



February 2020

## **MDAC ISSUES SCHOOL DENTAL SEALANT PROGRAM ASSESSMENT**

### **First state sealant assessment conducted with support of MDH Office of Oral Health**

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MDAC, in partnership and with the support of the Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health, recently released the results of the first Maryland school dental sealant program assessment. Lead researcher and analyst Dr. Virginia Brown - Senior Agent and FCS Evaluator, Dr. Patsy Ezell - Extension Specialist, Family and Consumer Sciences, and graduate student Gabriela Barber, MS of the University of Maryland Extension conducted the survey. The purpose of the assessment was to determine the facilitators and barriers to school dental sealant programs, identify any unmet needs, and develop recommendations for future program growth.



Assessment participants, representing 16 Maryland counties, included county health departments and federally qualified health centers that work with school sealant programs, school personnel, and those without sealant programs. Those with school sealant programs were questioned about who works with school sealant programs, how people are recruited to participate in sealant programs, performance standards, and funding and sustainability. Those without school sealant programs were asked why they did not participate, what they would need to participate, and whether or not they would consider participating in the future.

Most school dental sealant programs are reliant on grants, so funding can be both a facilitator and a barrier to success. Some programs are working to become more self-sustaining by billing Medicaid and private insurance. Participation in sealant programs increased with information campaigns on the importance of oral health and incentives to encourage student participation. Utilization of case managers (to connect with parents, schedule appointments, and help ensure that any needed oral health treatment was received), and oral health champions (such as school nurses, superintendents or principals) were seen as key to successful sealant programs.

[Read the assessment report and recommendations](#) to strengthen and expand school dental sealant programs in Maryland.

## **MDAC PANEL TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE IN SUPPORT OF HB 15**

### **Bill would require parents to submit dental care information to schools**

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*Pictured: MDAC Executive Director Mary Backley (back row, far left), Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison (D-Prince George's County) (front row, second from left), pediatric dentist Margaret C. McGrath, DMD, MPH (front row, third from left), MDAC Government Affairs Consultant Robyn Elliot, second from right), MDAC board member and Fortis College faculty member Joy Void Holmes, DHSc, BSDH, RDH (far right), and dental hygiene students from Fortis College.*

On January 28, 2020, MDAC Executive Director Mary Backley testified before the House Ways and Means Committee in support of [House Bill 15 – Public Schools – Student Health – Certificate of Health](#). MDAC board member and Fortis College faculty member Joy Void-Holmes, Dr. Margaret C. McGrath of Kent Island Pediatric Dentistry, and MDAC policy and government affairs consultant Robyn Elliot also gave testimony in support of the bill, which would require parents of school-age children to submit dental care information to their school. A group of Fortis College dental hygiene students also attended the hearing.

In 2007, following the death of Deamonte Driver, the Dental Action Committee (DAC) developed recommendations to improve the oral health of Maryland children. (In 2010, the DAC transitioned to MDAC.) The only remaining recommendation to implement is to incorporate dental screenings with vision and hearing screenings for public school children prior to enrollment. While the bill does not require dental screening before a child enters school, it does promote the utilization of dental care by requiring parents to submit this information to the school.

[Read the testimony](#) MDAC submitted to the House.

## **FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH** **OOH, ADA promote oral health benefits of fluoridated tap water**



*The MDH Office of Oral Health submitted the article below to update MDAC members, partners, and stakeholders on recent activities:*

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. Every February, dental organizations and providers throughout the nation celebrate the importance of children's oral health. This February, the Maryland Office of Oral Health joined with the American Dental Association to promote the 2020 National Children's Dental Health Month theme, **"Fluoride in water prevents cavities! Get it from the tap!"**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tooth decay is the single most common chronic disease among U.S. children. Left untreated, tooth decay can cause pain and infections as well as problems eating, speaking and learning. Tooth decay is responsible for more than 51 million lost school hours each year. In the United States, more than 16 million children go each year without seeing a dentist.

The Office of Oral Health reiterates the American Dental Association's message about the importance of brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and drinking water from the tap. The Office of Oral Health offers

a number of [resources](#) online that educate parents and their children about the importance of brushing with fluoride toothpaste, flossing, eliminating sugary foods and drinks from the diet, and seeing their dentist on a regular basis.

Visit the [American Dental Association](#) and the [Office of Oral Health](#) websites to help you with your activities for Children's Dental Health Month and throughout the year. [Order](#) Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids brochures and posters - available in English and Spanish - to give parents and caregivers simple, easy-to-understand guidance they can use to prevent cavities, make dental appointments, and improve their child's oral health.

## **DEADLINE NEARS FOR CHW CERTIFICATION BASED ON EXPERIENCE**

### **Applications due by March 31, 2020**

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Experienced community health workers (CHWs) with a minimum of 2,000 hours of paid or volunteer CHW experience and proficiency in Maryland's CHW core competencies have until March 31, 2020 to submit their certification applications to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Office of Population Health.



Visit [Community Health Worker Certification](#) for further information, eligibility requirements, and application instructions. For information in Spanish, visit [CHW Certification Application in Spanish](#). After the close of the application period, CHWs will no longer be able to receive certification based on their experience.

CHWs seeking certification after April 1, 2020 will be required to complete an accredited training program. Find information about the accredited CHW training program at [Community Health Worker Certification Training Program Accreditation](#).

## **SUPPORT MEDICALLY NECESSARY ORAL HEALTH CARE**

### **Santa Fe Group provides Make Medicare Better advocacy tools**

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The [Santa Fe Group](#), an action-oriented think tank that fosters policy and initiates actions to improve the health and well-being of the public, is asking supporters of oral health in Medicare to take action to support medically necessary oral health care.

Take these two simple steps to help get the administration to support medically necessary oral health care:

#### **Reach Policy Makers**

Go to the Make Medicare Better [campaign platform](#) to call on policy makers to take action through e-mail and social media - it takes less than 60 seconds!

#### **Spread the Word**

Send a message (like this one) to your contacts urging them to take action.

Post about the campaign on your social media accounts.

Share the full link to this campaign: <https://freeroots.com/campaign/make-medicare-better>

Your voices and efforts are needed to help make change happen!

## **MDAC SEEKS INPUT ON UPCOMING ORAL HEALTH SUMMIT**

### **Suggestions for plenary, breakout sessions wanted and encouraged**

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MDAC is planning its biennial statewide convening, and we need your input!

To help ensure that the meeting is productive and meets your needs, please send your suggestions for plenary and breakout session topics to [info@mdac.us](mailto:info@mdac.us) by no later than **March 31, 2020**.

Your input will help us develop a program that will be timely, informative, and help you in your work to improve the oral health of all Marylanders. Thank you!

## **OOH SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR TWO OPEN POSITIONS**

### **HIV Oral Health Program Manager, Eastern Shore OHEO Program Coordinator**

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The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Office of Oral Health (OOH) supports a comprehensive portfolio of programs and services designed to improve the oral health of Maryland residents through expanded service access and increased quality of care. The Office of Oral Health is currently seeking candidates for two open positions:

### **HIV Oral Health Program Manager**

The MDH Office of Oral Health seeks a [HIV Oral Health Program Manager](#) to lead the HIV Oral Health Care Referral Program, a pilot program that is aimed toward increasing access to oral health care for People Living with HIV (PLWH). This position will also coordinate the development, implementation and evaluation of a comprehensive program, including a pilot project and social marketing campaign, that will increase awareness of the importance of regular oral health care among PLWH, as well as increase the rate of referral of PLWH to oral health care services by primary care providers and medical professionals at HIV treatment centers. [Click here](#) to learn more or apply.

### **Program Coordinator, Eastern Shore OHEO Program**

The MDH Office of Oral Health seeks a [Program Coordinator, Eastern Shore OHEO Program](#) to provide oral health education and case management services to children and adults who reside within counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This position will also be responsible for developing networks within community groups, schools, dental providers, and local health departments, in order to coordinate the integration and delivery of multifaceted oral health services for children and adults with limited incomes. To learn more or apply, [click here](#).

## **MDAC PARTNERS WITH YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Youth voices, input, ideas help move oral health work forward**

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During adolescence, many teens engage in behaviors that can negatively affect their oral health: high consumption of sugary snacks and beverages, participation in contact sports without proper mouth protection, poor oral hygiene, oral piercings, and substance use including tobacco, vapes, or drugs. A lack of understanding of the importance of good oral health to good overall health can result in behaviors that lead to a lifetime of poor oral health habits and disease.

Over the past year, MDAC has met with the Maryland Youth Advisory Council, a group of youth leaders and advocates from across the state who have a stated interest in advocacy and health, to gain their insights on the oral health issues affecting youth. Early conversations about the oral-systemic connection quickly turned to how youth and adults were grappling with the vaping epidemic and the need for information on how vaping affects oral and overall health. An outcome of those conversations was an [article on vaping](#) that one of the students, Daniel O., wrote for the March 2019 MDAC newsletter.

MDAC continues to work with the Youth Advocacy Council and benefits from their input and enthusiasm. Thanks to their guidance and expertise, MDAC has learned some best practices to effectively engage and work with youth that we hope will be helpful to other oral health stakeholders working with young people.

### **Youth Engagement/Collaboration and Youth-Adult Partnerships**

Youth engagement is a powerful way for community-based organizations and government agencies to move their work forward by including the young people they serve in responsible, challenging actions to create positive social change.

Engaging with youth helps adults understand what it is like for youth to grow up in a rapidly changing world while navigating the various systems and policies that affect their lives every day. Collaborating with and incorporating the expertise of youth is a strategy and best practice that improves the effectiveness of organizations, programs, and policies.

Maya Matava of Wicomico County, a first year member of the Youth Advisory Council, shared why youth engagement is important. "If youth are your constituents, they deserve to be fairly heard and represented, in the same way that a group designed to benefit adults would consult adults. It is impossible to fully do what is best for a young person without ever once asking them what they really need."

Youth engagement is most successful when it is authentic and supported by youth-adult partnerships. But what makes the engagement "authentic"?

Agencies, organizations, and boards have struggled to authentically engage and create decision-making positions for young people, particularly when adults and youth have pre-existing attitudes that can affect their ability to work together as equal partners.

In the early 1980s, sociologist William Lofquist challenged adults to rethink how they view and work with young people. Lofquist developed the Spectrum of Adult Attitudes, which places attitudes towards young people into three categories:





These attitudes influence the effectiveness of youth-adult partnerships. It is critical to address these attitudes to create an environment in which authentic youth voice and engagement can thrive.

Fostering authentic youth engagement and collaboration thrives when adults listen, respect, and engage young people in meaningful programs and activities. Zahra Allidina, a first year member from Howard County, said authentic engagement happens when she is able to "freely state my ideas and opinions and when I am considered an equal partner/stakeholder."

It takes time for adults and youth to fully embrace and create a culture and environment that will foster authentic youth engagement. Adults and youth need to feel comfortable with one another, agree on areas of importance, and to come to decisions acceptable to both partners. While the idea is simple and the process can be laborious, the benefits of ensuring authentic youth voice and participation are invaluable for all.

The [Maryland Youth Advisory Council](#) was established through the State legislature to ensure that Maryland youth ages 14 to 22 are given the opportunity to provide feedback and recommendations regarding public policies and programs that affect their future and to take a leadership role in creating meaningful change. These young advocates and leaders address relevant issues and influence legislation, spread public awareness, and serve as a liaison between youth and policymakers. Council members are appointed by the Governor, the President of the Maryland Senate, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and through the Governor's Office for Children.

**"My health plan doesn't cover dental, so I enrolled my teeth as 32 dependents, each needing a complete physical once a year."**

*- Robert Brault, Writer*

## NEWS

[2019 Legislative Wins Set Stage for Expanded Access to Oral Health Care](#)

[Howard County Faces Stark Racial Health Disparities, New Report Finds](#)

[Six in Ten Medical Tourists Travel Outside the U.S. for Dental Care, According to eHealth Survey](#)

[What Does Fluoride Actually Do for Your Oral Health?](#)

## MD ADULT DENTAL PILOT PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

[Getting Stakeholders Involved Can Be Key to Passing Legislation](#)

[Surgeon General Releases First Report Focused on Smoking Cessation in 30 Years](#)

[FDA Finalizes Enforcement Policy on Unauthorized Flavored Cartridge-Based E-Cigarettes](#)

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## ARTICLES

[Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits Increase Access and Reduce Out-of-Pocket Expenditures](#)

[Trends in Opioids Prescribed at Discharge From Emergency Departments Among Adults: United States, 2006–2017](#)

[Healthy Mouths: Why They Matter for Adults and State Budgets](#)

[Improving America's Oral Health Literacy](#)

[2020's States with the Best & Worst Dental Health](#)

[Fluoride Varnish and Silver Diamine Fluoride: A Resource Guide](#)

[Oral Health in Children: The Role of the Nurse in Community Settings](#)

[ASTDD Policy Statement: Reducing Emergency Department Utilization for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions](#)

[Dental, Vision, And Hearing Services: Access, Spending, And Coverage For Medicare Beneficiaries](#)

[Making Integration Work: Key Elements for Effective Partnerships between Physical and Behavioral Health Organizations in Medicaid](#)

[Addressing Caries Through the Lens of Social Justice, Health Equity, Human Rights](#)

[Enforcement of New Flavor Restrictions a Step Forward, but Falls Short of Protecting All Youth and Families from the Harms of Nicotine](#)

[Confronting the Nation's Oral Health Crisis](#)

[Antipoverty Impact Of Medicaid Growing With State Expansions Over Time](#)

[Trends in E-Cigarette, Cigarette, Cigar, and](#)



The Maryland Adult Dental Pilot Program is off to a terrific start! According to Maryland Medicaid, from June 1, 2019 December 31, 2019:

- 7,759 claims were submitted
- 4,160 unique members filed valid claims
- 280 members met annual \$800 cap
- 546 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,303,003.82 spent year-to-date

Note: 2019 numbers have been adjusted to reflect claims received after the first of the year for services performed in 2019.

From January 1, 2020 - February 12, 2020:

- 1,021 claims were submitted
- 814 unique members filed valid claims
- 12 members met annual \$800 cap
- 281 unique providers submitted claims
- \$173,182.00 spent year-to-date

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## 2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS

The image shows the cover of a report titled "Maryland Oral Health Plan 2018 - 2023". The cover features a collage of diverse people of various ages and ethnicities. Below the title, it says "Framework to Improve the Oral Health of All Marylanders". At the bottom, the logo for the "Maryland Dental Action Coalition" is visible.

Maryland Oral Health Plan  
2018 - 2023

Framework to Improve  
the Oral Health of All  
Marylanders

Maryland Dental  
Action Coalition

[Smokeless Tobacco Use Among US Adolescent Cohorts, 2014–2018](#)

[Salud America! Health Equity Report Card](#)

[Maryland: Aligning Statewide Implementation of the National Diabetes Prevention Program](#)

[Supporting the Non-Traditional Health Care Workforce: Community Health Workers and Promotores](#)

[Recognizing and Sustaining the Value of Community Health Workers and Promotores](#)

[Achieving Health Equity in Preventive Services](#)

[Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement](#)

[Oral Health Legislation 2019: Recap and Refocus](#)

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## EVENTS

[National Mobile Dentistry Conference, February 28-29, 2020](#)

[Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Annual Conference, March 21-24, 2020](#)

[ASA Aging in America Conference - March 24-27, 2020](#)

[Special Care Dentistry Association Annual Meeting, April 3-5, 2020](#)

[National Oral Health Conference, April 6-8, 2020](#)

[The 8th Annual Public Health Research at Maryland, April 7, 2020](#)

[ADHA Annual Conference 2020, June 12-14, 2020](#)

[National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing & Media, August 10-12, 2020](#)

[Health Literacy in Action Conference, October 18-20, 2020](#)

[2020 National Network for Oral Health Access Conference, October 25-28, 2020](#)

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 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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## PODCASTS

[The Doctor Is In - Episode Six: Vaping & Teen Health](#)

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## VIDEOS

## ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

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### ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE

#### Medicaid

[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

[Adding a Dental Benefit to Medicare: Addressing Racial Disparities](#)

[Policy Options for Improving Dental Coverage for People on Medicare](#)

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

#### Policy

[Coverage Brief: Improving Access to Oral Health Care in Pregnancy](#)

[Study: Medicaid Block Grants and Per Capita Caps Would Risk Families' Oral Health](#)

[Improving Oral Health in Maine: Key Lessons for Policy Advocates](#)

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### RURAL HEALTH

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

[Maryland Rural Health Plan](#)

[CMS Rural Health Strategy](#)

[CHRC-MRHA Maryland Rural Health Stories](#)

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### LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

### ORAL DISEASE AND INJURY PREVENTION

[Oral Health Disease Prevention Primer](#)

[Promoting Oral Health in Schools: A Resource Guide](#)

[Know the Risks: E-cigarettes and Young People](#)

[Healthy Habits for Happy Smiles](#)

[The Real Cost of Vaping: E-Cigarette Prevention Resources](#)

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

[HPV Vaccine is a Lifesaver](#)

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### ORAL HEALTH LITERACY AND EDUCATION

[Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids](#)

[Brush Up on Oral Health: Preventing Tooth Decay](#)

[Pregnancy and Oral Health](#)

[School Nurse Resources](#)

[Tiny Smiles, Give Kids a Smile Toolkit](#)

[Age 1 Dental Visit](#)

[Oral Health, Overall Health, and Learning](#)

[AAP: Protect Tiny Teeth Toolkit](#)

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### PROVIDER RESOURCES

[SAMHSA Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit: Information for Prescribers](#)

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

[OHRC Oral Health Resource Bulletin](#)

[Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care Technical Assistance Toolkit](#)



## 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. Help us continue this important work – [donate now!](#)

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

[American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\): Oral Health Prevention Primer](#)

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

[Opioids and Children and Adolescents: Information for Oral Health Professionals](#)

[Addressing Tobacco in Dental Settings: A Resource for Dental Professionals](#)

[Managing Older Adults Chairside Guide](#)

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

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



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Greg Buckler, IOM, MBA, MSM - Maryland State Dental Association

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

FOLLOW US

