



Minutes from the Dental Advisory Committee (DAC)
DMAS 11AM – 1PM
May 15, 2009

DAC Members Present	
Dr. Carl Atkins	Ms. Linda S. Bohanon
Dr. Terry Dickinson	Dr. Bhavna Shroff
Dr. David Strange	Dr. Neil Morrison
Dr. Girish Banaji	Mr. Neal Graham
Dr. Carolyn Kelly	Dr. Frank Farrington
Dr. Tegwyn Brickhouse	Mr. Chuck Duvall
Dr. John Unkel	Dr. David Hamer
Dr. Karen Day	Dr. Zachary Hairston
Dr. Randy Adams	Dr. John Ashby
Dr. Joe Paget, Jr.	Dr. Lynn Browder
DAC Members Absent	
Dr. Ivan Schiff	Dr. Cynthia Southern
DMAS Attendees	
Patrick Finnerty	Sandra Brown
Cheryl Roberts	Lisa Bilik
Bryan Tomlinson	Pat Bryant
Dr. Marjorie Chema	Donna Garrett
Doral Attendees	
Cheryl Harris	Kristen Gilliam
Bridget Hengle	
Other Attendees	
Sarah Holland, VHCF	Patrina Jones, The Vectre Corporation
Laura Givens, VDA	

Welcome

Mr. Finnerty opened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and thanked everyone for attending. Introductions were made. Mr. Finnerty welcomed and introduced a new Committee member, Dr. Carolyn Kelly, Dental Director at Hiram Davis Medical Center.

Minutes from the 11/21/08 meeting were approved as written.

Program Updates

Mr. Finnerty provided the following program updates:

- The American Dental Association sponsored an Oral Health Summit in March 2009, at the American Dental Association headquarters in Chicago. Mr. Finnerty and Dr. Dickinson attended the meeting where 150 stakeholders, including dentists, other levels of dental providers, executive directors, policy makers, advocacy groups and non-dental providers, gathered for two and a half days to establish a national strategy for improving access to dental care for underserved populations. Dr. Ron Tanskerley, President Elect of the American Dental Association, and a participating *Smiles For Children* provider, was also present at the meeting. The main themes that emerged from the meeting were: (1) collaboration between dental and medical communities; (2) workforce development strategies; (3) strengthening dental delivery systems; (4) the dental public health infrastructure; (5) population based prevention strategies; and, (6) improving oral health literacy. An on-going Steering Committee is currently being formed to continue the work initiated at the summit. The event was described as historic for the American Dental Association.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) held its first Town Hall Meeting on Oral Health at the CMS headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland in April 2009. The meeting was broadcast through a nationwide webcast. Mr. Finnerty and Dr. Dickinson were invited to present on the success of Virginia's *Smiles For Children* program. The presentation focused on how a partnership between state government and the dental provider community could achieve improved access to dental care. Two other states presented different dental program models. Mr. Finnerty acknowledged the Committee's work in contributing to Virginia's success.
- Mr. Finnerty provided an update on the Oral Health Technical Advisory Group which is sponsored by CMS and seeks to foster communication between states on ways to improve oral health. The group has met several times in the last few months and has worked on a set of questions and answers regarding the Medicaid benefit. The group has also had joint meetings with the Quality Technical Advisory Group. The Oral Health Technical Advisory Group demonstrates the commitment of CMS to address oral health issues in Medicaid.
- Mr. Finnerty informed the Committee of a budget action involving deferred payment of claims. According to the Appropriations Act, there will be a one-time cost savings measure that will delay payment for one week to all Medicaid fee-for-service providers, regardless of provider type. Therefore, the July 24th dental claim payment will be paid on July 1, moving the payment into the 2010 state fiscal year budget. This action was described as a budgetary savings and not a monetary savings. A Medicaid Memo was sent to Medicaid providers and Doral will send a letter to all the *Smiles For Children* providers. Mr. Finnerty asked the Committee for recommended cost savings efficiencies for discussion at the next Committee meeting along with proposals from Doral. A Subcommittee was formed to review the proposed recommendations. Members will include Dr. John Ashby, Dr. Lynn Browder, Dr. Carl Atkins, Dr. Carolyn Kelly, and Dr. Terry Dickinson.

- Sandra Brown reported the Virginians for Improved Access to Dental Care Coalition is planning to host a Dental Summit in the fall 2009. The meeting will be a follow-up to the 2003 Dental Summit where a five-year state oral health plan was established. Many goals have been met, but there are continued dental health issues in Virginia that need to be addressed. Dr. Day commented on the strides and knowledge gained since 2003 and highlighted the need to update the state oral health plan. Interest and participation were solicited from the Committee.

Anesthesia Services in Dental Practices

Dr. Dickinson reported receiving a call from a medical anesthesiologist inquiring about providing anesthesia services in the dental office. Discussion occurred regarding the disparity between the medical and dental reimbursement rates associated with such services. Comments were made regarding required equipment and staff in the hospital setting versus an outpatient dental office and who incurs the cost of such services on a per case basis. Limited access to operating room time in hospitals in different areas of the state was discussed as a potential barrier to necessary dental care. Mr. Finnerty expressed desire to study the problems related to this issue and address the problems within the authority of the Agency. Cheryl Roberts recommended a Subcommittee be formed to address concerns. Committee members will include Dr. Carolyn Kelly, Dr. Carl Atkins, Dr. John Unkel, Dr. Girish Banaji and Dr. Neil Morrison.

Mobile Dental Clinics

Discussion occurred regarding mobile dental clinics in Virginia. Regulations pertaining to mobile dental clinics operating in Virginia are being reviewed by the Virginia Board of Dentistry. Concerns were voiced regarding continuity of care when patients receive preventive dental services without a confirmed referral for restorative services. Services may also be unnecessarily duplicated. Mr. Finnerty committed the Agency to track related activities by the Virginia Board of Dentistry, whose next meeting is June 12. A DMAS representative will attend the meeting. Information regarding any legislative changes will be sent to the Committee. A follow-up discussion on the impact of any legislative changes to the dental program is planned.

Broken Appointment Pilot Project

Dr. David Strange provided an update on a pilot project, in partnership with DMAS that is currently underway at Kool Smiles to improve the show-rate in the Virginia clinics. Kool Smiles has technical resources to track missed appointments and the impact of selected interventions to help patients keep appointments. Outcomes resulting from implemented best practices will be shared with DMAS and the Committee at the next meeting.

Smiles For Children Program Report

Cheryl Harris, Doral Virginia Project Director, presented a Power Point presentation that can be accessed in its entirety at www.dmas.virginia.gov under the *Smiles For Children* link. Covered topics were utilization, network growth, network specialists, community work and implementation of Electronic Claims Transfer.

Other Business/Questions & Answers

A comment was made that Doral's website performs slowly. Cheryl Harris agreed to report complaints to the Doral corporate office. Ms. Harris suggested providers call Doral and speak with a representative should they experience difficulty verifying eligibility via the website.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

The date for the next DAC meeting is to be determined. Sandy Brown will poll DAC members regarding their availability and potential dates.

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