

# DRAFT

Minutes from the Dental Advisory Committee (DAC)  
DMAS 11AM – 1PM  
April 14, 2006

DAC Members Present	DAC Members Absent
Dr. Ivan Schiff	Dr. John Unkel
Dr. Fred Hamer	Dr. Karen Day
Dr. Frank Farrington	Dr. Lynn Browder
Dr. Joe Paget, Jr.	Dr. Ann McDonald
Dr. Girish Banaji	Mr. Neal Graham
Dr. Carl Atkins	Dr. Vicki Tibbs
Dr. Zachary Hairston	Dr. Randy Adams
Dr. Tegwyn Brickhouse	Dr. Neil Morrison
Dr. Cynthia Southern	
Dr. Kristine Enright	
Dr. Terry Dickinson	
Ms. Linda S. Bohanon	
Mr. Chuck Duvall	

DMAS Attendees	Doral Attendees
Pat Finnerty	Cheryl Harris
Bryan Tomlinson	Ana Perez
Tom Edicola	Kristen Fincher
Dr. Steve Riggs	Lori Howley
Sandy Brown	
Lisa Bilik	
Merinda Battle	
Tammy Driscoll	

## Welcome/Introductions

Mr. Finnerty opened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and introductions were made. Minutes from the December 2, 2005 meeting were voted on and approved as written.

## Updates

### 2006 General Assembly

Mr. Finnerty reported there was minimal activity related to the dental services during the 2006 General Assembly session as there had been significant activity last year to achieve the increased funding for dental fees. He reported that the funding for the program is stable at this time. He stated that even though there were no specific activities that pertained to dental this year, there were some outcomes of the session to bring to the Committee's attention.

Mr. Finnerty referenced the copy of the House Bill 758 in the meeting packet and spoke to the importance of this bill that was introduced and passed by the 2006 General Assembly, which is one of the Medicaid Reform Bills. He reported that the agency worked with the patron of the bill and the final version of the bill directs the agency to convene a Medicaid Revitalization Committee in order to review the issues listed in the bill.

Mr. Finnerty reported that DMAS provided the Senate Finance Committee an assessment of the impact that the recent dental fee increase had on dentists participating in the Medicaid dental program. The Senate Finance Committee used the DMAS dental assessment to explain and justify the approach they are taking with increasing physician reimbursement.

Dr. Hamer commented that since being a dentist and serving on this board, he now can say that no child in his area was left behind as far as Medicaid dental care. He credited this success to Mr. Finnerty. Mr. Finnerty responded that it took a team to make this happen and listed the Governor, the General Assembly and the DMAS staff. He included the DAC members who voted in the last meeting to increase the specialty fees to help improve access to the specialty benefits of the program. He thanked the DAC and Dr. Hamer for his comments.

*Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS): Oral Health Access Grant*

Mr. Finnerty reported that the agency had applied for this grant and a group of people are working on this project. A meeting was held a couple of weeks ago to work on three major goals. Mr. Finnerty reported that the three areas of focus are: 1) effective case management to decrease the no show rate, 2) increase the number of specialists in the network and 3) increase in oral health care for women in Medicaid/FAMIS, under age 21, that are of childbearing age or pregnant to improve birth outcomes. Mr. Finnerty stated that the grant was going well.

Mr. Finnerty stated the National Oral Health Conference was to be held in Little Rock in about two weeks. The CHCS was asked to name three states that they think have approached this issue the best and they have nominated Virginia. Mr. Finnerty is going to be on a presentation panel with two other states to discuss what DMAS is doing. Mr. Finnerty informed the committee that this was a technical grant and no money is attached to it. The agency continues to work on the grant and is learning from it.

Dr. Paget asked that Mr. Finnerty comment on the privately owned operations that are opening across the state, Small Smiles and Kool Smiles. He commented that in Blacksburg, people are getting confused between these organizations and *Smiles for Children*. Mr. Finnerty replied that the message from the agency is that as long as the operations are providing quality care then we are thrilled to have them. He reported there have been several meetings with individuals from these two groups. He stated that he asked the individuals from Small Smiles and Kool Smiles to get in touch with Bob Nebiker to ensure that they are in compliance with the Board of Dentistry regulations.

The organizations have complied with this request and no problems have been reported. The agency role is to make sure that the clinics are providing quality dentistry to children in the State of Virginia.

### **Rate Increase for May 2006**

Sandy Brown stated that in the last meeting, the DAC members decided to apply the 2% remaining funds to certain specialty codes. The fee increases for these codes become effective May 1, 2006. Ms. Brown stated letters were being mailed today to notify all Virginia dentists about the increases. All of the information is being sent in one Virginia Dental Association envelope. Copies of the letters were available in the meeting packets and were discussed. Copies of the letters are also posted on the DMAS website under the *Smiles for Children* link.

Mr. Finnerty suggested that a letter specifically to Oral Surgeons be sent as a follow up to the letters being mailed today. The second letter would be brief, to reiterate the importance of their participation in the program.

### **Smiles for Children Presentation**

Cheryl Harris from Doral presented a Power Point presentation which can be accessed in its entirety at [www.dmas.virginia.gov](http://www.dmas.virginia.gov) under the *Smiles for Children* link. The following areas were reviewed in the presentation: Network Recruitment, Provider Training, Claims Processing, Call Center, Member Outreach, and Program Enhancements.

### **Questions and Answers**

Question: Does Doral utilize licensed Out-of-State providers who do not have a VA License; and is there a radius from the Virginia border where these providers can practice?

Answer: Doral/DMAS will research and respond back to the group.

Question: Has utilization increased?

Answer: Preliminary data is showing an upward trend in utilization. Ms. Harris explained that due to the claim lag, utilization results are impacted. Some year end utilization data will be presented at the next DAC meeting.

Bryan Tomlinson commented that the Doral Electronic Fund Transfer enhancement was in line with the goals and direction of Medicaid reform initiatives.

Mr. Tomlinson also commented that LogistiCare is working to increase the use of public transit and identify where dental offices are located along a fixed public transit route. This should assist with access issues. A comment was made in response that there are currently lots of problems with transportation providers and that this was good to hear.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next DAC meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2006 from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the DMAS Boardroom.