

Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee Meeting Dental Update

February 22, 2016

LEGISLATION

Organized dentistry (Maryland Dental Society (MDS) and Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA) continue to be concerned about maintaining equitable representation on our State Board of Dental Examiners. Currently there is no African American or female dentist(s) serving on the Board. In addition to other apprehension, we are concerned that Senate Bill 0042, sponsored by Senator Joan Carter Conway will make the efforts to establish equity more difficult to achieve. *Requiring the dentist and dental hygienist members of the State Board of Dental Examiners to be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate, from a list of names submitted to the Governor by the Board that reflects the results of a specified balloting process; requiring a specified balloting process to be verified by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.*

Senator Joan Carter Conway convened a Dental Practice Ownership Workgroup to discuss the institution of Dental Service Organizations (DSO) in the state of Maryland without violating the Maryland Practice Act. This collaboration entertained proposed recommendations and concluded in December 2105 with organized dentistry and the DSO establishing areas of mutual consensus. Testimony will be heard on February 19, 2016, regarding the legislation that has been crafted, Senate Bill 228 and House Bill 1283 as a result of the Dental Practice Ownership Workgroup. *Requiring a dental practice to be owned, managed, and operated by a licensed dentist, subject to specified exceptions; authorizing unlicensed persons to take specified actions; authorizing the State Board of Dental Examiners to issue a cease and desist order for specified violations; altering the penalties for the unauthorized practice of dentistry; etc.*

Senate Bill 717 and House Bill 1339 - Environment - Radiation Machines - Registration Fees & Inspections sponsored by Senator Ronald Young and Delegate Karen Young are bills designed to repeal provisions of the law relating to dentistry. Organized dentistry (Maryland State Dental Association and Maryland Dental Society) worked long and hard to help enact these provisions. This legislation if passed will allow the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to set the fees for registration of radiation machines without General Assembly action, and they may impose fines if any inspection fails, with no 20 day period to make corrections. We are asking that HB 1339/SB 717 is opposed. Instead, organized dentistry is requesting that dental professionals be allowed to continue to work together with the DHMH, and the General Assembly to provide the best dental care for the citizens Maryland without imposing these potentially devastating regulations on our profession. We ask that these bills be opposed to avoid the dismantling our productive work together. *Requiring the Department of the Environment to adopt specified regulations for licensing and registration associated with radiation machines; requiring the fee schedule adopted by the Department of the Environment for the registration of radiation machines and other sources of radiation to be uniform within specified classes of radiation sources; repealing provisions of law that, for radiation machines in dental offices or facilities, establish specified maximum registration fees; etc.*

ORGANIZED DENTISTRY

The **Maryland State Dental Association's** Chesapeake Dental Conference will be held from September 23rd through the 25th in Ocean City, Maryland.

The **Children's Oral Health Institute (COHI)** celebrates its 20th year in 2016. The mementos being provided throughout the year, including the highlighter everyone is receiving today addresses the continued commitment to advance oral health education in Maryland and around the country.

Listed below by date are some of the 2015 achievements of the COHI the most celebrated of which is the "certification" of 2012 oral health education legislation by Governor Lawrence Hogan on December 1, 2015. This is an achievement that is shared by the Maryland Dental Society, Maryland State Dental Association, Maryland Academy of General Dentistry, Maryland's Office of Oral Health, Maryland Dental Hygiene Association and the University of Maryland. Senate Bill 827 sponsored by Senator Joan Carter Conway in 2012 was visionary. This Bill, cross filed as House Bill 1401, was sponsored by Delegate Nathaniel Oaks.

- **On February 26, 2015** the COHI met with Dr. Craig Williams, Chief of Staff to Governor Hogan to discuss the 2012 Oral Health Education: Certification & Monitoring Law and potential collaborations to help implement oral health education in Maryland schools. COHI initiatives were discussed, including, the *Lessons in a Lunch Box* program, *Code Red*, and *Project Clean Toothbrush*. Samples were provided.
- **July 22, 2015** - COHI and Procter & Gamble's dentalcare.com teamed up to deliver valuable oral health resources for the classroom in time for the 2015-2016 school year. The partnership has developed an online tool called the *K-12 Educators' Repository*. It supports teacher lesson plans and includes materials from Maryland's Office of Oral Health website. For more information and to access K-12 Educators' Repository, visit: k-12educatorsrepository.com.
- **September 24, 2015** - the K -12 Health Repository for Educators was presented to Maryland's 35 Educational Specialist, Health and Physical Education at the request of Maryland State Department of Education. Superintendent, Dr. Lillian Lowery. The continued goal of the utilization of the health education resource is to help to certify that oral health education is being taught in our state.
- **On December 1, 2015** The Maryland State Department of Education submitted the required Oral Health Report that included the certifications from the local school systems. Summary of the Oral Health Education in Maryland's Local School System (MSAR #9219). *Mission Accomplished in Maryland — Oral health education certified as required by state law.*

Finally, the signature program of COHI, *Lessons in a Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks®* has reached 35,000 children in 40 states by the end of the 2016 National Children's Dental Health Month celebration. We are especially proud because this initiative was developed and piloted in 2008 in our great state at 14 elementary schools.

In June, Under Armour assisted COHI with packaging of the dental carrot cases for the *Lessons in a Lunch Box* program through use of their employee workforce and the Locus Point facility. *Under Armour Supports The Lessons In A Lunch Box Program Through Volunteerism.*

For more information about the COHI and the above reference press releases, please visit www.mycohi.org.

Respectively submitted,



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Member
Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee Meeting

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