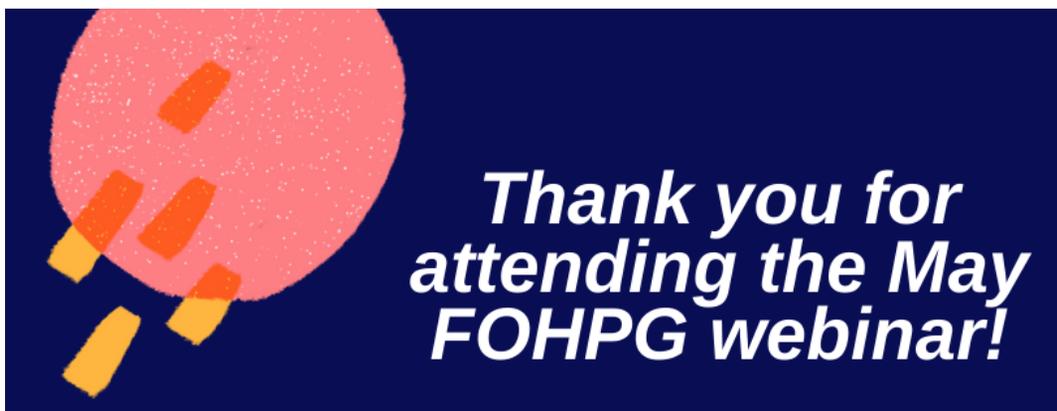


## Funders Oral Health Policy Group



Thank you to everyone who joined us last week for our May webinar! Below you will find notes from the sessions. You can also view the presentation slides [here](#) and a full recording of the meeting [here](#).

Please take a minute to fill out the [evaluation for the May FOHPG webinar](#). We value your feedback!

---

### May Webinar Notes

#### STATES' USE OF MEDICAID DISASTER AUTHORITIES: IMPLICATIONS FOR ORAL HEALTH

- 6% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) bump for each state. To get these extra funds, states must maintain Medicaid eligibility

and benefits during the public health emergency (will expire at the end of July).

- Disaster State Plan Amendments (SPAs) provided rate bumps for providers during public health emergency (specifically in WA - to be used during emergency/urgent care oral health visits).
- The oral public health narrative is so important! We need to hear stories from people directly affected by oral health problems during the pandemic. Did their inability to get care increase their risk for COVID-19 or other health issues? Oral health plays an important role in economic recovery. Did the inability to get care affect employment status?



### Advocacy

- At the state level, advocates should be talking to Medicaid agencies and their governors about the importance of oral health access. Waivers should include oral health provisions and we need to protect the Medicaid adult benefit.
- OPEN sent a letter to Congress this week with policy suggestions including:
  1. Overall Medicaid FMAP bump to at least 12%.
  2. Medicaid FMAP bump for dental services by 5%.
  3. Oral Health Infrastructure Fund - Congress should approve \$75M to support states crisis related oral health needs.
- We need a connection between federal and state advocacy.
- States can change the Medicaid reimbursement rate during the public health emergency. This is a way we could start to see the effect of budget

cuts.

- Please see the resource list slide in Melissa's presentation.

## THE STATUS OF STATE ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

- State Dental directors are concerned about budget cuts, the elimination of the adult Medicaid benefit, and infection control (PPE, unclear re-opening guidelines, testing protocols, protocol if a staff member is exposed).
- According to a [poll](#) conducted by the ADA May 18, 2020, 34% of dental practices that are still closed say they are closed because re-opening guidelines are unclear.
- ADA [poll](#): 28% of dental practices that are still closed say they are closed because dental team members don't want to come back to work.
- CDC published new [guidelines](#) for dental on 5/19.



### Opportunities for funders

- Think about school-linked services rather than school-based. Schools may not allow outside organizations when schools re-open.
- Promote teledentistry - use motivational interviewing, provide nutritional counseling, smoking cessation services.

- Promote less invasive restorative care - ITR and SDF provided by RDHs in schools/LTCFs.
- Equity strategies - bring the care to communities that need them. Consider a mobile unit going into a school neighborhood to provide sealants.
- Develop materials for patient education that let them know what practices are doing to keep them safe.

---

## FOHPG JUNE WEBINAR: MEMBER DISCUSSION

*Tuesday, June 16, 1 pm PST/2 pm MST/3 pm CST/4 pm EST*

Join us on June 16th for a member discussion! Three speakers will lead members in discussions on the following topics:

1. How is Industry Changing?
2. Dental Hygienists' Role in Re-Building the System.
3. The Role of Teledentistry.

[Click here to register today!](#)



We are thrilled to announce that AFL Enterprises, LLC has launched a new website at [afl.enterprises](http://afl.enterprises)! The site features a new look, is fully responsive, and provides more information about the services we offer. Our intent for the new website is to make it easier for you to navigate and for us to share more about the work we do. In that spirit, we have added a [Funders Oral Health Policy Group](#) page to highlight your group and the work you are doing. We would love to hear your feedback on the new page and site and please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or ideas!



*Copyright © 2020 Funders Oral Health Policy Group, All rights reserved.*

[afl.enterprises/funders-oral-health-policy-group](http://afl.enterprises/funders-oral-health-policy-group)

**Our mailing address is:**

[fohpg@afl-enterprises.com](mailto:fohpg@afl-enterprises.com)