Achieving Oral Health Services for Older Adults in Medicaid and Medicare
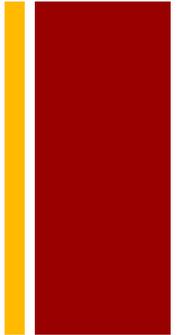
Older Adults' Conference
June 2, 2017
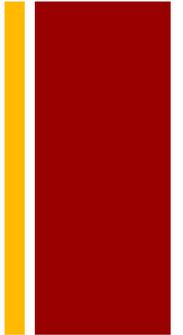
Maryland Dental Action Coalition

About MDAC

The mission of the Maryland Dental Action Coalition is to develop and maintain a statewide partnership of individuals and organizations working together to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care.

MDAC achieves its mission by working collaboratively with partners throughout the state

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Untreated Oral Health Disease - Costly Health Disparity

- **14.1% of Maryland's population is 65+ years of age**
  - **848,319 people**
  - **52% female and 48% male**

- **Tooth loss is highest among older adults, African-Americans, low income people & adults with lower education levels**
  - **More than 1/3 of low income elderly have lost all their teeth**
  - **72% of tooth loss occurs to adults 65+**

- **Poor oral health increases the risk of chronic disease such as diabetes and heart disease**

- **Poor oral heath can result in lost workdays and unemployment**

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Oral Health Care for Low Income Adults - Fragile Safety Net

- **MD Medicaid Program does not include oral health care for adults**
  - **Most MD MCOs offer a limited oral health benefit**

- **Emergency departments provide emergent care for "oral health pain"**
  - **EDs do not treat causation of oral health pain**
    - **Refer patients to community-based provider**
  - **Community-based oral health resources limited**
    - **Local community "oral health access" programs**
    - **Health Department oral health programs**
    - **Missions of Mercy**
    - **UM School of Dentistry**
    - **Private practitioners; reduced fees/free care**
    - **FQHC oral health services/sliding fee scale**

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Adults Seeking Access to Oral Health Care

State Medicaid Coverage of Adult Dental Benefits by Type of Beneficiary Population (Base or Expansion)

Dental Benefits Category	Offered to Medicaid Base Population	Offered to Medicaid Expansion Population
No Dental Benefits	4 states: AL, **AZ, DE**, TN	3 states: DE, AZ, ND
Emergency-Only	15 states: FL, GA, **HI**, ME, MD, MS, MO, **MT**, **NV**, **NH**, OK, TX, UT, **WV**, ID	6 states: HI, MD, NV, NH, MT, WV
Limited	17 states: **AR, CO, DC, IL, IN**, KS, **KY**, LA, **MI, MN**, NE, **PA**, SC, SD, **VT**, VA, WY	10 states: AR, CO, DC, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, PA, VT
Extensive	15 states: AK, **CA, CT, IA, MA, NJ, NM, NY**, NC, **ND, OH, OR, RI, WA**, WI	11 states: CA, CT, IA, MA, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OR, RI, WA

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Adding Adult Oral Health Services Makes Sense

- **Access to oral health care = improved oral health = improved overall health**

- **Reduced emergency department expenditures**

- **Better access to services for pregnant women post-delivery**

- **Economic & societal benefits**
  - **Improved self confidence/esteem**
  - **Better nutrition**
  - **Employment**
  - **Reduce absenteeism**
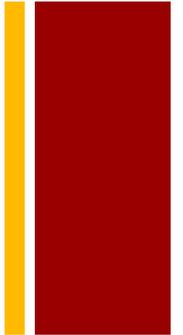
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MDAC at Work

- **Continue to strengthen & build the Coalition**

- **Passage of SB169 (including HB1158)**

- **Emergency Department Use study**

- **Publish Maryland Oral Health Plan (MOHP)**

- **Work with partners throughout MD to build groundswell of support to add adult oral health services to Medicaid**

- **Work with MD Congressional delegation to educate & build support for adding oral health benefits to Medicare**

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Next Steps - Collaborate to Succeed

- **Continue to meet with people throughout MD to learn about local efforts to provide oral health services for adults/older adults**
- **Encourage individuals & organizations to join MDAC, partnering with us to ensure adult oral health services are added to the Medicaid benefit**
- **Publish the Maryland Oral Health Plan in August 2017**
    - **MOHP is a broad framework & a living document**
    - **Meet with local communities to collaboratively develop strategies for achieving MOHP goals**
- **Be active participants in the implementation of adult oral health services to address workforce challenges, ensure network adequacy & timely access to services**

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Join MDAC

Please join the Maryland Dental Action Coalition to lend your expertise, energy & support to ensuring that all Marylanders have access to high quality, cost effective oral health care.

Call Dr. Kathy Hayes at 410-312-5456 to join us in this important endeavor.

Thank You

Salliann Alborn, Board Chair, MDAC

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