Maryland children have comprehensive dental insurance coverage through public (Medicaid/MCHP) or private insurance.
- All Maryland adults have comprehensive dental insurance coverage through Medicaid or private insurance.
- All Maryland residents have a dental home.
- Strengthen the oral health safety net provider system.
- Integrate the oral health care system within the medical health care system.

Oral disease and injury prevention:

- Use data to advance optimal oral health for all Marylanders.
- Improve public awareness of oral disease and injury prevention.
- Promote community-based oral disease and injury prevention programs.

Oral health literacy and education:

- Increase understanding of the relationship between oral health and overall health, and promote good oral health practices and access to oral health care.
- Improve collaboration between oral health and other health and human services providers so that patients understand how to navigate the oral health care system and establish a dental home.
- Educate medical professionals and students about the importance of the

MDAC Members' Meeting

December 10, 2018
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA)
8901 Herrmann Drive
Columbia, MD

[MDDH's Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities 15th Annual Health Equity Conference, December 6, 2018](#)

[Integrating Dental and General Health Through Health Literacy Practices, December 6, 2018](#)

[OSAP Dental Infection Control Boot Camp™ 2019, January 23-25, 2019](#)

[American Institute for Dental Public Health Annual Colloquium, January 24-25, 2019](#)

[Families USA Health Action Conference 2019, January 24-26, 2019](#)

[CMS Quality Conference: Innovating for Value and Results, January 29-31, 2019](#)

[20th Annual National Quality Forum Conference, March 24-26, 2019](#)

[Santa Fe Group 2019 Salon: Comprehensive Health Without Oral Health: A Medicare Paradox, May 8-10, 2019](#)

oral/systemic connection and foster collaboration between medical and dental disciplines and communities.

[Download the plan now!](#)

The Maryland Oral Health Plan is financially supported by the Maryland Department of Health.

WEBINARS

[Inspiring and Innovative Preventive Oral Care for Infants and Toddlers, December 12, 2018](#)

WEBCASTS

[What is the Defining Line Between Policy and Advocacy?](#)

[ASTDD: Chronic Disease and Older Adult Oral Health](#)

[ADA: Controlling Dental Caries with Silver Diamine Fluoride](#)

[NACDD October General Member Webinar: Models of Collaboration Between Oral Health and Chronic Disease Programs in States](#)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

[Maintaining Your Sanity and Practice Viability as a Medicaid Provider: Embracing Program Integrity](#)

[Health and Wellness @ the Library: The Essentials of Providing Consumer Health Services](#)

[OHRC: School-Based Dental Sealant Programs](#)

ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE

Medicaid

[Health Coverage Matters for Children: The Role of Medicaid in the Healthy Development of America's Children](#)

[Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) Scorecard](#)

ORAL DISEASE AND INJURY PREVENTION

[What Every Mom Ought to Know About Fluoride](#)

[Silver Diamine Fluoride \(SDF\) Application: Evidence-Based Recommendations](#)

[E-Cigarettes, Research and Your Health: What Do We Know About E-Cigarettes?](#)

[Medicaid Provider Reference Guide](#)

[State Strategies to Incorporate Oral Health into Medicaid Payment and Delivery Models for People with Chronic Medical Conditions](#)

Medicare

[An Oral Health Benefit in Medicare Part B: It's Time to Include Oral Health in Health Care](#)

[America's Seniors Deserve Dental Coverage in Medicare: Martha's Story](#)

[Oral Health America Medicare Dental Toolkit](#)

Policy

[OH2020: Improving Systems to Ensure Oral Health for All](#)

[Four Ways Our Health Care Is at Risk in the Supreme Court Nomination Fight](#)

[Trump Administration 'Public Charge' Rule Threatens Health Care for Immigrant Families, Including U.S. Citizen Children](#)

RURAL HEALTH

[NRHA Policy Brief: Improving Rural Oral Healthcare Access](#)

[Maryland Rural Health Plan](#)

[CMS Rural Health Strategy](#)

[The Rural Primary Care Practice Guide to Creating Interprofessional Oral Health Networks](#)



Support
Maryland Dental
Action Coalition Inc.
When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.
[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
amazon smile

CONTACT

Do you have events or announcements you'd like to share? Contact MDAC, and we'll make every effort

[Quick Facts on the Risks of E-Cigarettes for Kids, Teens, and Young Adults](#)

[Diabetes and Oral Health](#)

[AAP: HPV Champion Toolkit](#)

[Oropharyngeal Cancer \(OPC\) and HPV Prevention in Children](#)

[Answering Questions About HPV Vaccine: A Guide for Dental Professionals](#)

[ASTDD Best Practice Approach Report: Use of Fluoride in Schools](#)

[ASTDD Emergency Preparedness Manual](#)

ORAL HEALTH LITERACY AND EDUCATION

[Steps for Toothbrushing at the Table: Growing Healthy Smiles in Early Care and Education Programs](#)

[Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: Practice Guidance for Maryland's Prenatal and Dental Providers](#)

[Oral Health During Pregnancy: Oral Health's Unanswered Questions](#)

[Hallways to Health: Creating a School-Wide Culture of Wellness](#)

[CDC: Tips for Teachers](#)

[AAP: Protect Tiny Teeth Toolkit](#)

[Fluorosis Facts](#)

[Common Questions About Fluoride](#)

[ASTDD: Oral Health Educational Resources for Home Visitors and Families: Environmental Scan](#)

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

[U.S. Senators \(MD\)](#)

[U.S. Representatives \(MD\)](#)

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

JOIN

MDAC is statewide coalition of clinical care providers, governments, non-profits, academic

to include them in our next newsletter, as space permits.

institutions, managed care organizations, foundations and associations working collaboratively to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care.

[Contact MDAC](#)

[Join MDAC](#)

www.mdac.us

FOLLOW US

