2020 - Policy Progress on Dental Access

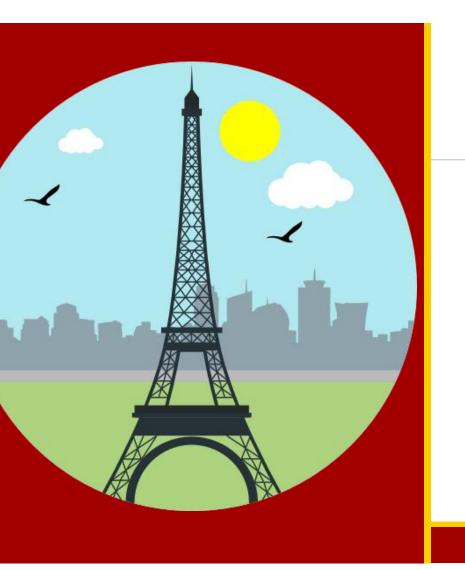
Delegate Mike McKay - District 1C-Allegany and Washington Counties

Robyn Elliott, MDAC Consultant

2020 – Policy Progress on Dental Access

The Legislative Session and Beyond





Happy Bastille Day!

"Croquer la vie à pleines dents "

Translation: Live life to the fullest with your mouth full and all of your teeth into life MDAC

> Maryland Dental Action Coalition

Medicaid to Extend Dental Coverage to Postpartum Women

- Starts January 1, 2021. 60 days post partum coverage for dental.
- The history:
 - Discussions with Governor Hogan's office began in Summer 2019.
 - Governor included \$1 million in supplemental budget in March 2020. The funds are split between federal and general equally. Coverage was to start July 1, 2020.
 - With the economic downturn, many new funding initiatives were put on pause.
 - Governor preserved postpartum funding in budget cuts approved by the Board of Public Works in July 2020. Launch of the program will be moved from July 1 to January 1.



Advocacy Changes Pace with Economic Constraints

- Revenue forecasts are uncertain, but the State is currently projecting a structural deficit of about \$1.5 billion.
 - The Governor addressed over \$400 million of the deficit with funding cuts in July.
 - In the future:
 - Use Rainy Day funds
 - Transfer from special accounts to State funds
 - Further cuts: State employees? Other program cuts?
- Advocacy in this Economic Climate
 - Excel with the program funding we do have.
 - New initiatives may have to happen further down the road.
 - Lay the groundwork. At every step, promote dental as part of an integrated health solution.



Dental Advocacy on the Horizon

- Federal relief funding for dentists
- Medicaid rates & PPE
- Health equity
- Teledentistry reimbursement



The Work Ahead

- Preserve progress on dental coverage AND lay the ground work for future initiatives
 - Strengthen and build relationships with legislators.
 - Integrate dental into all health advocacy and policies
 - Continue to grow network of supportive stakeholders

