

Virtual Medicaid Townhalls

Hosted by Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Rhode Island Dental Association, and Rhode Island Department of Health



Rhode Island
DENTAL ASSOCIATION

ADA.



Session 1: Introduction to Being a Medicaid Dental Provider and Overview of new Community and Home-Based Oral Healthcare Pilot

November 21, 2022

Summary

1. Speakers

- a. James Rajotte, MS – Director of Strategy and Innovation, Executive Office of Health & Human Services (EOHHS)
- b. Samuel Zwetchkenbaum, DDS, MPH – Medicaid Dental Director, EOHHS
- c. Christy Durant, Esq – Executive Director, RI Dental Association
- d. Sophie Asah, MPH – Project Manager, EOHHS
- e. Jane Grover, DDS, MPH – Senior Director, Council on Access, Prevention, & Interprofessional Relations at the American Dental Association (ADA)
- f. Jessica Meeske, DDS, MS – Pediatric Dental Specialists of Greater Nebraska

This session provides an overview of the Dental Medicaid Program, addresses concerns about participating as a provider and gives insight from dentists who are currently enrolled in the Medicaid program in RI and other states. The speakers discuss why a dental provider should participate and how they can continue to have a successful practice while accepting Medicaid patients. The Town Hall ends with background on Community Health Workers (CHWs) and how they may be utilized in a dental setting, including in a Community and Home-Based Oral Healthcare Pilot that is being launched by EOHHS.

Session 2: Societal Impact of Oral Care Services and How Medicaid Dental Providers Can Help

December 5, 2022

Summary

1. Speakers

- a. Samuel Zwetchkenbaum, DDS, MPH – Medicaid Dental Director, EOHHS
- b. Christy Durant, Esq – Executive Director, RI Dental Association
- c. Sophie Asah, MPH – Project Manager, EOHHS
- d. Omar Reyes, MA – Director of Ault Programs & Policies, RI Office of Postsecondary Commissioner (RIOPC)

This session includes information about the RI Reconnect Program and how providing dental care to a person can impact their total body, help and assist with personal and professional growth, as well as an introduction to Medicaid policies and the newly developed toolkit for providers. The Town Hall also covers how best to utilize Public Health Dental Hygienists (PHDHs) and Community Health Workers (CHWs) in a practice and a deep dive into the Community and Home-Based Oral Healthcare Pilot that will be launching in 2023.

Additional Resource

- I. Video – [How TriCounty Used a Community Health Worker to Improve No Show Rates](#)

Session 3: What's Next – How to Become a Medicaid Provider and Expand Your Practice to Help Rhode Islanders

December 19, 2022

Summary

1. Speakers

- g. Kristin Sousa – Director, Rhode Island Medicaid Program
- h. Samuel Zwetchkenbaum, DDS, MPH – Medicaid Dental Director, Executive Office of Health & Human Services (EOHHS)
- i. Sophie Asah, MPH – Project Manager, EOHHS
- j. Christy Durant, Esq – Executive Director, Rhode Island Dental Association (RIDA)
- k. Rick Brooks – Director, Healthcare Workforce Transformation, EOHHS
- l. Andrea Rohrer – Provider Representative for Rhode Island Medicaid, Gainwell Technologies
- m. Melanie Robinson, CHW – Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP)
- n. Abbie Knapton – Recovery Friendly Advisor and Expressive Arts Trainer, Person in Long-term Recovery

This session includes an overview of the ongoing Health & Human Services Workforce Planning and Implementation work and a tutorial of enrolling in the Medicaid program as a dental provider (from enrollment to billing). The Town Hall also has a firsthand account of a Medicaid recipient's positive dental experience and next steps in the Community and Home-Based Settings Oral Health Pilot Project.

All resources can be found in the [EOHHS Oral Health Transformation Portfolio](#).

Questions? Contact the event sponsors:

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Jasmine Franco – Oral Health Program Manager, RIDOH: jasmine.franco@health.ri.gov

Aaron Guckian – Executive Director, RIDA: aguckian@ridental.org