

Agenda
Partnership for Access To Healthcare (PATH)

August 29, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Dental Access Crisis Forum

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Carilion New River Valley Medical Center
Fireside Conference Room (Hybrid Meeting)

Present

Vicky Collins
Noelle Bissell
Michelle Brauns
Rhonda Seltz
Wendy Welch
Laura Blevins
Rebecca Lord

Cayla Trueheart
Chase Flynn
Ashley Hash
Molly Roberts
Sarah Frazier
Kathleen Porter
Pamela Ray

Katelyn Melton
Stephanie Bryson
Bernard Kadio
Kinsey Weaver
Holly Lesko
Angie Hall
Kayleigh Hall

Online

Robert Graham
Rose Manuel
Courtney McGuire
Anna Champion

PATH Meeting

***Molly Roberts, Community Benefit Manager/Community Health and Development, Carilion—
Community Health Assessment Update***

Molly announced that the final report for the FY22-FY24 Community Health Assessment will be released at the end of September. She went on to explain the Community Health Assessment process and shared some of the accomplishments since the 2021 assessment:

- They have seen 101 health education interventions
- 6,875 people have been served through health education interventions
- \$103,972 has been awarded in community grants

The priority health outcomes in the NRV in no particular order are:

- Chronic Disease (overweight/obesity, hypertension)
- Mental Health and Substance Use (mental health challenges, substance use)
- Injury/Violence (interpersonal violence)
- Dental Health
- Sexual Health

Taking off social determinants allowed space for interpersonal and sexual health come to the top. For the specific data on these topics, please see the NRV CHA PowerPoint. She indicated that access to care is not what it should be and how that showed up in the survey. Molly suggested that PATH take a deep dive into access for each identified health outcome priority area in future meetings.

The mission of PATH is to maximize access to healthcare across the New River Valley for all.

Questions asked: How reflective of minority responses to the CHA? They saw a noticeable shift from older white females (the norm in the past). They continue to identify better ways to collect responses; they held listening sessions at the Community Health Center and To Our House.

Can Wythe County programs apply for Carilion grants? Yes.

Noelle Bissell, MD, Health Director and Cayla Trueheart, Population Health Planning and Improvement Coordinator, New River Health District—Harm Reduction Efforts

Cayla spoke about New River Health District's Rise Above harm reduction program. The program was built using SAMSAH's framework and is led by individuals who have lived experiences. She talked about the 6 pillars and the 12 principles of harm reduction; details can be found on the Rise Above OAA PowerPoint. She explained why syringe service programs are important and how those involved in SSPs are 5 times more likely to enter substance use treatment. The Rise Above staff provide services everyday across the NRV and offer everything from free Naloxone kits and harm reduction counseling to safe use, safe sex, and wound care kits. They offer peer support, resource navigation, and referrals/linkages to treatment as well as communicable disease testing.

Since the program's inception, they have had 187 participants and 592 total visits since January 2024. Cayla shared a data breakdown by county/city. They have had participants report witnessing 213 overdoses, 116 of which had been reversed (those numbers are much higher as they are only made aware when they are reported). As of August 28th, over 20,000 syringes have been distributed and 17,000 collected. She also mentioned that they will have a new mobile unit in the coming months that will allow them to start offering MAT services with a provider on board.

Next PATH Meeting: TBD

Any questions, comments, or suggestions for future meetings should be directed to: rebecca.lord@vdh.virginia.gov

THANK YOU
Carilion NRV Medical Center for hosting us and providing lunch!

The mission of PATH is to maximize access to healthcare across the New River Valley for all.

Dental Access Crisis Forum

Minutes

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Carilion New River Valley Medical Center
Fireside Conference Room (Hybrid Meeting)

Present

Vicky Collins	Cayla Trueheart	Katelyn Melton
Nolle Bissell	Chase Flynn	Stephanie Bryson
Michelle Brauns	Ashley Hash	Bernard Kadio
Rhonda Seltz	Molly Roberts	Kinsey Weaver
Wendy Welch	Sarah Frazier	Holly Lesko
Laura Blevins	Kathleen Porter	Angie Hall
Rebecca Lord	Pamela Ray	Kayleigh Hall

Online

Carol Peters	Robert Graham	Bernard Kadio
Jolee Crawford	Melanie King	Kristie Williams
Dr. Scott Miller	Kristie Quesinberry	Tim Whited
Justin Gist	Victoria Richardson	A. Street
Kristen Gilliam	Jennifer Jolliffe	

Dental Access Crisis Forum

Rhonda Seltz, Navigator, Virginia Poverty Law Center, ENROLL Virginia!—Welcome and Introductions

Rhonda introduced all of the guest speakers and thanked everyone for taking the time to discuss the dental access burden across the NRV. She shared a special thanks to Angie Hall from Delegate Chris Obenshain's office, Kayleigh Hall from Senator Travis Hackworth's office, Laura Blevins from Senator's Tim Kane's office, and candidate Karen Baker from the 9th District.

Michelle Brauns, CEO, Community Health Center of the New River Valley—Forum Purpose and Goals

Michelle shared that the Community Health Center's current waitlist stands at 1,865 and with 5 dentists, they cannot keep up with the demand. She mentioned that these issues are occurring at both the national and state levels and how we need to address the division between medical and dental health. Michelle announced that the CHC has hired a pediatric dentist who will start in October and will be working in both the Christiansburg office and the Pulaski County school clinic.

New River Community Action, Head Start—Children's Dental Challenges

Carol Peters, Case Manager Supervisor and Jolee Crawford, Registered Nurse with Community Action Head Start spoke about the CHIP (Comprehensive Health Investment Project) in-home program and shared what they are seeing regarding children's dental care in the community. The purpose of CHIP is to assist low-income families with children through age 6 and pregnant women with access to medical and dental services. Carol shared that they struggling to find dentists/pediatric dentists when care is needed for a child;

oftentimes they have to be placed on waiting lists that are 3-4 months out. She mentioned that by the time a child is enrolled in Medicaid, they typically have severe issues and are referred to Roanoke for surgery.

Carol listed some statistics from Head Start that was shared from last school year:

- 32% of their children were without dental home
- 75% of those without a dental home had preventative care service or check up during the school year
- 36% of the children who needed a dental checkup during the school year were found to need further dental treatment which can range from filling cavities to having teeth pulled
- 27% of children who needed treatment received it

Jolee talked about the declining number of dentists accepting Medicaid, pediatric dentists not wanting to start seeing children until age 3, and the inability of sending families out of the area for care/treatment due to transportation issues. She shared that dental health is a topic of conversation during home visits for both children and parents and how often times parents will look to start dental services once children begin receiving care.

Kristen Gilliam, Associate Director, Client Engagement, Cardinal Care Smiles—DentaQuest Efforts to Improve Dental Access for Children and Adults

Kristen talked about how important recruitment is to a network and how things have changed since the early 2000s when she first began. As of the end of July 2024, there are 2,198 dentists in the network across Virginia and in the SWVA there have been 176 network validations, 122 virtual office visits, and 72 provider trainings. More data can be found in the VA CCS Network PowerPoint.

Kristen mentioned that the Adult Validation Project started back in April to address discrepancies in their directory as well as reaching out to offices to re-capture providers; specifically, with those who have termed prior to the fee schedule increase (30%) and with those who are not currently par with Medicaid. Some of the provider concerns she listed as to why they will not accept adults are: broken appointments and capacity issues.

She shared mobile providers services nursing home facilities and stated that Samules Noble Dental PLLC is based in Virginia Beach, but they are willing to travel if there is need and mentioned Paths Community Dental Clinic and Montgomery CHC as being key provider groups in the NRV. She talked about their future goals and recruitment targets.

Justin Gist, Dental Program Manager, Department of Medical Assistance Services—Department of Medical Assistance Services: Outcomes of added dental benefits to Medicaid since July 2021

Justin highlighted the 30% then 3% fee increase (around 85% of what commercial pays) but stated that fees are not the main concern for providers not accepting Medicaid. He mentioned that they are working on addressing the other issues which includes debunking the Medicaid stigma.

Dr. Scott Miller, Board of Directors, Virginia Dental Association Foundation—Virginia Dental Association: VDA's Current Focus and Mission of Mercy Opportunities

Dr. Miller first shared that the Mission of Mercy program that was created in 2000 by Dr. Terry Dickenson has held 135 missions, served more than 71,000 Virginians, and has provided free dental care valued at more than \$51 million. After volunteering at different Remote Area Medical (RAM) and MOM events and

seeing patients in need, Dr. Miller made it his personal mission to provide an equitable clinic environment for the uninsured, underinsured, and underserved on a resident/sliding fee scale model.

The Appalachian Highland Community Dental Center is a 501(C)(3) non-profit community dental clinic located in Abingdon, VA, to provide oral health care to uninsured and recover program adults in SWVA. They are Partnered with Ballad Health's Johnston Memorial Hospital's Advance Education in General Dentistry Program, educating residents, encouraging dentists to move to the region, and providing direct care to some of the most vulnerable patients in the nation on a sliding fee scale. They treat patients M-F 8am-5pm with daily emergency appointments available. When adult dental Medicaid expanded in 2012, over 78,000 people southwest of Roanoke became covered; around 80% of their patients have adult dental Medicaid coverage. They have seen 23,125 patients since opening in March 2020. The AHCDC is accepting adult Medicaid patients with a current waitlist of 574 (from across all of SWVA).

Dr. Miller shared a staggering statistic: there are only 29 dentists to 100,000 people in SWVA whereas across the Commonwealth of Virginia, there are 63 dentists to 100,000 people. More data points can be found on the SWVA Dental Forum slides.

Rhonda Seltz and Michelle Brauns—What Can the New River Valley Community Do? Group Discussion on Future Efforts

Rhonda shared some recent policy updates including:

- an increased rate in dental reimbursement as well as expanded coverage
- Delegate Carr put in three dental reimbursement budget amendments this year
- Senator Pillion is a dentist in SWVA and had been very supportive in this effort
- a budget amendment that would allow state licensed dentists to practice in other states (didn't make the final budget)
- DMAS extended the age limitation for kids receiving fluoride varnish from non-dental providers from 3-5 years of age.

She shared different solutions we could look into from increasing dental schools and dental educators to planning a MOM event locally or assisting in transporting residents to MOM events happening elsewhere to looking more into home visiting teams and schools. There was some discussion on Dental Therapists not being able to practice in the state of Virginia and how having them as an option in the future could alleviate some of the pressure of this crisis; Dental Assistants can do almost everything a Dentist can do but require supervision by a licensed Dentist.

THANK YOU
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