



April / May 2019

## MD GENERAL ASSEMBLY WRAPS UP BUSY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### Community grants program, dental hygienist scope of practice bills passed

During the 2019 legislative session, MDAC worked to keep access to oral health care top of mind with lawmakers. MDAC Executive Director Mary Backley testified before both the Senate Finance and House Health and Government Operations committees in support of SB 158/HB 332, the Community Dental Clinics Grant Program. The bill, sponsored by oral health champions Senator Guy Guzzone (D-Howard County) and Delegate Mike McKay (R-Washington and Allegany Counties), passed (nearly) unanimously and is expected to be signed by the Governor later this month.



A key goal for this legislative session was to ensure that legislators are aware of the need for Medicaid adult dental coverage for all eligible adults in Maryland. This was accomplished when MDAC Executive Director Mary Backley and representatives from the Maryland Department of Health briefed the House Public Health Subcommittee on implementation of the adult dental waiver program, including plans for the Medicaid collaborative.

All in all, it was a highly productive legislative session for oral health stakeholders. Key highlights include:

- **HB 332/SB 158 – Maryland Department of Health – Community Dental Clinics Grant Program (Passed):** Supports safety net providers in building dental capacity by paying for equipment, renovations, and construction. The bill supports implementation of the Medicaid adult dental waiver program, and complements the existing capital grants program for FQHCs. Beginning in fiscal year 2021, providers will be able to apply to the Maryland Department of Health for funding.
- **HB 738 – Dental Hygienist – Scope of Practice – Practice Settings under General Supervision (Passed):** Expanded the settings in which dental hygienists can practice under general supervision to include physician offices providing primary or prenatal care, medical day, and group homes.
- **SB 1030 – The Blue Print for Maryland’s Future (Passed):** The bill is Part I for implementation of Kirwan Commission recommendations on K-12 education. This year, 100 Maryland schools in areas with a high concentration of poverty will receive \$240,000 in additional funding for health-related services, most of which is focused on primary care. However, dental services could be funded in certain circumstances. This bill is important as it sets a statutory precedent to include dental services in health services. The expectation is that funding for health-related services will increase next year.
- **HB 698/SB 868 – Consumer Protections and Maryland Health Insurance Commission Coverage (Passed):** Establishes a workgroup to make recommendations on legislation next session regarding the need to codify consumer protections in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in the unlikely event that the ACA is overturned.

## MDAC FORMS MEDICAID ADULT DENTAL COLLABORATIVE

### Work underway to help ensure success of Medicaid waiver program

MDAC’s Medicaid adult dental collaborative, formed to help ensure the success of the Medicaid adult dental waiver program, held its first meeting on April 26, 2019. Collaborative members include dental providers, social service professionals, and caregivers all working together to:

1. Ensure that eligible participants are aware of their new benefit and how to access it;
2. Increase the number of Medicaid providers and build capacity to serve the dual-eligible population; and

3. Evaluate the program, make course corrections as necessary, and provide feedback to Medicaid.

Members of the collaborative are:

- Greg Allen, DDS - Maryland State Dental Association
- Mary Backley - Maryland Dental Action Coalition
- Natalia Chalmers - DDS, Ph.D - Food and Drug Administration
- Guli Fager, MPH – Director - MDAC Medicaid Adult Dental Collaborative
- Harry Goodman, DDS - former Maryland State Dental Director
- Cindy Kaiser, RDH - Baltimore County Health Department
- Florence Ndi - ARC of Baltimore
- Parita Patel, DDS - Health Care for the Homeless
- Pricilla Lissik - The Coordinating Center
- Brooks Woodward, DDS - Chase Brexton Health Services

The Medicaid adult dental waiver program will go into effect on June 1, 2019. For the first time, more than 33,000 dual eligible adults ages 21-64 statewide will be able to access up to \$800 in diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental services per year.

#### **\$1,600 benefit cap for first 18 months will give patients a good start on treatment plans**

Although the benefit goes into effect mid-year, Medicaid will cover \$800 in dental services for 2019. Program participants will have coverage for up to \$1,600 in dental services during the first 18 months of the program. This will enable patients, many of whom may have extensive treatment needs, to work with their provider to develop a plan that addresses their most serious dental issues in a timely manner.

## **TREATING PATIENTS WITH ANXIETY AND SPECIAL NEEDS**

### **Dr. Harvey Levy to lead June 3 CE class hosted by MDAC**

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In support of the launch of the Medicaid adult dental waiver program, MDAC will host a continuing education class on treating patients with anxiety and special needs on June 3, 2019 at the Maryland State Dental Association.

If you are a dentist either enrolled or considering enrollment as a Maryland Healthy Smiles provider, and you intend to see adult patients under the Medicaid adult dental waiver program, this class is for you! Dr. Harvey Levy, a Frederick-based dentist and engaging teacher who frequently works with patients who need special care, will lead the class. Those who successfully complete the course will earn 3 free CEUs as approved by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners.

The Maryland Medicaid adult dental waiver program, which Dr. Levy supports, will go into effect on June 1, 2019. For the first time, more than 33,000 dual eligible (Medicaid/Medicare) adults will be able to access diagnostic, preventive and basic restorative dental services, as well as extractions, up to an annual cap of \$800.00.

If you are a dentist who has interest in participating in the adult dental waiver program and treating the dual eligible population, this course will give you practical tips, as well as the necessary knowledge and tools, to treat anxious and special-needs patients. To learn more about Dr. Levy, [click here](#). For further information about the June 3 class, please e-mail MDAC at [info@mdac.us](mailto:info@mdac.us).

## **MDAC REPORTS ON WORK TO IMPROVE ORAL HEALTH IN MD Initiatives focused on adults, children, adolescents**

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The Medicaid adult dental waiver program was a key topic of discussion at the April 29 MDAC members' meeting. Medicaid Collaborative Director Guli Fager outlined the work of the collaborative to help ensure utilization of the new dental benefit, recruit dentists to participate in Medicaid and build capacity, and evaluate and provide feedback on the program to Medicaid.

To help increase the number of Medicaid providers in the adult dental waiver program, the Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA) recently sent an update on the waiver program to their members to encourage their participation.

Within the next few weeks, eligible participants in the Medicaid adult dental waiver program will receive a welcome packet informing them of their new Medicaid dental benefit, which will go into effect June 1, 2019. Healthy Smiles providers can find answers to frequently asked questions about the waiver program [here](#). Healthy Smiles members can find answers to frequently asked questions [here](#).

The dual eligible population can be found in every county in the state, but the highest concentrations of



and her leadership, strategic vision, and deep policy and delivery-system expertise are ideally suited to steer the organization's pioneering work to improve care delivery for Americans in need."

As part of CHCS' leadership transition, Tricia McGinnis, MPP, MPH, will assume the new role of executive vice president and chief program officer overseeing the organization's broad programmatic strategy.

Somers, who founded CHCS in 1995 as a start-up with three staff members and built it into a team of 55 staff with nationwide reach, will remain with the organization as a strategic advisor for select initiatives.

## **CATHOLIC CHARITIES SEEKS DENTAL ASSISTANT**

### **Must be bilingual in English, Spanish**

Catholic Charities, the social ministry outreach of the Archdiocese of Washington, is seeking a bilingual dental assistant to join their dental team in Washington, DC. The dental assistant will perform a variety of patient care, office, and laboratory duties as well as provide chair-side assistance to the dentists and hygienists as needed. For further information, [click here](#).

## **"Dentistry is not expensive, neglect is."**

*-Anonymous*

### **NEWS**

[Dental Care is Tough to Find for People with Autism, Other Developmental Disorders](#)

[Medicare for All Should Guarantee Coverage for Oral Health](#)

[Let's Not Make Children Wait 17 Years](#)

[Trump Administration Asks Court To Strike Down Entire ACA](#)

### **ARTICLES**

[Something to Chew On: Highlights of Findings from an AARP Oral Health Survey of Older Americans](#)

[New Legislation Prioritizes Pregnant Women's Oral Health](#)

[Opioid Overdose Deaths and Emergency Department Visits for Dental Conditions in Maryland](#)

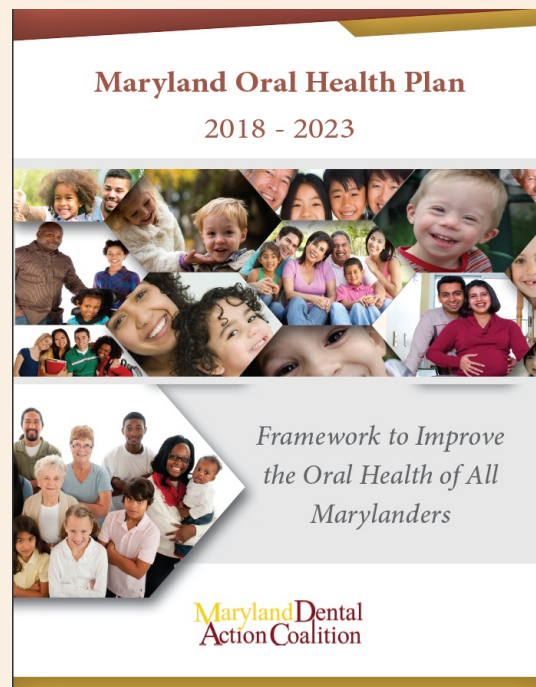
["What Matters to You?": Shared Decision Making in the Post-Paternalistic Era of Oral Health](#)

[Rising Rates of HPV-Associated Oropharyngeal Cancers: A Challenge For Interprofessional Education and Practice](#)

[Higher Consumption of Sugary Beverages Linked with Increased Risk of Early Mortality](#)

[The Role of Oral Health Workforce](#)

### **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.

## [Development in Access to Care](#)

### [ASTDD Policy Statement: Sugar-Sweetened Beverages](#)

### [Oral Health: A Window to Your Overall Health](#)

### [Trauma Informed Care in Dentistry: Why It Matters and How to Get Started](#)

### [AAP: Public Policies to Reduce Sugary Drink Consumption in Children and Adolescents](#)

### [Drilling Down on Dental Coverage and Costs for Medicare Beneficiaries](#)

### [How Oral Health Affects Blood Pressure](#)

### [Online Counseling Aimed at Improving Oral Health Habits](#)

### [How Endurance Training Affects Your Oral Health](#)

### [New Program Aims to Expand Oral Health Care For Those With Disabilities](#)

### [New Evidence Shows Connection Between Oral Health, Heart Health](#)

### [A Deep Dive into the Connections Between Oral and Behavioral Health](#)

### [Nutrition Counseling for Obesity Prevention in Children: A Handbook for the Dental Community](#)

### [Facing Prohibitive Costs, 58% of U.S. Adults Say They Delay or Decline Medical Care](#)

### [Flossing and Going to the Dentist Linked to Lower Risk of Oral Cancer](#)

### [Why Little Teeth Matter](#)

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## **WEBINARS**

### [Using the Health Center Dental Dashboard for Tracking, Measuring and Improvement, May 9, 2019](#)

### [Fundamentals of Health Center Dental Programs for Non-Clinician Dental Managers: Quality and Risk Management, May 14, 2019](#)

## **WEBCASTS**

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

- 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 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.

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## **EVENTS**

### [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](#)

### [American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session 2019, May 23-26, 2019](#)

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

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

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[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](#)

[2019 Maryland Rural Health Association  
Conference, October 20-22, 2019](#)

[APHA Annual Meeting and Expo, November  
2-6, 2019](#)

## ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

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### 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](#)

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### 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](#)

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### 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](#)

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### LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Byron Bonebreak, DMD, MS - Vanguard Orthodontics
- Ekta, MBBS - Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Latarshia Gardner
- Steven Feldman, DDS
- Rupini Shukla, MPH - University of Maryland School of Dentistry
- Marlene Shevenell, DDS

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

## CONTACT

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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

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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](#)

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[www.mdac.us](http://www.mdac.us)

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