

CMS APPROVES ADULT DENTAL WAIVER PROGRAM

Expands access to dental care for more than 40,000 adults statewide

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved the Maryland Department of Health's (MDH) amendment to the Maryland HealthChoice §1115 demonstration waiver, which will establish a Medicaid adult dental benefit for dual-eligible adults ages 21-64. The new program is the result of the efforts of MDAC and its coalition partners to ensure the passage of [SB 284](#).

[In a March 18, 2019 letter to MDH Chief Operating Officer and Medicaid Director Dennis Schrader](#) granting approval for the program, CMS noted that "This pilot is likely to improve health outcomes, since improving oral health can impact overall physical health."

The statewide waiver program will provide access to diagnostic, preventive and basic restorative dental services, as well as extractions, to nearly 40,000 adults dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare (e.g. low income and with a qualifying disability), up to an annual cap of \$800.00. [Click here](#) for a detail of services and reimbursement rates.

The Maryland Department of Health is reaching out to dentists currently enrolled in Healthy Smiles, Maryland Medicaid's children's dental program, to identify providers who can accept these newly-covered individuals into their practices. Medicaid and MDAC are working together to recruit additional providers not currently enrolled in Healthy Smiles to see these new patients.

To ensure the success of this program, MDAC is also launching a Medicaid adult dental collaborative, a group of oral health stakeholders statewide who will work together to ensure the success of this new program.

MDAC's collaborative will support Medicaid's efforts, scrutinize processes and, if necessary, make recommendations or mid-course corrections to ensure the program's success. Collaborative members will include clinicians, social service agencies, dual-eligible individuals, and caregivers, among others. The collaborative will focus on two primary goals:

- Ensure **access to services** through robust dental professional participation
- Ensure **client utilization** of dental services through outreach about the benefit

MDAC plans to provide information to dental professionals about the program and how to enroll as a provider. MDAC will also host a June 4 continuing education class on providing treatment to patients with disabilities. Details will be made available through MDAC's newsletter and via e-mail.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Guli Fager, Director of MDAC's Medicaid Adult Dental Collaborative, at gulica@gmail.com. (See article on Ms. Fager's appointment below.)

MD SENATE UNANIMOUSLY PASSES CAPITAL FUNDING BILL

Bill now moves to House of Delegates

On March 13, 2019, the Maryland Senate unanimously passed SB 158 – The Maryland Department of Health – Community Dental Clinics Grant Program, a bill that would establish a capital grant program to institute or expand dental services in community health centers.

At a February 6 Senate Finance Committee hearing on the bill, MDAC CEO Mary Backley testified that the bill would "strengthen the oral health safety net provider system to adequately serve a growing population of Marylanders needing immediate and ongoing dental care. This action is one of several recommendations in the Maryland Oral Health Plan, a road map to improve the oral health of all Marylanders, regardless of where they live or what their special

circumstances might be.

“Community health centers and private providers are critical components of any Medicaid provider network. To improve access to dental services for children and adults with Medicaid, we need to build dental capacity and expand provider participation in the Medicaid program. All children in Medicaid have dental coverage. With the implementation of the Medicaid adult dental waiver program and a capital funding program to build capacity, Maryland is taking a significant step forward to improve dental coverage for adults” Backley added.

The bill, which would complement the existing FQHC grant program, is now under consideration in the House of Delegates.



FAGER APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF MDAC MEDICAID COLLABORATIVE **Will lead efforts to help ensure success of Medicaid adult dental waiver program**



MDAC Executive Director Mary Backley has named Guli Leonard Fager, MPH the project director for MDAC's statewide Medicaid adult dental collaborative. Fager is a public health consultant and master trainer with more than a decade of experience in adult learning design, program evaluation, and health promotion. She received a Master of Public Health from Columbia University.

Fager's recent work has included leadership of a national contraceptive counseling, training, and clinical operations improvement initiative at Planned Parenthood Federation of America, where she led implementation of a research-based clinical practice intervention in more than 60 health centers in 20 states. She previously led the Education and Training Department at Planned

Parenthood of Maryland that provided education and training throughout the state.

Her background also includes extensive experience in health promotion in higher education. At the University of Texas at Austin, Fager was the campus lead for reproductive and sexual health, high-risk drinking risk reduction, and health promotion program evaluation. She has conducted several IRB-approved studies of student health and academic outcomes through the American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) and other instruments.

Fager has presented her work at the Forum on Family Planning, the Association for Professionals in Student Affairs, the National Sex Ed Conference, and the American College Health Association.

"We are delighted to welcome Guli to MDAC," Backley said. "Her extensive public health background and strong program leadership skills will be a great asset to the collaborative."

E-CIGARETTE USE AMONG TEENS SKYROCKETING **Student cites need for effective prevention methods**

Smoking an e-cigarette, or vaping, lets you breathe in nicotine, flavorings, or other drugs as vapor, rather than smoke. Like any tobacco product, use of e-cigarettes is unsafe. According to the Centers for Disease Control, nicotine is highly addictive and can harm brain development, which continues until about age 25. Nicotine use, whether through smoking or vaping, can also lead to oral health issues, including gum recession, bacteria build-up, dry mouth, and tooth decay. Early studies indicate that like smoking, vaping could increase the risk of oral cancers.

Although e-cigarettes come in many shapes and sizes, those shaped like USB flash drives are some of the most popular with teens, in part because many adults do not recognize them as e-cigarettes.

According to the 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey, e-cigarette use by high school students increased 78% between 2017 and 2018. Recent media reports note that e-cigarette use among Maryland teens is rampant. Maryland Youth Advisory Council member Daniel O., a high school student, shares his perspectives on what both students and adults need to know about vaping:



A critical issue. An epidemic. A crisis. Whatever you want to call it, the problems associated with underage vaping have reached unacceptable proportions.

As many adults believe all vaping is being done in school bathrooms or locker rooms, school administrators have closed and locked the doors to these facilities. However, this has done absolutely nothing to solve the problem. While placing a great strain on student bodies across the state as daily lives and routines are interrupted, these solutions just force the people vaping to relocate a couple feet away to a different room.

The primary issue at hand is one of ignorance, something that many students and teachers are guilty of. For the students, due in large part to misleading advertising and obsession with trends and popularity, many are unaware of the true dangers of vaping. Students see it as the fun, cool, and borderline healthy alternative to smoking, with its many flavors and claims of being less harmful to your lungs. However, nicotine is still nicotine, no matter how much lipstick you put on that pig, and students must be made aware of the very real health risks vaping presents.

Many teachers are ignorant about vaping. I've heard stories of kids getting away with vaping in class, in front of teachers and faculty, by claiming what was in their hand was a USB drive. One day in history class, we spent 30 minutes explaining to a teacher what the concept of vaping was and how to spot kids doing it, as he frankly had no idea. Teachers must become the students, engage in discussions about vaping and the dangers of e-cigarette use, and how they can work together to prevent it using reliable, effective methods in their classrooms and schools.

To learn more about how vaping is affecting teens, read these recent news reports and articles:

- [Maryland May Raise Smoking Age to 21, Limit Vape Marketing](#)
- [Howard County Officials are Stepping Up Education Efforts to Reach Teens Who are Vaping](#)
- [Surge in Vaping Incidents at Montgomery County School Shines Spotlight on E-Cig Epidemic](#)
- [Virginia Teens Create Anti-Vaping Group](#)
- [Vaping: The Smoking Gun of Poor Oral Health in Teens](#)
- [Maryland House, Senate Pass Different Versions of Bill Banning Tobacco Sales Under Age 21](#)

APRIL IS ORAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Materials developed by OOH now available on-line



The Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health (OOH) has developed press releases, videos, posters, fact sheets, and more in support of Oral Cancer Awareness Month. The materials are available [here](#), and OOH encourages their use.

In addition, oral cancer brochures and awareness ribbons are available through the Office of Oral Health by contacting Stacy Costello at stacy.costello@maryland.gov.

HUGHES AUTHORS CE COURSE ON HYPERTENSION SCREENING

Self study course for dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants

A self-study continuing education course, authored by Debony Hughes, DDS, director of the MDH Office of Oral Health, was published in the March issue of *Decisions in Dentistry*, a peer-reviewed journal.

Written for dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants, the course draws on the lessons learned from the implementation of OOH's "Hypertension in the Dental Setting" project and outlines how the implementation of routine testing in a dental office can have a significant impact on the reduction of chronic diseases, including high blood pressure.

To earn two continuing education credits, take the Hypertension Screening in Dental Settings course [here](#).



MDAC FEATURED IN DENTAQUEST IMPACT REPORT

Showcases MDAC's work to establish a Medicaid adult dental waiver program

MDAC's work to establish a Medicaid adult dental benefit is featured in the recently released 2018 DentaQuest Impact Report. The report highlights the work done by the DentaQuest Impact Group, DentaQuest Institute, DentaQuest Foundation, and its partners. MDAC is a DentaQuest Foundation grantee.

The report highlights how DentaQuest grantees are successfully increasing access to oral health care. MDAC'S legislative report, *The Financial Impact of Emergency Department Visits by Adults in Maryland*,

and the passage of SB 284, which established a Medicaid adult dental waiver program that will extend oral health benefits to more than 39,000 dual-eligible adults in Maryland, are featured.

[Click here](#) to read the 2018 DentaQuest Impact Report. The feature on MDAC can be found on page 19 of the report..

CHOPTANK OPENS NEW PEDIATRIC DENTAL PROGRAM

Partners with AHEC East to address shortage of providers on Eastern Shore

Choptank Community Health System is undertaking a major initiative to provide much-needed dental services on the Eastern Shore.

Choptank's new medical and dental facility in Denton, scheduled to open in late summer, will house a new pediatric dental program, funded in part through grants from the Maryland Department of Health's FQHC capital fund and the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission.

Choptank has also partnered with the Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center to develop a Pediatric Dental Consortium to address the shortage of dental providers on the Eastern Shore. The consortium is working to build a base for recruitment of pediatric dental professionals by bringing dental residents, fellows, and pediatric dentists to the area to network and participate in continuing education.

To learn more about Choptank's new pediatric dental program, [click here](#).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EASTERN SHORE MISSION OF MERCY

Volunteers needed April 5-6, 2019

The Eastern Shore Mission of Mercy is seeking volunteers for its free two-day dental clinic, to be held April 5-6 at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, 500 Glen Avenue in Salisbury.

Adult patients who could not otherwise afford care will be provided free dental treatment on a first-come, first-served basis. Since its first clinic in 2013, the Eastern Shore Mission of Mercy has provided more than \$2,000,000 in dental care with more than 3,000 volunteers giving 23,500 hours of their time..

For further information or to volunteer, [click here](#).

MDAC EARNS 2018 CONSTANT CONTACT ALL STAR AWARD

Award recognizes achievements in e-mail marketing



For the second year in a row, MDAC has been named a 2018 All Star winner by Constant Contact, a leader in small business marketing solutions. The annual award recognizes the most successful 10 percent of Constant Contact's customer base, based on their significant achievements using e-mail marketing to engage their constituents and drive results for their organization.

MDAC thanks its members and subscribers for reading our newsletters and responding to our e-mails.

SHOP AMAZON SMILE TO SUPPORT ORAL HEALTH IN MARYLAND

Support MDAC every time you shop – at no cost to you!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support MDAC's work to improve the oral health of Marylanders every time you shop, at no cost to you! Shop at smile.amazon.com for the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping as Amazon.com, but with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to MDAC. It takes just a few minutes to sign up. Each purchase you make will support MDAC's work to improve access to oral health care, prevent oral disease and injury, and increase oral health literacy. To sign up now:

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>
2. Type in "Maryland Dental Action Coalition"
3. Select Maryland Dental Action Coalition
4. Be sure to bookmark and shop at <https://smile.amazon.com> instead of the Amazon.com site.

For details and more information on Amazon Smile, [click here](#). Thank you for your support!

"We've made incredible progress expanding dental

coverage to children, now we must do the same for older Americans across this country."

-U.S. Senator Ben Cardin. (D-MD)

NEWS

[FDA Outlines E-cigarette Rules, Tightens Restrictions on Fruity Flavors to Try to Curb Teen Vaping](#)

[Critical Condition: The Crisis of Rural Medical Care](#)

[How Big Tobacco Hooked Children on Sugary Drinks](#)

[Delegate Mike McKay Named Rural Health Legislator of the Year](#)

ARTICLES

[Systems-Orientated Approaches for Addressing Wicked Problems in Population Oral Health](#)

[Medicare Dental Benefit Will Improve Health And Reduce Health Care Costs](#)

[Medicaid Dental Guidance to States: An Opportunity to Aim for Equity](#)

[Teledentistry: How Technology Can Facilitate Access To Care](#)

[New Research Highlights Benefits of Topical Treatment to Stop Tooth Decay](#)

[Awareness Among US Adults of Dental Sealants for Caries Prevention](#)

[National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center Oral Health Resource Bulletin](#)

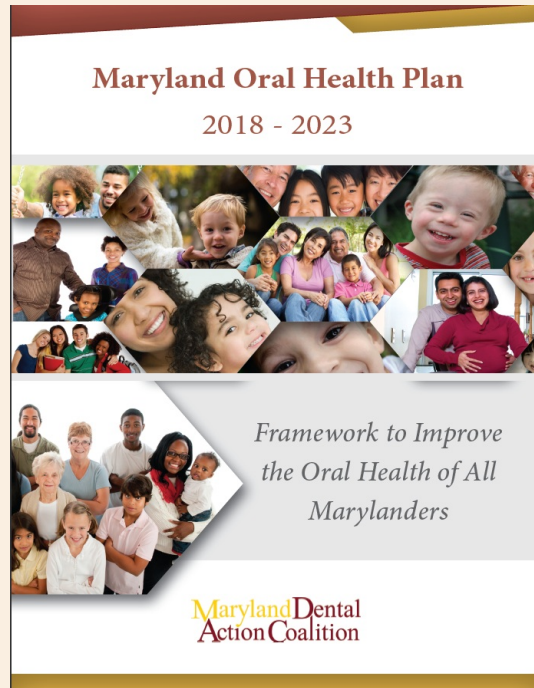
[Comprehensive Caries Management Guide for Dental Professionals](#)

[New Brief Helps States Improve Dental Care for Kids in Medicaid/CHIP](#)

[From Pilot to Systems Change: Integrating the Virtual Dental Home into California's System of Oral Health Care for Children](#)

[African Americans Still Lag Behind in Health Outcomes: Increasing Representation Among Providers Must be A Part of the Solution](#)

2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS



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:

[Helpful Lessons from CWF Referenda](#)

[Child Enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP Down 600k Children in 2018](#)

EVENTS

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

[Health Literacy Maryland, March 26, 2019](#)

[Society for Public Health Education Annual Conference, March 26-29, 2019](#)

[Academy Health 2019 Health Datapalooza, March 27-28, 2019](#)

[Open Forum for Quality Improvement and Innovation in Public Health, March 28-29, 2019](#)

[2019 Art & Science of Health Promotion Conference, April 1-5, 2019](#)

[Seventh Annual Public Health Research at Maryland, April 2, 2019](#)

[Special Care Dentistry Association Annual Meeting, April 12-14, 2019](#)

[National Oral Health Conference, April 15-17, 2019](#)

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

[Social Determinants of Health Symposium, May 13, 2019](#)

[2019 Dental Quality Alliance Conference, May 17-18, 2019](#)

[Public Health Learning Forum & TRAIN Learning Network Annual Meeting, May 20-23, 2019](#)

[2019 OSAP Annual Conference, May 30 - June, 2 2019](#)

[2019 National Medicaid/Medicare/CHIP Oral Health Symposium, June 1-3, 2019](#)

[National CAMBRA Coalition Conference, August 15-16, 2019](#)

[ADA FDI World Dental Congress, September 4-8, 2019](#)

[Health Literacy in Action Conference, October 10-11, 2019 \(Save the date!\)](#)

- 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 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.

WEBCASTS

[Caring for the Oral Health of Individuals with Special Needs](#)

WEBINARS

[The NIH Response to the Opioid Crisis from a Research Perspective, April 3, 2019](#)

[Recognizing and Reporting Child Maltreatment: Child Abuse, Neglect, and Sex Trafficking of Minors, April 10, 2019](#)

[Promoting Equity in Children's Dental Care Through Medicaid and CHIP, April 30, 2019](#)

VIDEOS

[Surgeon General's Listening Session on Oral Health, Part One \(Welcome and Opening Remarks\)](#)

[Surgeon General's Listening Session on Oral Health, Part Two \(Burden of Disease\)](#)

[Surgeon General's Listening Session on Oral Health, Part Three \(Theme-Specific Presentations\)](#)



**Successfully Treating Patients
with Special Needs
June 4, 2019**

Hosted by the MDAC Medicaid Adult Dental Collaborative. More info to come!

ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE

Medicaid

[Medicaid Expansion Across the Country: A Check-In on Recent Ballot Initiatives](#)

[Medicaid Dental Guidance to States: An Opportunity to Aim for Equity](#)

[A Checklist for Advocates: Improving Children's Oral Health Care in Medicaid/CHIP](#)

Medicare

[Creating an Oral Health Benefit in Medicare: A Statutory Analysis](#)

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

Policy

[Oral Health Advocacy Toolkit for Dental Schools and Dental Hygiene Programs](#)

RURAL HEALTH

[Social Determinants of Health for Rural People](#)

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

[Maryland Rural Health Plan](#)

[CMS Rural Health Strategy](#)

ORAL DISEASE AND INJURY PREVENTION

[E-Cigarettes Shaped Like USB Flash Drives: Information for Parents, Educators, and Health Care Providers](#)

[Teachers and Parents: That USB Stick Might Be an E-cigarette](#)

[Stanford Medicine Tobacco Prevention Toolkit - Understanding E-cigarettes](#)

[FDA "The Real Cost" E-cigarette Prevention Posters](#)

[How Community Water Fluoridation Prevents Tooth Decay](#)

[Diabetes and Oral Health](#)

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

[ASTDD Emergency Preparedness Manual](#)

ORAL HEALTH LITERACY AND EDUCATION

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

[CDC: Tips for Teachers](#)

[AAP: Protect Tiny Teeth Toolkit](#)

[Common Questions About Fluoride](#)

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

**Support
Maryland Dental
Action Coalition Inc.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Greg Allen, DDS
- Vanessa Benavent, DDS, MSD, FAGD
- Ronnie Coleman, Benevis
- Stephen M. Dargan, DDS
- George Grillon, DMD
- Joseph Gwiazdowski, DDS
- Patricia Higgins, DDS
- Stephen Levy, DDS
- Jeffrey Mazursky, DDS
- Dawn Merguerian, DDS
- K. Michael Murphy, DDS, MS

Join us! To become a MDAC member, [click here.](#)

CONTACT

Do you have events or announcements you'd like to share? Contact MDAC, and we'll make every effort to include them in our next newsletter, as space permits.

[Contact MDAC](#)

JOIN

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

[Join MDAC](#)

www.mdac.us

FOLLOW US

