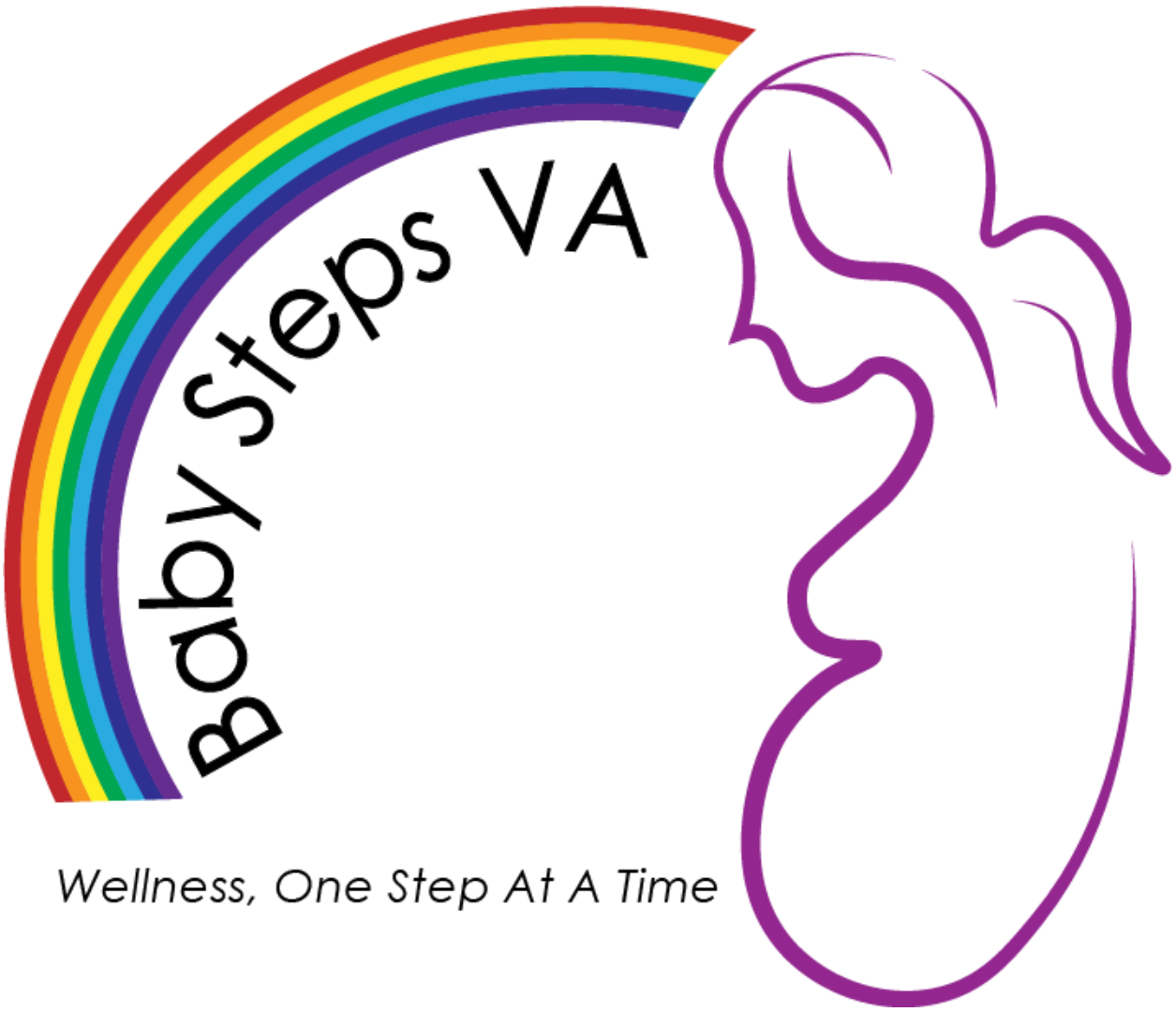
Baby Steps VA 2023-2024 Biannual Report



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report highlights BSVA events and accomplishments occurring in calendar years 2023 and 2024.

During the 2023-2024 calendar year nearly 2 million Virginians were enrolled in Cardinal Care, including nearly 40,000 pregnant and postpartum women. Through these programs, Virginia is realizing its vision to improve maternal health outcomes and decrease rates of maternal mortality and morbidity throughout the state.

A significant highlight of 2023 and 2024 was the rollout of *Cardinal Care Managed Care*, which combines the previously separate Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus (CCC Plus) and Medallion 4.0 systems into a single system of care including the Cardinal Care Model of Care. The Cardinal Care Model of Care emphasizes comprehensive health screenings and tailored care management for all members. Additionally, the launch of *Cardinal Care Smiles*, the renamed dental program, aims to improve access to preventive and restorative dental services for all Medicaid members.

The year also saw advancements in services for youth in foster care, highlighted by a successful pilot project that improved the speed of health care access for children entering foster care in Bedford County. This initiative demonstrated significant reductions in time taken for initial medical examinations, showcasing effective collaboration among various stakeholders.

Coordinated by the Maternal and Child Health Unit at DMAS, Baby Steps Virginia (BSVA) continues in its strong commitment to improve maternal and child health outcomes by fostering coordinated efforts among agency and other organization partners, ensuring that stakeholders are informed of and can provide feedback on DMAS' developments in maternal health benefits and services. This annual report underscores BSVA's ongoing mission to ensure a continuum of care and support for families throughout Virginia.

BABY STEPS VA OVERVIEW

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) launched Baby Steps Virginia (BSVA) in 2019 aiming to enhance coordination and collaboration by serving as a platform for exchanging *information with other state agencies, non-governmental organizations, healthcare providers and other stakeholders to share their dedication to the health and wellbeing of mothers and infants in Virginia. Since its inception, Baby Steps VA has sought to ensure a rainbow arc (as seen in logo) of care and support for pregnant women and new parents from preconception through the first year of life for the infant – wellness one step at a time. Baby Steps VA is committed to using both member and provider voices to inform our work in each of our five focus areas.

BABY STEPS VA FOCUS AREAS:

Eligibility and Enrollment: Streamlining newborn and maternity enrollment.

Outreach and Information: Engaging with internal and external stakeholders and sharing information with members.

Connections: Engaging with providers, community stakeholders, hospital and state agencies.

New and Improved Services and Policies: Collaborating with VA projects to enhance services.

Program Oversight: Utilizing data and reports to monitor and improve programs.

Announcing: Cardinal Care!

CardinalCare
Virginia's Medicaid Program

Cardinal Care: Virginia's Medical Assistance Program

- Cardinal Care provides high quality care to almost 2 million Virginians through managed care and fee-for-service delivery systems.
- Cardinal Care is the Department's brand that encompasses all DMAS health coverage programs, including Medicaid, Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS), managed care and fee-for-service programs.
- Cardinal Care Managed Care consolidated Virginia Medicaid's two previously separate managed care programs – Medallion 4 and CCC Plus - on October 1, 2023.
- Cardinal Care includes the new *Cardinal Care Model of Care*. Under the Model of Care, all members receive a health screening, which includes behavioral health and social determinants of health components. Members with risk factors also receive more intensive *Care Management* services, which involves "high touch" care management, including an individualized plan of care. Pregnant members are considered a priority population for care management services.

Cardinal Care Smiles – Our dental program gets a new name

Virginia's Medicaid dental program provides comprehensive dental benefits to ensure access to preventive, diagnostic and restorative services. There has been a gradual increase in utilization by pregnant women over the past three years. For calendar year 2023, 10,345 pregnant women received dental services.

July 1, 2024, marks three years since DMAS expanded the adult dental benefit to include preventive and restorative services. The pillars of the adult dental program are centered around prevention and continual improvement of gum

health. To better align with the community in which we serve, Virginia's Medicaid dental program transitioned *from Smiles For Children* to *Cardinal Care Smiles.* This change will only affect the name and logo for the Virginia Medicaid dental program and will not affect any plan benefits or coverage.

Medicaid Redetermination (Unwinding)

In March of 2023, Virginia began the process of unwinding, which is the redetermination of all Medicaid and CHIP members after the conclusion of continuous enrollment mandates associated with the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). States kept members enrolled regardless of most changes since March of 2020 in order to receive enhanced funding from the federal government during the PHE. Once the mandates were separated from the PHE with the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act, states resumed normal renewal processes, and the enhanced funding was stepped down through calendar year 2023. In addition, states were given a list of flexibilities to assist with the large volume of work they faced; in Virginia, as in most states, the beginning of unwinding aligned with the highest enrollment population to date. DMAS and the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) worked closely since the beginning of the PHE to plan for the eventual unwinding. In addition, several automated processes were put in place to ensure timely and accurate processing.

This was also the first time some members may have experienced a renewal, either because they were part of the expansion population whose coverage was new as of January 1, 2019, or were part of the FAMIS Prenatal Care group that was implemented during the PHE. In addition, pregnant and postpartum members were going through their first renewal after Virginia extended its postpartum period to 12 months during the PHE. As of February 2025, more than 99% of the unwinding renewals have been completed, signaling the end of the state's process. DMAS and VDSS continue to collaborate in order to complete all renewals and ensure timely and accurate processing for all Medicaid and CHIP recipients ongoing.

Improving Efficiency in Newborn Enrollment

In August 2023, DMAS implemented a new automated enrollment process for newborns, thus decreasing the number of manual steps that must be taken to facilitate newborn enrollment. This has greatly improved timely enrollment and access to services

Strategies include:

- Implementation of an automatic application enrollment process that has reduced the need for applications to be processed by an Eligibility Worker.
- Develop and maintain an enrollment escalation process with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) offices to ensure timely enrollment for newborns whose mothers are enrolled in more than one benefit program such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) also known as Food Stamps.
- Develop internal review processes to ensure newborn applications are submitted prior the deadlines that are indicated in the Managed Care contract by all MCOs.
- The Managed Care Program Administration (MCPA) team in the Health Care Services Division continues to monitor and improve internal operational processes to ensure that MCOs continue to report all live births for managed care mothers timely. This will help to facilitate the data needed to submit newborn applications timely.

Procurement

On December 30, 2024, the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) announced the issuance of the Notice of Award (NOA) for its Cardinal Care Managed Care (CCMC) Request for Proposal (RFP), aimed at enhancing Medicaid services for nearly two million low-income Virginians. DMAS has welcomed a new health plan, **Humana – Healthy Horizons of Virginia**, into its Cardinal Care Managed Care program to support Medicaid recipients. Starting July 1, 2025, Humana became one of five participating managed care organizations in Virginia's Medicaid system.

The new CCMC contracts, totaling $18 billion annually, are designed to improve the quality of care, foster innovation, and reduce taxpayer costs. Key focus areas include strengthening behavioral health services, addressing health-related social needs, maternal health and developing a specialized care plan for children in foster care.

Reliable Access To Health Care For Children

Implementation of 12- month Continuous Coverage for Children

Beginning January 1, 2024, Virginia Medicaid and FAMIS provides 12-months of continuous coverage to children under 19. This means that the coverage is protected and cannot be reduced or ended during that period, with limited exceptions. An annual renewal, or re-evaluation of eligibility, is conducted at the end of the continuous coverage period and a new 12-month coverage period will be granted if the child remains eligible.

Foster Care Update

Foster Care Affinity Group: Quality Improvement Project

Virginia concluded the two-year CMS and the Administration for Children and Families' Children's Bureau Improving Timely Health Care for Children and Youth in Foster Care Affinity Group in December 2023. The Virginia Affinity Group's aim was to increase the rate of children entering foster care who receive an initial

medical examination within 30 days, according to Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) guidelines. The Virginia team consisted of representatives from DMAS, DSS, and three Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and collected and analyzed data related to:

- Timely transfer of information about new foster care members from the local DSS agencies to the assigned MCOs
- Timely initial MCO outreach to foster care members to support service initiation efforts
- Timely initial comprehensive medical examinations

A successful pilot test conducted by the Virginia team was a warm handoff between a local DSS agency (Bedford DSS) and each child's assigned MCO when they entered foster care. Through this warm handoff, the time it took the local DSS agency to notify the child's assigned MCO that they entered foster care improved from an average of 39 days to one (1) day from the date of custody. Additionally, successful outreach by the MCO to the member or legal guardian to assist with scheduling necessary services improved from an average of 52 days to three (3) days. Finally, during the last 6 months of data collection for the pilot test, 100% of initial medical examinations were completed within 30 days of custody in Bedford County. The interventions successfully removed information silos and improved coordination and collaboration among the child's guardian (DSS), DMAS, and the assigned MCO. DMAS is excited about plans to continue the work started by the Affinity Group team to improve access to timely healthcare services for children in foster care.

Foster Care MCO Partnership Spotlight

Anthem hosted a Comfort Cases Packing Party to provide personal and comfort items for children and youth entering foster care. Most youth in foster care are removed from their homes with few of their belongings, and many have to use trash bags to move. Comfort Cases believes every child deserves to feel a sense of dignity, and to be able to pack their belongings in a special bag that they can call their own. Each bag contains a new pair of pajamas, a cozy blanket, and a new stuffed animal to hug, among other items. Several members of the DMAS Health Care Services Division volunteered at the event to help pack 250 duffel bags and 150 backpacks along with Anthem staff and local Department of Social Services Foster Care Workers.

2023-2024 BABY STEPS VA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

Maternity and Newborn Enrollment

DMAS continues to improve newborn enrollment and maternity outcomes by ensuring faster newborn enrollment and early access to prenatal and postpartum care for members.

The chart below (Table 1.2) from the 2022–2023 Medicaid and CHIP Maternal and Child Health Focus Study results, released in March 2024 shows single births over a three-year period across multiple Medicaid eligibility categories, as well as births across Medicaid delivery systems. The study focuses on access to care, quality of care and birth outcomes for pregnant women across Medicaid programs. The 2023-2024 Medicaid and CHIP Maternity and Child Health Focus Study results will be available in Spring of 2025.

Table 1-2—Singleton Births by Medicaid Program and Delivery System, CY 2020–CY 2022

Overall Births	CY 2020		CY 2021		CY 2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Singleton Births	32,230	100.0%	33,032	100.0%	35,899	100.0%
Medicaid Program						
Medicaid for Pregnant Women	19,772	61.3%	15,682	47.5%	13,144	36.6%
Medicaid Expansion	4,576	14.2%	6,548	19.8%	7,950	22.1%
FAMIS MOMS	2,091	6.5%	1,785	5.4%	1,817	5.1%
FAMIS Prenatal Coverage	—	—	2,007	6.1%	4,882	13.6%
Other Aid Categories†	5,791	18.0%	7,010	21.2%	8,106	22.6%
Medicaid Delivery System						
FFS	3,025	9.4%	3,916	11.9%	3,305	9.2%
Managed Care	29,205	90.6%	29,116	88.1%	32,594	90.8%

*The 2022-2023, Medicaid and CHIP Maternal and Child Health Focus Study, released 3/2024.

The chart (1.2) shows a steady increase of single Medicaid Expansion births as well as births in other aid categories outside of the maternity aid categories. This means a growing number of women are already enrolled in Medicaid when they become pregnant. Since the implementation of the FAMIS Prenatal coverage benefit in 2021, there has been a rapid increase in the proportion of overall Medicaid births for this aid category as well, from 6.1% in CY 2021 to 13.6% in CY 2022. Overall, the largest percentage of woman are giving birth under Medicaid maternity aid categories.

The 2022-2023, the Medicaid and CHIP Maternal and Child Health Focus Study showed in 2022, 90.8% of newborns were born to mothers enrolled in a Managed Care Organization (MCO). DMAS continues to work with community partners to ensure that newborns are enrolled timely and accurately with their own Medicaid Identification number. This will ensure that newborns do not experience a delay in access to care.

OUTREACH AND INFORMATION

Meetings and Newsletters

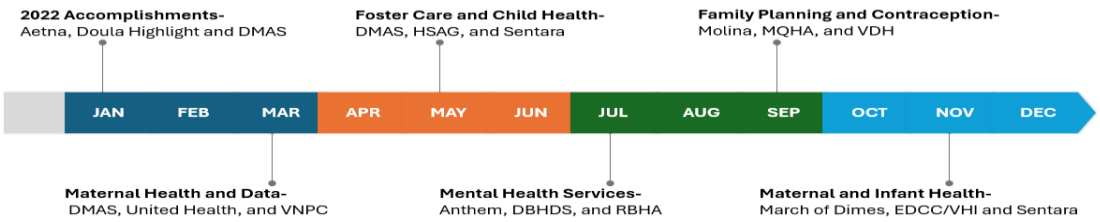
BSVA developed a new and improved online/digital edition of the DMAS Maternal Health Newsletter. Each bimonthly edition of the newsletter includes updated

Cardinal Care maternity enrollment numbers, Cardinal Care maternal health program updates, spotlight on partnerships and collaboration activities, doula program updates, and maternal health news and information from our partners.

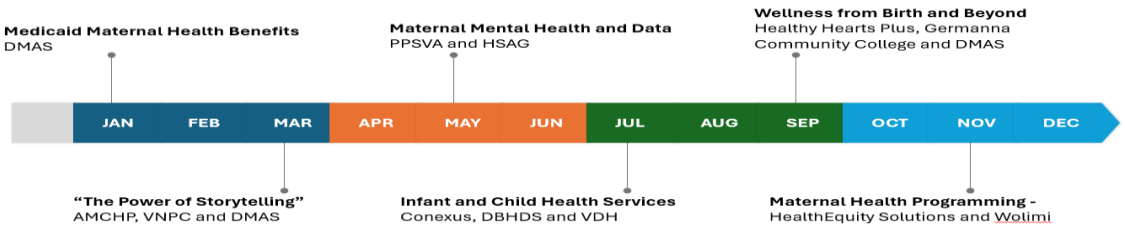
If you would like to receive our BSVA newsletters, please email babystepsva@dmas.virginia.gov

Thank you to our amazing presenters who volunteered their time to present during our 2023 bimonthly BSVA meetings!

Baby Steps VA – 2023 Bi Monthly Meetings



Baby Steps VA – 2024 Bimonthly Meetings



AMCHP- Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
DBHDS- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
EDCC- Emergency Department Care Coordination
HSAG- Health Services Advisory Group

MQHA- Maternal Quality Care Alliance
PPSVA – Postpartum Support VA
RBHA- Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
VDH- Virginia Department of Health
VHI- Virginia Health Information
VNPC- Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative

MCOs

DMAS collaborates with our five contracted managed care organizations (Aetna, Anthem, Molina, Sentara, and United Healthcare) to continuously improve access and utilization of high quality prenatal/postpartum care services, including doula services, child well visits/immunizations, and foster care services. These MCOs have facilitated support for both our members and providers through diverse communication channels, ensuring the dissemination of crucial Medicaid updates essential for their care and services.

Partner Points

Partner Points is a monthly newsletter sent out by DMAS to providers and advocates. The newsletter launched in the fall of 2018 and has since grown to become one of the agency's key methods of communicating important news to our partners. Those who are interested in receiving information on Medicaid updates, upcoming events, new policies, and more can sign up using this link:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/VADMAS/signup/35075

Postpartum Provider FAQ

In July 2022, Virginia became one of the first states to provide continuous full benefit coverage for 12 months postpartum, including coverage for eligible women who apply after the baby's birth to receive protected coverage for the remainder of their 12-month postpartum period. To increase awareness of the postpartum coverage, DMAS developed both a member flyer and provider FAQ to share on the commonly asked questions and more information on the overall benefit coverage.
Provider Postpartum FAQ
Member Postpartum Flyer

CONNECTIONS

VNPC

The Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative (VNPC) exists to ensure that every mother has the best possible perinatal care and every infant cared for in Virginia has the best possible start to life. The VNPC believes in evidence-based, data-driven collaborative process that involves care providers for women, infants and families as well as state and local leaders. The VNPC is committed to including each of the 51 birth hospitals across the Commonwealth in quality improvement projects and supporting initiatives to promote education, awareness, and prevention.

- **Workgroup**
  - The Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative Work Group was established during the 2023 General Assembly session as a result of SB1531. The purpose of this work group was to strengthen collaboration on neonatal and perinatal care of women and infants to positively impact maternal and infant health care outcomes in the Commonwealth. The work group shall examine the public-private partnerships supporting the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative (the Collaborative) and make recommendations to strengthen the Collaborative's ability to:
    1. Successfully implement Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health patient safety bundles and other maternal or newborn quality improvement initiatives on a statewide basis;
    2. Maximize public and private funding;
    3. Distribute grants on an efficient, effective, and equitable basis; and
    4. Determine the best structure and placement for the Collaborative

- **Day of Learning**
  - VNPC 2023 Day of Learning was held on March 20. This educational event highlighted Maternal Health

data/outcomes. VNPC and their partners shared how they are using data to plan, measure and improve upon initiatives, programs and policies. Participants learned about recent grants and ongoing quality improvement projects being implemented with hospitals and other providers, to include Project EMBRACE, which gives participating hospitals access to the Maternal Disparities Dashboard with a wealth of data from around the state. Breakout sessions during the Day of Learning included information about Fetal and Infant Mortality Review, NICU levels of care, Maternal Quality Care Alliance, perinatal oral health, and intimate partner violence. Check out VNPC's wonderful information and resources for stakeholders and providers working with women, infants, and families in Virginia.

Urban Baby Beginnings

DMAS joined Urban Baby Beginnings (UBB) during the grand opening of the Petersburg Hub on April 11, 2023. This is the fourth maternity hub with UBB that will provide wrap around services for mothers and their families to receive resources from pregnancy to postpartum. The maternal health hub, located at 1965 Wakefield Street in Petersburg, VA, was created through a three-year, $825,000 grant from the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation.

Birth in Color

Birth in Color- RVA hosted its Black Maternal Health Summit on Friday, April 14, 2023, in Richmond, VA. The event featured two keynote speakers including Jennie Joseph, a well-respected health advocate and British-trained midwife, and Harriet Washington, a medical ethicist. Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan, and former State Delegate, Jennifer Carroll Foy, also shared about the Maternal Health Crisis in Virginia. There was also a workshop on Community Doulas which highlighted the experiences of Doula Providers in Virginia.

To support efforts across the Commonwealth for Black Maternal Health Week (April 11-17, 2023) the DMAS MCH and Dental team partnered with Birth in Color RVA to supply 150 dental packs. The packs included toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, water bottles, pamphlets (Smiles for Children, prenatal dental care) to increase outreach and communication to pregnant and parenting members about dental coverage. Dental packs were distributed during the Birth in Color RVA community baby showers.

Southwest Provider Summit

Facilitated by DMAS' Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Lisa Price Stevens, DMAS hosted a provider summit in the Southwest Region (Abingdon, VA) in late August 2023. This was an opportunity to hear from the Southwest Provider Community about their interests/concerns and share more about Virginia Medicaid initiatives! This dynamic Provider Summit featured:

- Presentations on Maternal Health, Pharmacy, and Behavioral Health
- Over 80 attendees including Providers, MCOs, and State Agencies
- Narcan Training provided by Appalachian Substance Abuse Coalition with over 70 attendees trained
- Vendor Outreach Tables
- Demonstration of the Emergency Department Care Coordination Platform by Virginia Health Information
    - Panel discussion titled Metric Matters: Improving Maternal Health and Child Health Outcomes. Panelists

included: the local health department, hospital systems, doulas, VDH, and DMAS leaders.

CHIPAC

The Children's Health Insurance Program Advisory Committee (CHIPAC) is an external body that advises the DMAS Director and HHR Secretary, as established by the Code of Virginia. Members participating at quarterly meetings include representatives from the Joint Commission on Health Care, Department of Social Services, Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Virginia Health Care Foundation, various provider associations and children's advocacy groups, and other individuals with significant knowledge of and interest in children's health insurance.

CHIPAC members invited DMAS staff to present an overview of the Partnership for Petersburg and other key maternal health initiatives at the June 2023 quarterly meeting. At the September quarterly meeting, members heard from a national expert about opportunities to expand eligibility for children and pregnant women under Medicaid and CHIP. The CHIPAC will consider potential recommendations for action in 2024.

For more information about CHIPAC please visit: https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/about-us/boards-and-public-meetings/chip-advisory-committee/

NEW AND IMPROVED SERVICES AND POLICIES

Right Help Right Now

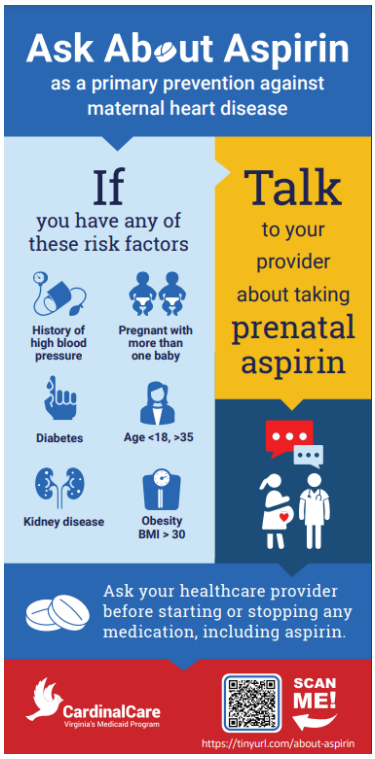
The Governor's Right Help Right Now plan aims to achieve the goal that all Virginians will, 1) be able to access behavioral health care when they need it; 2) have prevention and management services personalized to their needs, particularly for children, youth, and families; 3) know who to call, who will help, and where to go when in crisis; and 4) have paths to reentry and stabilization when transitioning from a crisis. DMAS is an integral partner and stakeholder within this plan.

In support of the Governor's Right Help Right Now Behavioral Health Transformation Plan, DMAS in collaboration with other state agencies and stakeholders has been working on initiatives to begin redesigning Medicaid legacy community mental health rehabilitative services (CMHRS) for youth. The new 2024-2026 biennium budget provides DMAS with the authority to replace our CMHRS services and case management services. Additionally, a new bill (Senate Bill 403) adds two new professions and scopes of practice for Behavioral Health Technicians and Behavioral Health Technician Assistants. This new scope of practice (to be developed by the Department of Health Professions) will be integrated into the newly designed Medicaid behavioral health services.

DMAS' goal, in partnership with this plan, is to increase efficacy, access, and utilization of effective and appropriate behavioral health services for Medicaid members in Virginia.

Governor's Roundtables

DMAS has created a series of roundtable discussions focusing on the services provided in maternal cardiovascular care. The roundtables are focused on best practices, care coordination and member empowerment to improve maternal outcomes. One of the key themes identified from the roundtables was usage of low-dose aspirin for women who are at high or moderate risk of cardiac complications to include high blood pressure (pre-eclampsia), associated seizures(eclampsia), stroke, and heart disease. To date, DMAS has conducted three roundtables- two with practitioners and one with Medicaid members. DMAS recognizes that member education and empowerment is the key to any successful health outcome initiative. DMAS was able to capture the members voice and feedback during a visit to Urban Baby Beginnings -Sister's Keeping gathering. This session was the first of a series of gatherings that included those most impacted by our programs- the member. In collaboration with the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), providers, and community stakeholders, DMAS will educate and empower Medicaid members with an *Ask About Aspirin* campaign.



Doula

Since the establishment of the doula state-certification requirements and implementation of the Medicaid Doula Benefit in 2022, DMAS has continued to focus on increasing the network of Community Doula providers in Virginia. To date, 165 doulas have received state certification. Of the 165 state-certified doulas, 131 have enrolled as Medicaid Doula Providers. Feedback continues to be positive from families who have received care and support from a doula.

- **Building the Doula Provider Network – Doula Outreach and Engagement**
  Doula recruitment and engagement continue to be an ongoing focus for DMAS. Virginia Medicaid currently has over 38,000 pregnant members. 28% of this population is Black or African American. Outreach and recruitment efforts have been concentrated on the Petersburg/Hopewell area, and on Northern and Southwest Virginia. Doula organizations continue to play an integral role in doula training for state certification.
  - Doula Information Sessions - In CY 2023 and in 2024, DMAS offered monthly "Getting Started as a Medicaid

Community Doula" information sessions, and live Q&A for individuals interested in achieving state certification and becoming Medicaid doula providers.

- Community Doula Meetings were held in February 2023, July 2023, November 2023, and May 2024. Topics included state and partner highlights, doula inclusivity within the healthcare system, doula support and breastfeeding, and the maternal postpartum experience, and pregnancy loss.
- Germanna Community College Doula Certification Program – Germanna Community College, in partnership with Mary Washington Hospital, Rappahannock Health District, and the state departments of health and Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), developed a doula state certification training program utilizing local doula trainers, Germanna faculty/staff, and the local hospital system. Effective June 2024, Germanna Community College became an approved doula state certification training body and finalized its curriculum in July 2024. The first doula training cohort will launch on August 5, 2024. This is an exciting opportunity for the Commonwealth and for Maternal Health. Utilizing the community college system for doula state certification training offers greater access and accessibility to doula training throughout the state.

- **DMAS as a doula resource**

  DMAS has been a resource on individual state calls sharing information and lessons learned with New Jersey, Pennsylvania, California, Colorado, and North Dakota
  - Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota Workgroup Meeting - DMAS participated in a multi-state panel discussion and workgroup meeting consisting of key stakeholders within the state, and representatives from the Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota. DMAS shared information regarding the Medicaid services for pregnant and postpartum individuals, the VA Medicaid Doula Benefit, its implementation, and program milestones.

- DC, Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) Maternal Health Advisory Meeting - June 2023
- AMCHP Conference - May 2023
- Black Maternal and Infant Health Steering Committee - August 2023

12 Months Postpartum Continuous Coverage

In July 2023, Virginia marked one year since implementing continuous full-benefit coverage for 12 months postpartum in Medicaid and FAMIS MOMS under its 1115 Demonstration waiver authority. As part of federal reporting requirements, DMAS is partnering with an external evaluator to assess the Commonwealth's progress toward several key goals. These include promoting continuous coverage and continuity of care for women during the postpartum period; increasing access to medical and behavioral health services and treatments; and improving health outcomes for postpartum women enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. The evaluation also focuses on enhancing health access and outcomes for infants of postpartum Medicaid and CHIP enrollees, as well as advancing health equity by reducing racial, ethnic, and other disparities in maternal coverage, access, and outcomes, along with infant health outcomes.

1115 Demonstration Evaluation

In July 2023, Virginia received federal approval on its Postpartum Extension Demonstration Evaluation Plan. This gave DMAS' independent evaluator, Virginia

Commonwealth University School of Population Health's Department of Health Behavior and Policy, the official green light to begin data collection.
Next steps in 2024 included analysis of both quantitative data, using both DMAS and Managed Care claims and encounter data as well as linked external resources (e.g., Virginia Department of Health, All-Payer Claims Database), and qualitative data collected in consultation with relevant DMAS staff.
Plans are underway to gather information about the member experience and glean provider insights into opportunities presented by the extended postpartum coverage. VCU and DMAS are conducting:

Partnership for Petersburg

Since the launch of Governor Youngkin's **Partnership for Petersburg** initiative in August 2022, DMAS focused on the following throughout 2023: increasing utilization of pediatric, adult primary care, and maternity services for Petersburg Medicaid members through community partnerships, member engagement, and mobile clinics and events. DMAS created a Petersburg maternal and post-partum dashboard to help with monthly tracking. In SFY21 only roughly 20% of pregnant women received prenatal care in Petersburg. In response, DMAS collaborated with our Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to increase utilization of prenatal care and care during the 12-month postpartum period.

DMAS promoted Conexus to support children getting eyeglasses in the schools Conexus has screened over 1,055 students. Due to this effort, over 463 students (43%) of the students screened were referred with vision issues. Conexus brought their Mobile Vision Clinic to every Petersburg City Public schools, providing eye exams and glasses to 440 students. While some vision screening costs are supported with Virginia Department of Education funding, and Medicaid (60%), the rest of the cost is raised by Conexus. Conexus also leverages free eyeglass frames and free lab work as well as covering the costs for some of the eye doctors that have served this program in Petersburg.

Collaborative Efforts Across DMAS, MCOs and Sister Agencies

- DMAS continues to focus on maternal child health activities, while the MCOs have participated or sponsored over 500 events since 2022.

- DMAS continues to support the doula hub in Petersburg and events addressing food insecurities and aimed at improving birth outcomes.

Improving Petersburg Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes

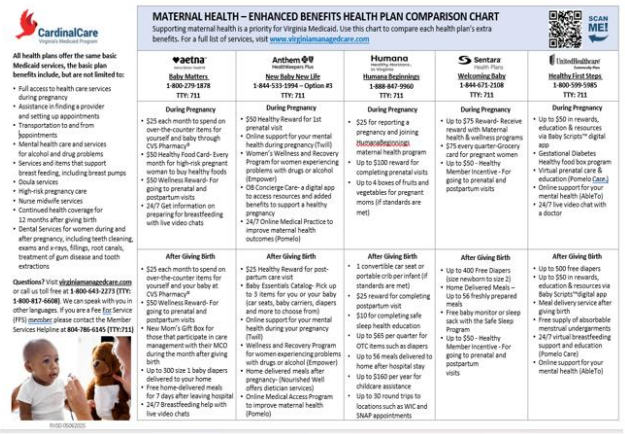
In November 2023, DMAS partnered with Dr. Daphne Bazile and Bon Secours Southside to launch a pilot offering extended Saturday OB/GYN clinic hours for Medicaid members in Petersburg. The first clinic, held on Saturday, November 11, 2023, ran from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with Dr. Bazile and her team reserving appointment slots specifically for Medicaid women. DMAS and the health plans conducted extensive outreach—including flyers, phone calls, text messages, and emails—to ensure members were aware of and able to take advantage of the weekend availability. All appointment slots were filled, with visits ranging from annual check-ups to prenatal and postpartum follow-up care.

During the inaugural Saturday clinic, health plans provided giveaways, and DMAS greeted members with doughnuts as they arrived. Several key leaders were also on site, including Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources Leah Mills, DMAS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Lisa Stevens, DMAS Director Cheryl Roberts, and additional DMAS staff. After the appointments concluded, DMAS leadership met with Dr. Bazile and her team to discuss the experience and identify future opportunities. Since the initial launch, five successful Saturday clinics have been completed, with another planned for early fall.

Over 80 Members Served	November 2023: 8 patients
	January 2024: 11 patients
	June 2024: 23 patients
	December 2024: 23 patients

As a result of the clinic, DMAS developed a maternal comparison chart and Dr. Bazile is part of the HHR task force.

Maternal Health Comparison Chart



P4P Postpartum Flyer

PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

EQRO

DMAS collaborates with an External Quality Review Organization (EQRO), currently Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), to produce the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Maternal and Child Health Focus Study. The study provides quantitative information about prenatal care and associated maternal and birth outcomes among women with births paid by Title XIX or Title XXI, which include the Medicaid, Medicaid Expansion, Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) MOMS, and FAMIS Prenatal Coverage programs. The most recent study year included members and services provided in calendar year 2022. 2022–23 Medicaid and CHIP Maternal and Child Health Focus Study Report (virginia.gov)

Public Dashboards

- **Virginia Medicaid/ FAMIS Enrollment**

  Check out the enrollment for 2023. The dashboard outlines each of the enrollment for pregnant members enrolled throughout each of our health plans and various programs.

  https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/data-reporting/eligibility-enrollment/medicaid-famis-pace-enrollment/

- **HEDIS**

The Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) rates pertaining to Maternal and Child Health include; Prenatal Care, Postpartum Care and Well-Child visits measures.

The most current HEDIS measure rates are on the DMAS Website at the following location: https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/data-reporting/quality-population-health/data-and-dashboards/

MEMBER SUCCESS STORY

29-year-old Sierra* was 26 weeks pregnant when her MCO Case Manager (CM) first contacted her. This was Sierra's fourth pregnancy, and she had suffered two miscarriages previously. She is also a single parent to a two-year-old daughter. Sierra also had a condition called placenta previa, which placed her at high risk for complications.

Sierra expressed anxiety about the placenta previa. Would it increase the chance of another pregnancy loss? Would it mean that she would have to have a c-section? How would she manage to take care of her young daughter and new baby while recovering from surgery?

She also wanted to breastfeed her baby. The CM helped Sierra apply for WIC prior to her baby's arrival to make sure that the new mom had access to nutritious

food. The CM also made sure Sierra had a breast pump. The CM provided additional support and education about placenta previa, ways to lower her risk of other potential pregnancy complications, signs and symptoms to watch for and when to call her provider. Sierra was coached on what to expect during her prenatal appointments, the need for increased pregnancy surveillance due to her high-risk condition as well as what to expect for delivery if placenta previa did not resolve prior to delivery.

Sierra expressed gratitude to her Case Manager throughout the pregnancy for being available, offering resources, education and being someone she could talk to and ask questions. Happily, Sierra went on to have a healthy baby boy via C-section at 38 weeks. Her recovery was uncomplicated, and she was linked to community resources in her local area to provide additional support after the birth of her baby.

*Member name was changed for privacy disclosure.