



February 2022

## Hearings Held in Annapolis on SB150/HB6: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults Compelling Testimony from Legislators, Advocates, Family Members, and Patients



On January 25 and February 9, the Senate Finance and House Health & Government Operations Committees held hearings on legislation that would mandate comprehensive adult dental coverage in Maryland's Medicaid program. The bills, introduced by oral health champions Senators Malcolm Augustine (D-Prince George's County) and Guy Guzzone (D-Howard County) and Delegates Bonnie Cullison (D-Montgomery County) and Mike McKay (R-Allegany and Washington Counties) would bring the State of Maryland in line with 47 other states that include adult dental health care in its Medicaid coverage.

United States Senator Benjamin Cardin opened the Senate Finance Committee hearing with powerful testimony underscoring how the legislation would help the thousands of low-income Maryland residents improve their oral and overall health, prevent emergency department visits for non-traumatic dental conditions, and break down the barriers to employment caused by poor oral health.

Senator Cardin's presentation was followed by over 30 compelling verbal testimonies from patients, family members and advocates who described situations ranging from fatal drug overdoses due to chronic pain to detrimental quality of life to excessive and costly medical bills due to untreated dental care and lack of access. There was no verbal testimony offered in opposition to the bill. In addition, scores of written testimonies in support of the legislation were also submitted by MDAC members, partners, and stakeholders statewide.

On February 1, the Baltimore Sun published an editorial, [Expand Medicaid to Cover Adult Dental in Maryland](#), that effectively captured the Senate Finance Committee hearings, addressing the myriad of reasons why oral health is critical to the wellbeing of Maryland's adult population and how adult dental coverage in Maryland Medicaid would be a significant step to dismantling health disparities experienced by many across the state.

On February 11, bipartisan sponsors of SB150/HB 6 legislation once again collaborated to pen a commentary for [Maryland Matters](#) on why this bill is so critical to the wellbeing of Marylanders and could change the lives of hundreds of thousands of residents for the better.

### MDAC Broadens Advocacy Base

To strengthen its advocacy efforts prior to the hearings, MDAC focused on broadening its stakeholder base to include organizations that facilitate and support the well-being and independence of Maryland adults. As a result, over 60 statewide, community, and grassroots organizations in Maryland pledged support for expanding adult dental in Maryland Medicaid by [signing the document](#) on the MDAC website.

[MDAC Press Release](#) – Senators, Advocates & Patients Testify in Support of Adult Dental Coverage by Maryland Medicaid, January 25, 2022

[MDAC Press Release](#) – Delegates, Advocates & Patients Testify in Support of House Bill 6 To Add Adult Dental Coverage to Maryland Medicaid; Cross File Bill Hearing of SB 150, February 9, 2022

Watch Hearings: [SB150](#) and [HB6](#)

**Journal of Public Health Dentistry Highlights Study: Preventive Care Linked**

## to Better Health Outcomes

### Routine Dental Care Lowers Dental Related Costs, ED Visits, and Pain Prescriptions

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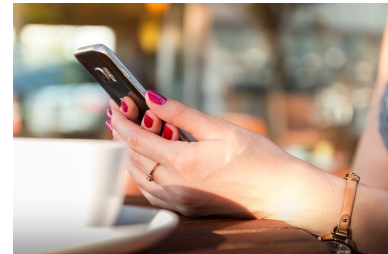
A study featured in the January 2022 issue of the [Journal of Public Health Dentistry](#) found that regular preventive dental visits were associated with improved healthcare outcomes. The study examined 186,000 Medicaid-eligible individuals compared to those who did not receive preventive dental visits and followed them for a 5-year period. The results determined that those who received routine preventive dental care had lower dental care costs, reduced emergency department visits for non-traumatic dental conditions, fewer dental-related opioid prescriptions and fewer oral surgeries than those who did not receive routine dental care.

## Providers, Patients Acknowledge Benefits of Teledentistry

### Survey Reveals Acceptance of Teledentistry is Growing in the Oral Health Field

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, providers, patients, and the health care system itself benefited from the use of telehealth and teledentistry, with many oral health providers incorporating teledentistry into their practices. Recently, the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health conducted a series of surveys of dental team members from Advantage Dental Oral Health Center in Oregon and Washington. The surveys explored how attitudes toward teledentistry changed over the course of six months as providers gained experience with virtual workflows and new software within the practices. What successes and challenges did they uncover? How have their perceptions of teledentistry evolved? Prior to implementation of teledentistry, nearly a third (32%) of respondents thought that the quality of care given to patients would decrease with the use of teledentistry. Following six months of teledentistry implementation: more than three-quarters (76%) of respondents believed that utilizing a teledentistry platform increased access to care for patients. Approximately half of respondents agreed that utilizing a teledentistry platform increased patient satisfaction (51%) and helped shorten patient wait times to get an appointment (47%). Almost 85% of respondents said dentistry was ready to accept teledentistry as a care delivery method.



The survey results show that providers are open to teledentistry, and that it can play a crucial role in increasing access to care and improving quality of care. Read the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health report, [Oral Health Professionals Are Ready to Accept Teledentistry](#).

## The Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification Training Program Accreditation Application and Certification Renewal Over 1000 CHWs Have Been Certified in Maryland!

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MDAC has long recognized the critical role that CHWs play in helping individuals navigate pathways to good health. They work with individuals in their homes to improve health behaviors, address social determinants of health, and facilitate access to needed services. They also conduct workshops to help individuals manage chronic diseases and participate in outreach events to educate the public on the benefits of good health behaviors. CHWs provide a critical link to better health, working in health departments, clinics, senior centers, hospitals, area health education centers, and community organizations. The job of a community health worker requires core competencies including cultural humility; strong communication, interpersonal, observational, and organizational skills, and a solid foundation in care coordination, health education, outreach, and capacity building.

[The Community Health Worker \(CHW\) Certification Training Program Accreditation Application](#). The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is accepting accreditation applications from Community Health Worker (CHW) training programs. Individuals who complete an accredited CHW certification training program may apply to MDH for certification.

Webinars are listed below to learn about the requirements and application process for CHW training programs which are accredited by MDH, and the Maryland OneStop application process. Dates and Times for the webinars are:

- February 25, 10 am - 11 am
- March 29, 10 am - 11 am
- April 19, 2 pm - 3 pm
- May 23, 2 pm - 3 pm
- June 23, 11 am - noon

To pre-register for a webinar, visit: : <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPEdsbaIXfMQiYVU9sdEaJ2c9xzVGVW4aF5sYMS9npQn71uA/viewform>. Following the registration, your login information will be sent a few days prior to the webinar.

**Is it Time to Renew your CHW Certificate?** Community health worker (CHW) certificates are effective for two years from the issued date. Webinars are scheduled to address the requirements and application process for CHWs to renew a CHW certificate as well as information on the 20 hours of professional development required for CHW certificate renewal. CHW Certificate Renewal Application Webinars will be held on:

- March 9, noon- 1 pm
- April 8, 10 am - 11 am
- May 11, 11 am - noon
- June 16, 11 am - noon

To register for one of these webinars, visit: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKeDLe9y6Hn11C-46fml0nA\\_Y9-v8OqWnz4c0T6T12kcrygw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKeDLe9y6Hn11C-46fml0nA_Y9-v8OqWnz4c0T6T12kcrygw/viewform). Login information will be sent a few days prior to the webinar.

For additional information on Community Health Worker Certificate Renewal in English, visit: <https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/CCHW-Certificate-Renewal.aspx>

Para más información sobre la renovación del Certificado de Promotor(a) de Salud en español, visite: <https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/CCHW-Certificate-Renewal-Spanish.aspx>

## **TEXAS A&M SEEKS SURVEY PARTICIPANTS**

### **Study of Healthy People 2030 objectives for rural health**

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The Southwest Rural Health Research Center at Texas A&M University is seeking those who live or work in rural communities to participate in a 20-minute survey on the most important Healthy People 2030 objectives for rural health. The project is supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy through its Rural Health Research Centers program.

To participate, visit [https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_73qcXw58n1Z2LRk](https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_73qcXw58n1Z2LRk). For questions or comments, contact Tim Callaghan at [callaghan@tamu.edu](mailto:callaghan@tamu.edu).



## **February is National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM)!**

***The Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health submitted the following article:***

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Every February, dental organizations and providers throughout the nation take time to inform and educate the public about the importance of children's oral health. This February, the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Oral Health will join with the American Dental Association to promote the 2022 National Children's Dental Health Month theme, "Sealants Make Sense."

**Press Release** and **Media Advisory** templates are provided for your use during NCDHM. Please feel free to use them as you see fit. The Media Advisory template is available should you decide to hold a virtual event.

Additional NCDHM information ("Sealants Make Sense" planning guide, posters, activity sheets) can be found via the **American Dental Association's** website.

Additional Sealant information can be found via the Office of Oral Health: **Mighty Tooth**, Maryland's statewide dental sealant program, and **Dental Sealant brochures**.

# MDAC ANNOUNCES 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Represents Broad Swath of Oral Health Stakeholders in Maryland

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MDAC is pleased to announce the 2022 Board of Directors:

Chair: Celeste Camerino, DDS, Charles County Health Department

Vice Chair: Lucciola Lambruschini, DDS, MBA, Spanish Catholic Center

Treasurer: Joy-Void Holmes, RDH, BSDH, DHSC, Bowie, General Dentistry

Secretary: Melinda Hite, BS, University of Maryland School of Dentistry

Immediate Past Chair: Brooks Woodward, DDS, Chase-Brexton Health Care

Policy Committee Chair: Salliann Alborn, Maryland Community Health System

Literacy & Education Committee Chair: Alice Horowitz, Ph.D., University of Maryland School of Public Health

At-Large Representative: Shanika M. Cooper, MHS-PC, Howard County Health Department

At-Large Representative: Loretta I. Hoepfner, MSOD, MD Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

At-Large Representative: Daniel McEvily, Chase Brexton Health Care

At-Large Representative: Nkem Okeke, MD, MBA, MPH, MSPM, Medicalincls

At-Large Representative: Tresa M. S. Wiggins, MSN, RN, CPNP, Maryland Association on School Based Health Care

Ex-Officio: Debony Hughes, DDS, Maryland Department of Health, Office of Oral Health

Ex-Officio: Mary Backley, MDAC

MDAC is profoundly grateful to departing board members Donna Behrens, RN, MPH, BSN, School Health Consultant and Immediate Past Chair of MDAC; Amy Kleine, Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation; Diane Romaine, DMD, Dr. Diane Romaine and Associates Dental Health Center; and Dean Shifflett, DentaQuest for their years of leadership, commitment, and significant contributions to the organization. **MDAC very much appreciates your hard work and dedicated service!**

**"Maryland cannot lead the country in access to dental care for children on Medicaid and then turn a blind eye to the complete lack of coverage for adults. Just as untreated dental care can lead to death of children, it can and does lead to the death of adults. It's past time that all Marylanders have access to quality oral health care."**

*-The Honorable Benjamin Cardin, United States Senator for Maryland*

### NEWS & RESOURCES

#### Access to Care

[Lawmakers: Now Is the Time for Equity in Maryland Medicaid for Dental Coverage](#)

[Baltimore Sun Editorial on Medicaid Expansion in Maryland Sun Editorial: Adult Medicaid Expansion to Include Dental](#)

#### Cancer

### MD ADULT DENTAL WAIVER PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

[Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan](#)

## COVID-19

[Pandemic Preparedness in Dental Education: A U.S.-Based National Survey](#)

## Diabetes

[Maryland Diabetes Action Plan](#)

## Disease Prevention

[The Need to Identify Fearful Dental Patients Early On](#)

[WVU Leads Global Effort in Steering the Future of Oral Health through Behavioral, Social Science Lens](#)

[Social Isolation Among Older Adults Linked to Having Fewer Teeth](#)

[Identifying the Utility of Dental Providers in Human Papillomavirus Prevention Efforts: Results from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2015–2018](#)

## Health Equity

[NIDCR highlights need to improve health inequities](#)

[Health Equity Needs Teeth](#)

[Anti-Racism in Dental Public Health: A Call to Action](#)

[Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Adults and Seniors](#)

## Maternal and Child Health

[New research finds chewing sugar-free gum reduced preterm births](#)

[Tips for Good Oral Health During Pregnancy \(video\)](#)

## Medical/Dental Integration

[2021 Transforming Oral Health for Families \(TOHF\) Maryland Environmental Scan](#)

[What Primary Care Innovation Teaches Us About Oral Health Integration](#)

[The Benefits of Integrating Oral](#)



Thousands of Maryland adults are accessing dental care through the Medicaid Adult Dental Waiver Program.

According to Maryland Medicaid, from January 1, 2022 through February 8, 2022:

- 580 claims were submitted
- 511 unique members filed valid claims
- 4 members met annual \$800 cap
- 222 unique providers submitted claims
- \$100,734.76 paid

From January 1, 2021 through December 28, 2021:

- 8,970 claims were submitted
- 4,447 unique members filed valid claims
- 361 members met annual \$800 cap
- 591 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,392,685.08 paid

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020:

- 7,942 claims were submitted
- 4,151 unique members filed valid claims
- 313 members met annual \$800 cap
- 576 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,286,280.60 paid

Since the launch of the Medicaid Adult Dental Waiver Program, Medicaid has paid **\$4,092,448.69** in dental services for thousands of Maryland adults.

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**MDAC NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT  
FOR A BILL TO ESTABLISH AN  
ADULT DENTAL BENEFIT IN  
MARYLAND MEDICAID**

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**SIGN ON NOW TO SHOW YOUR  
SUPPORT!**

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**2018-2023 MARYLAND  
ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS**

[Health into Overall Health](#)

[The Secret Lives of Baby Teeth](#)

## Medicaid

[Comparative analysis of dental procedure mix in public and private dental benefits programs](#)

[Three Reasons Why Adults on Medicaid Need Dental Coverage](#)

[Racial And Ethnic Disparities In Dental Services Use Declined After Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Expansions](#)

[Left Behind: Medicaid Patients Say Rides to Doctors Don't Always Come](#)

## Oral Health Data

[USPHS Chief Dental Officer Newsletter Issue #61: February 7, 2022](#)

[NIDCR: Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges](#)

[National Oral Health Data Portal](#)

[A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Oral Health Care Spending over the Life Span in Commercial- and Medicaid-Insured Populations](#)

## Oral Health Policy

[Time for Dental Care to be Considered Essential in US Health Care Policy](#)

## Oral and Overall Health

[Association Between Poor Oral Health and Developing Mental Health Issues Underscores Value of Dental Hygiene, says A-Z Dental Care](#)

## Teledentistry

[How a Virtual Visit to Your Dentist Can Help Keep Your Smile Bright](#)

## Water Fluoridation

[All About Fluoride](#)

## Workforce

[Lessons for Advancing and](#)

## 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, oral disease and injury prevention, and oral health literacy and education.

[DOWNLOAD THE PLAN](#)

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

## WEBINARS

[2022 National Day of Racial Healing for the Oral Health Community \(recorded video\)](#)

[Setting Standards for Advanced Primary Care Through Medicaid Managed Care: Considerations for Promoting Equitable Pediatric Care  
February 22, 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET](#)

[The Maryland Community Health Worker \(CHW\) Certification Training Program Accreditation Application, February 25, 2022](#)

[Event: Symposium on Telemedicine in Primary and Ambulatory Care: Preparing Our Health Care Workforce for the Future of Telemedicine  
Monday, March 7 at 11:30 AM](#)

[Maryland Certified Community Health Worker \(CCHW\) Certificate Renewal Application Webinar Registration, March 9, 2022](#)

[Care Model Redesign: Navigating Digital Transformation  
Where Are You On the Risk-Taking Continuum  
April 24-26, 2022](#)

[Sustaining State Community Health Worker Partnerships](#)

[Evaluating the Impact of Dentists' Personal Characteristics on Workforce Participation](#)

## EVENTS

[2022 National Oral Health Conference, April 11-13, 2022](#)

[Annual Rural Health Conference  
May 10-13, 2022 Albuquerque, N.M.](#)

[NNPHI Annual Conference, May 17-19, 2022](#)

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## LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

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## SUPPORT MDAC



Give a little to make a big impact! Your gifts, both large and small, will be used to promote good oral health behaviors, prevent oral disease and injury, and improve access to oral health care for all Marylanders, no matter where they live or what their special circumstances might be. Please help us continue this important work.

**DONATE NOW!**

MDAC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and contributions to support its activities are most appreciated. Thank you.



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new member:

- Raimee Eck, PhD, MPH, MPA, CPH - Maryland Public Health Association
- Karyn Carr Porter, RDH, BS - Chase Brexton Health Care
- Sneha Shah, Dental Hygienist
- Uma Kelekar, PhD - Associate Professor of Healthcare Management at Marymount University
- Shanice Miggins - Student

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](#)

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

FOLLOW US

