



**Addressing Challenges in  
Oral Health Care Delivery  
for People With  
Disabilities:  
A Population Health  
Solution**

ADvancing States Fall Conference 2020  
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## Our Panelists

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### **Steven Perlman, DDS, MScD, DHL (hon)**

Global Clinical Director and founder, Special Olympics Special Smiles  
Clinical Professor of Pediatric Dentistry  
Boston University School of Dental Medicine  
Boston, MA

### **Barbie Vartanian**

Executive Director, Project Accessible Oral Health Initiative  
Viscardi Center, Albertson, NY

### **Sharon Alexander**

President, LTSS Solutions  
AmeriHealth Caritas, Philadelphia, PA

### **Dr. Larry Paul**

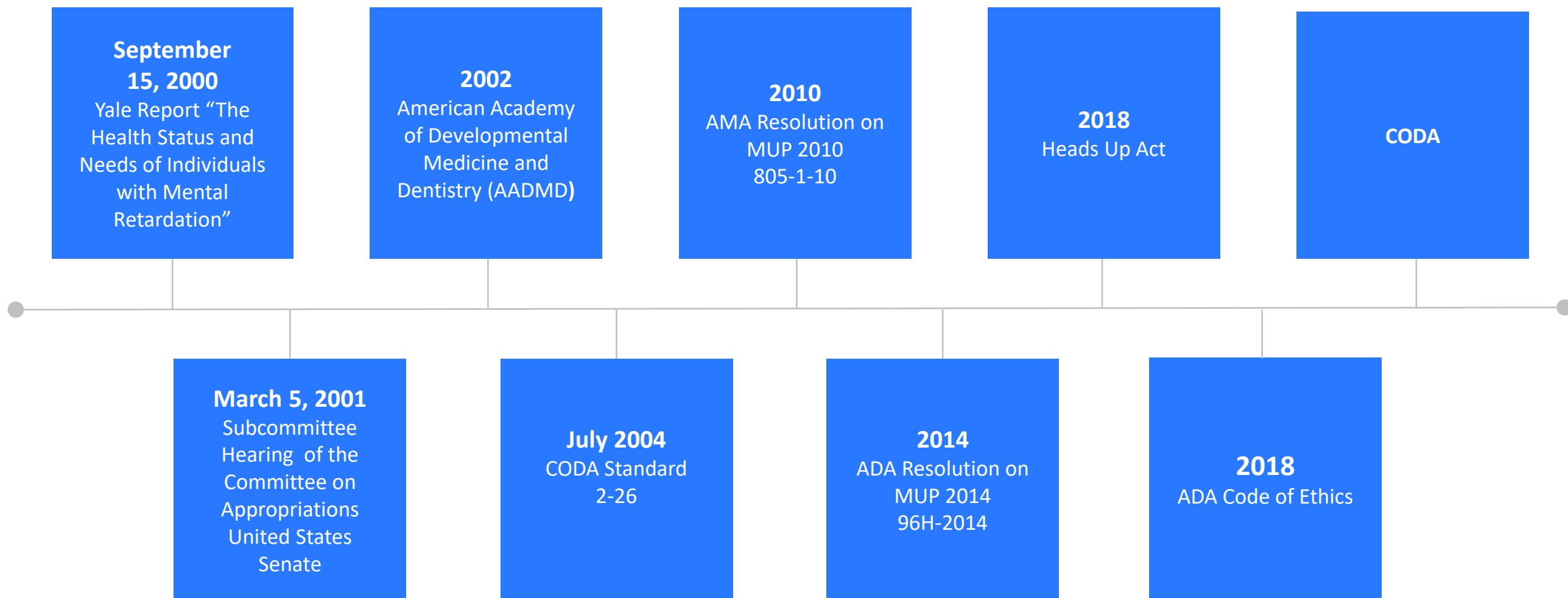
Vice President, Corporate Dental Health  
AmeriHealth Caritas, Philadelphia, PA

# Special Olympics Special Smiles

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# Special Olympics Special Smiles Key Milestones



# Project Accessible Oral Health Initiative

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# Meet Sam

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# Mission

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## Catalyst for action...now!

Project Accessible Oral Health (PAOH) is a global public-private partnership to raise awareness of the significant need to **enhance oral health care of individuals with disabilities to improve their overall health and quality of life.**





## Who Are We

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PAOH is **a catalyst and advocate** bringing traditional and nontraditional parties together.

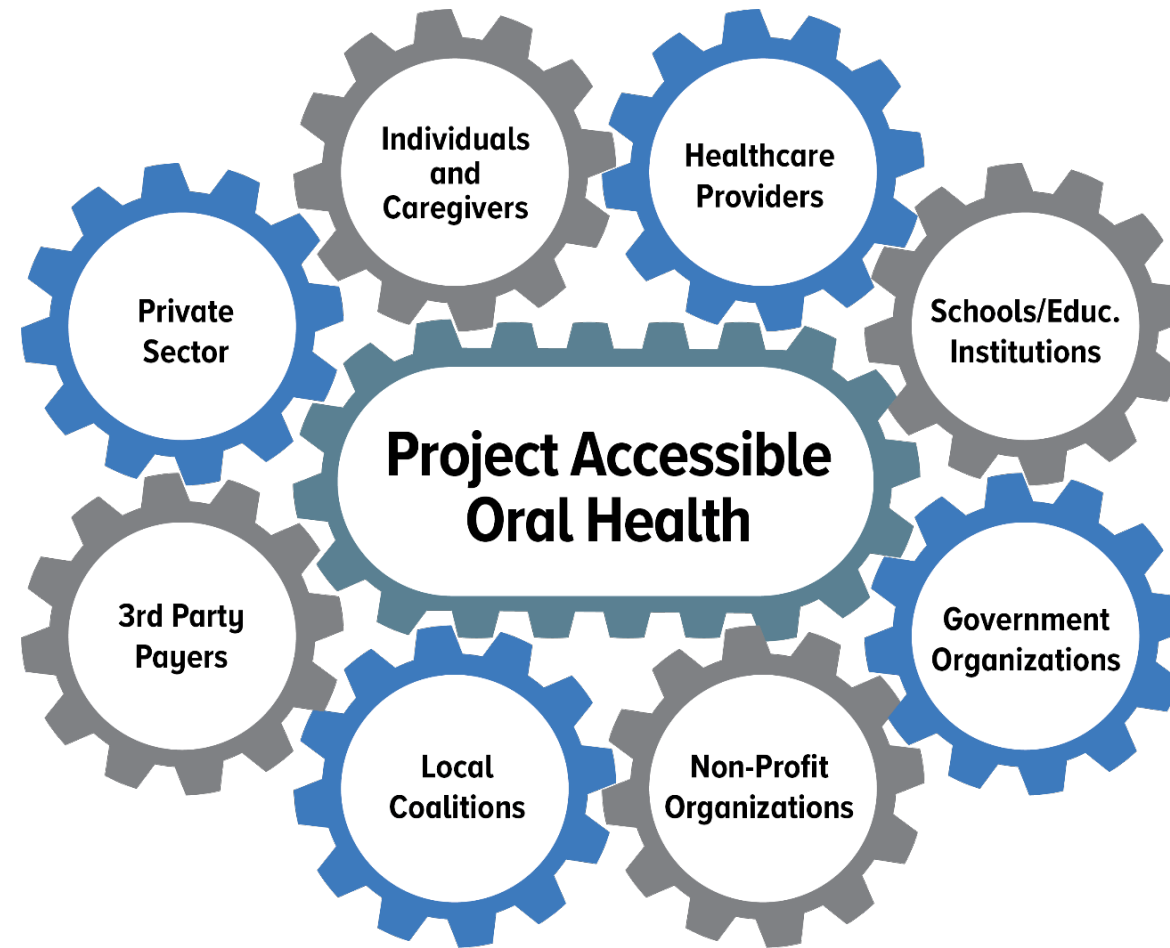
- **Awareness**...of the issues.
- **Interest**...gained through understanding.
- **Dialogue**...talking to the right people.
- **Action**...collectively and collaboratively.





# Who We Work With

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# Igniting Regional Coalitions

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- **Locally driven.**
- **Support of and collaboration with existing coalition:**
  - Coordinated effort.
- **Framework and funding to grow the network**
  - PAOH pillar model.
  - DMV (DC, Maryland, Virginia).
  - Philadelphia.

# Policy, Education, and Advocacy

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# Policy

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**Identify shortfalls** in governmental policy **and create solutions** relating to access to oral health care for people with disabilities at the local, state, and federal levels.



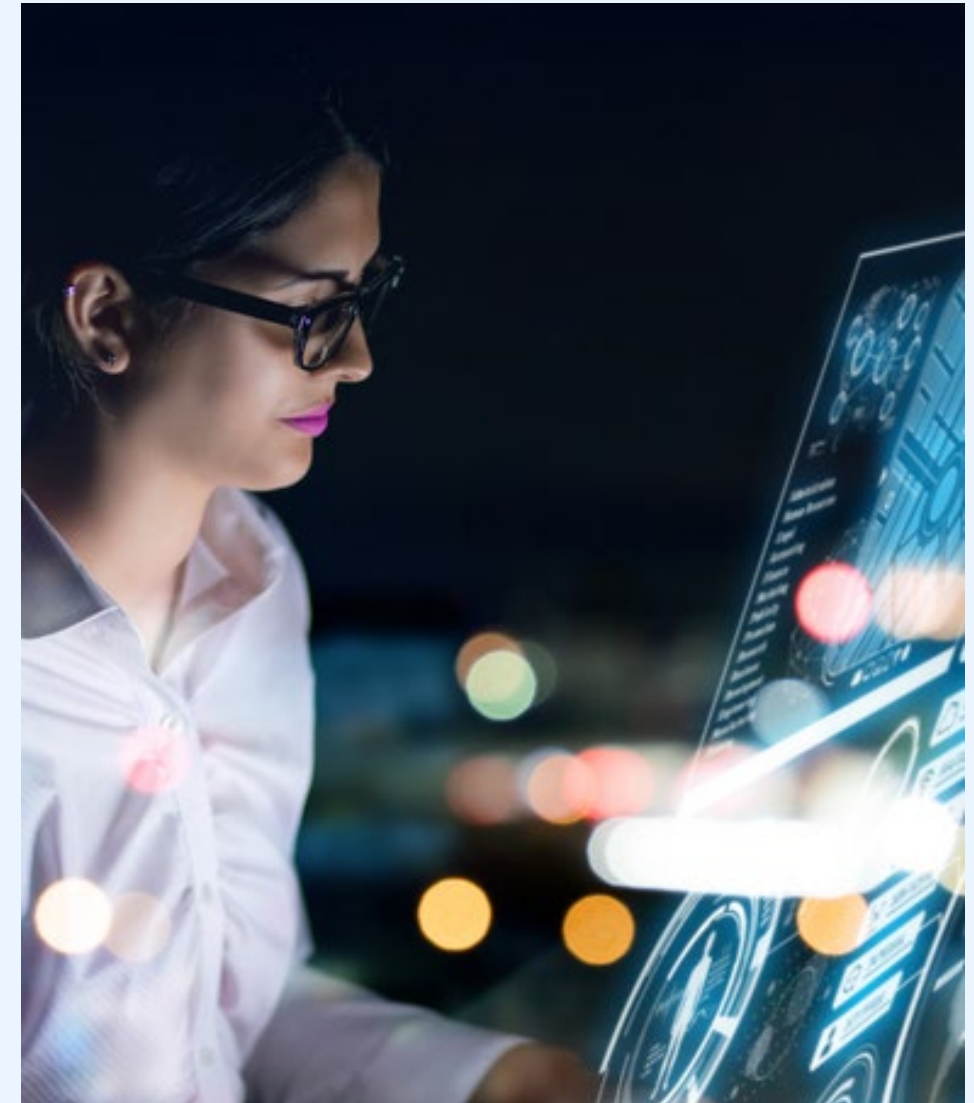


## Education and Health Literacy

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**Create and maintain the digital hub of core competency materials and make available to stakeholders.**

- Existing provider.
- Dental student.
- Individual/caregiver.

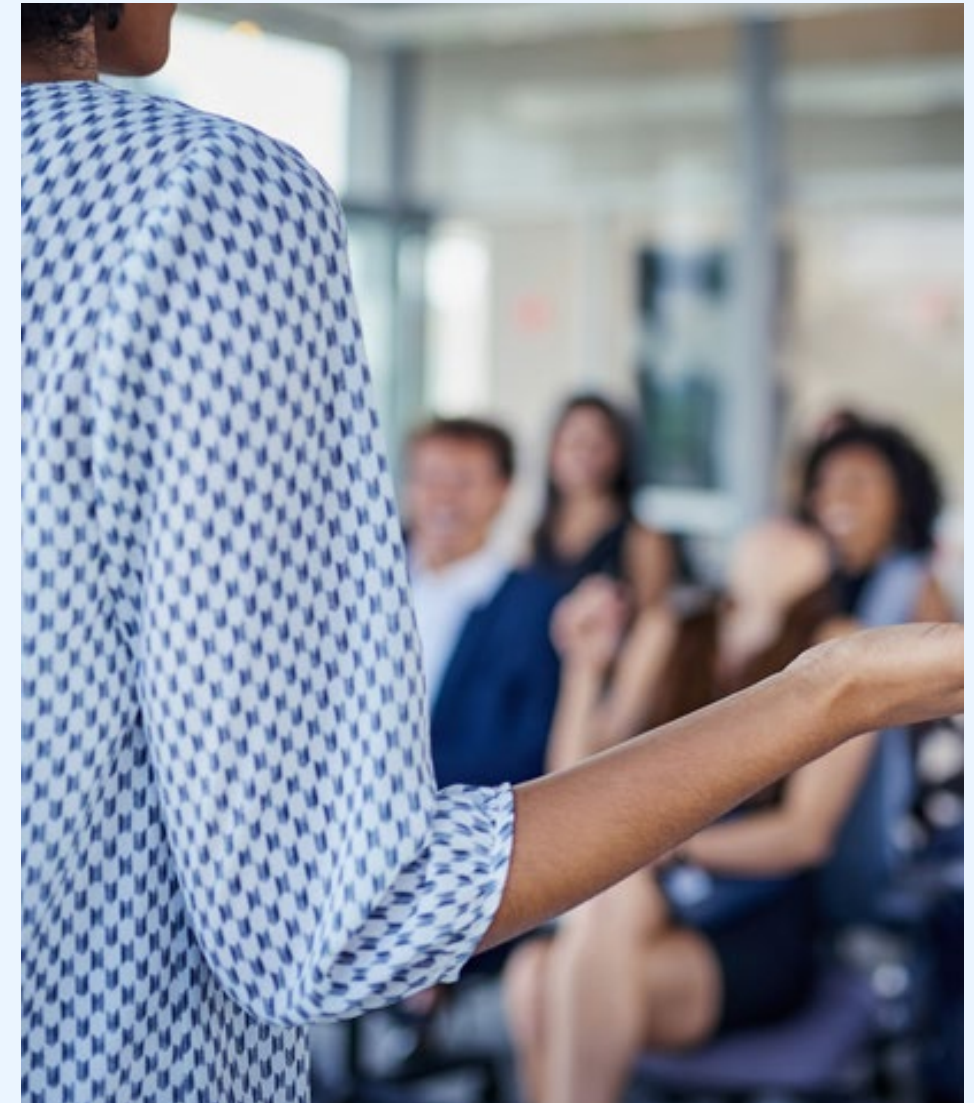




# Advocacy

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**Raise awareness** of the size, scope, and urgency of the issue; its impact on people with physical and developmental disabilities; and the cost and pressure on our nation's health care system.



## Did You Know?

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Access to and the ability to receive dental care are the most frequently cited unmet health needs for children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities.



# My Smile Matters

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- National education campaign.
- Promotion of overall health.
- Highlighting the barriers.
- Call to action.







## The Time Is Now for Action

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- Exacerbated needs now.
- Fertile landscape in 2020 – 2021.
- Critical components of project:
  - Expand access.
  - Find fresh funding.
  - Innovate policy.
  - Develop champions.

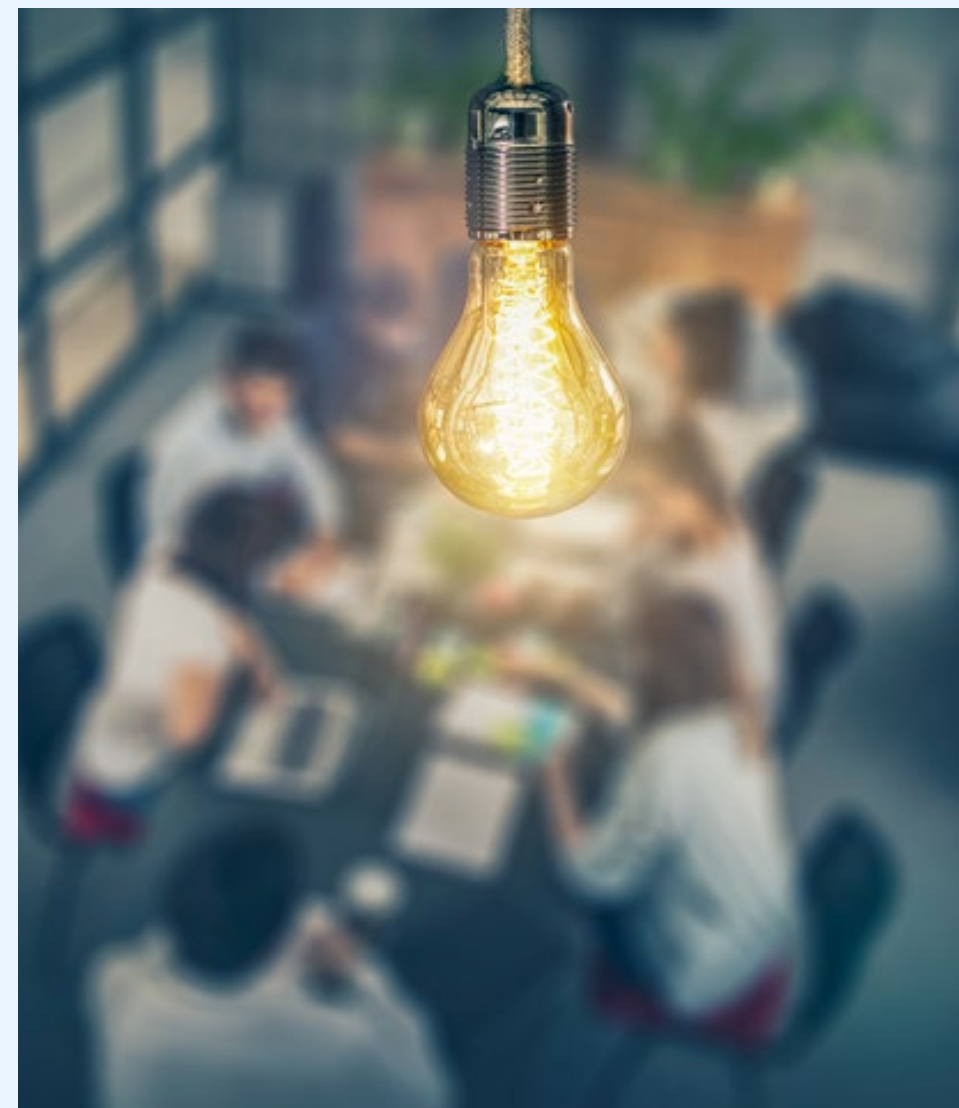




# Nothing Happens Without Collaboration!

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- AmeriHealth Caritas.
- American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry.
- Special Care Dental Association.
- Special Care Advocates in Dentistry.
- Special Olympics.
- National Council on Disability.
- Delta Dental.
- Colgate.
- Penn/NYU/UOP/Rutgers/University of Michigan/Columbia.



**Of all the forms of inequality,  
injustice in health care is the  
most shocking and inhumane.**

- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

**Speaking before the Second National Convention  
of the Medical Committee for Human Rights.  
Chicago, Illinois. March 25 1966.**



# Inclusive Dental<sup>®</sup> Program

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An AmeriHealth Caritas dental program for people with disabilities





## Care Gap Issue

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**There are growing numbers of citizens with disabilities, and there are increasing gaps in dental care for this population.**

The dental needs and access to care for this population, based on data, are not being adequately met.





## Solution

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AmeriHealth Caritas created a program that enables our members and others in the community to obtain dental care, allowing for better overall health outcomes and quality of life for them and their families.

**The program will facilitate better control of health care costs and enhance outcomes for these members, as an additional opportunity for profit enhancement.**





# Inclusive Dental®

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Inclusive Dental® is designed to address oral health barriers articulated by the special needs community.

**The program will aid in addressing gaps in access to dental care and will work to connect with the individuals, caregivers, advocates, and agencies that represent our members who have the following disabilities and conditions:**



- Autism.
- Bipolar disorder.
- Blindness.
- Cerebral palsy.
- Down syndrome.
- Fetal alcohol syndrome.
- Fragile X syndrome.
- Hearing impairment.
- Intellectual disabilities.
- Major depression.
- Phobic anxiety disorder.
- Schizoaffective disorder.
- Spina bifida.
- Traumatic brain injury.



# Model

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1	2	3	4	5
<b>Outreach to disability cohorts and develop with local coalition.</b>	<b>Connect using tools.</b> Office assessment form — for providers only	<b>Develop and expand access</b> — ongoing network support and recruitment efforts.	<b>Create innovative reimbursement model.</b>	<b>Provide training and continuing education opportunities.</b>







# Outreach to Disability Cohorts

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## Develop a Coalition

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We used various relationships and industry colleagues to introduce the lack of dental access in the region for members in these cohorts.

**We partnered with Project Accessible Oral Health to create structure around gathering intel on the needs and communication outlets of the disabled community.**





## Connect Using Tools

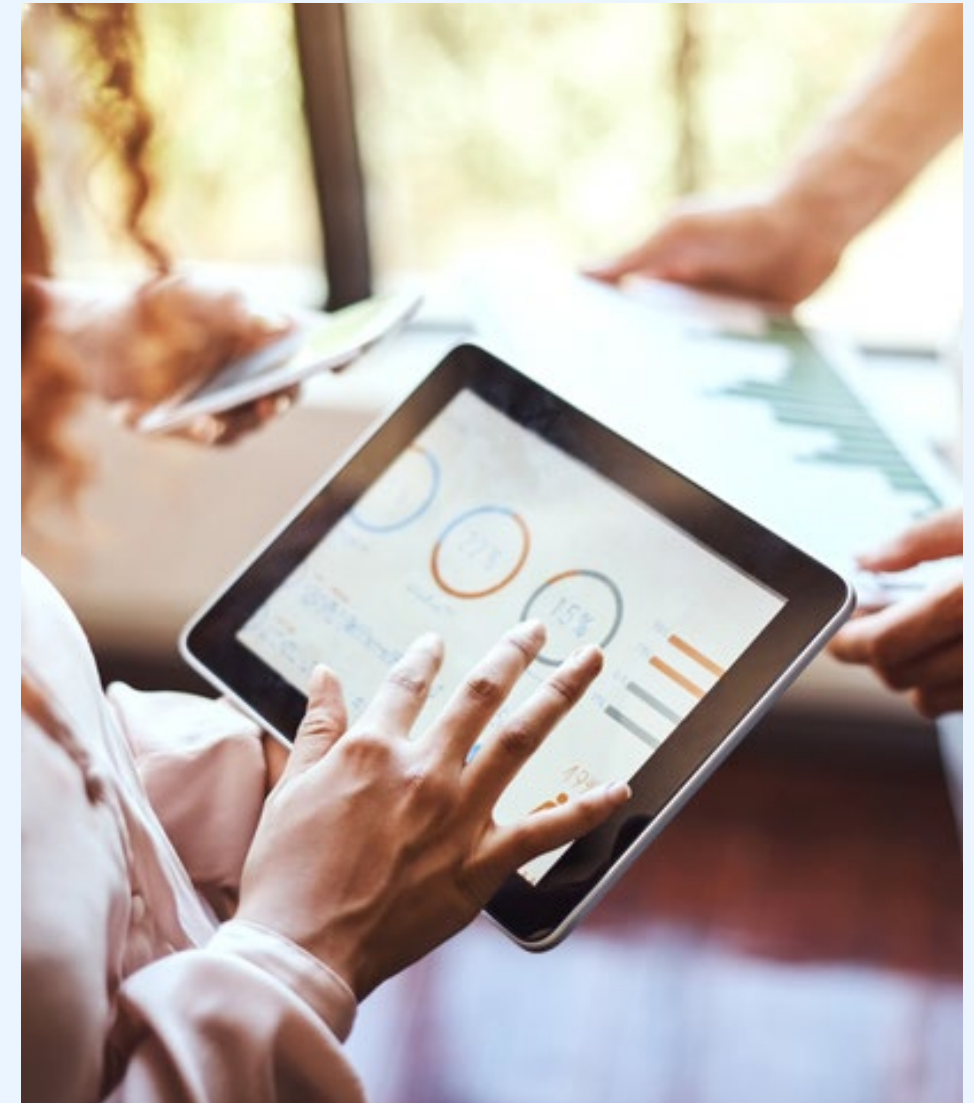
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- **Office assessment form**

Provider-only form aimed at gathering updated information on provider facility and staff capabilities relating to the treatment of people with disabilities.

- **Intake form**

Member-only self-assessment document aimed at informing the dental provider of any behavioral, physical, or mental sensitivities relating to their disability.



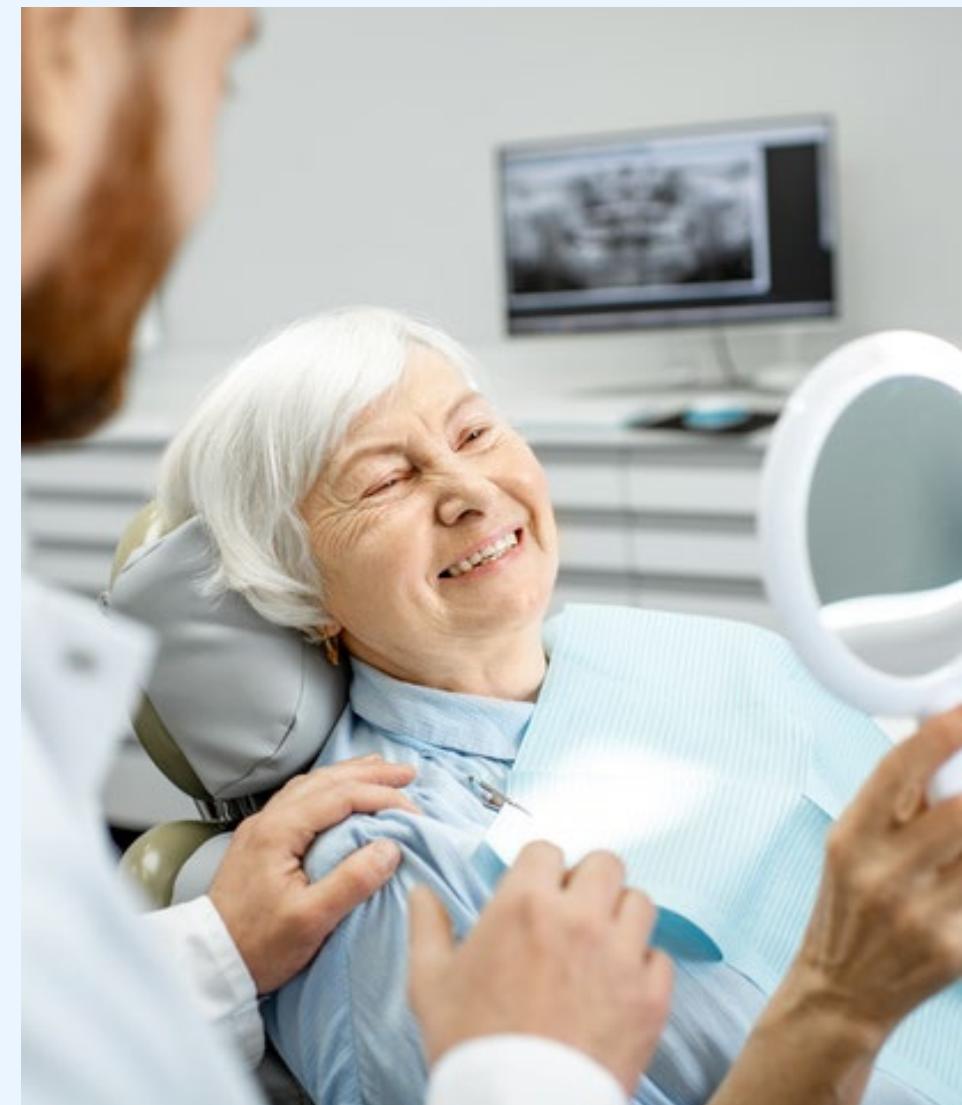


## Develop and Expand Network

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We reached out to general dentistry or oral surgeon providers who have had some history with disabled members.

**In the near future, all providers in the network will be informed of the program.**



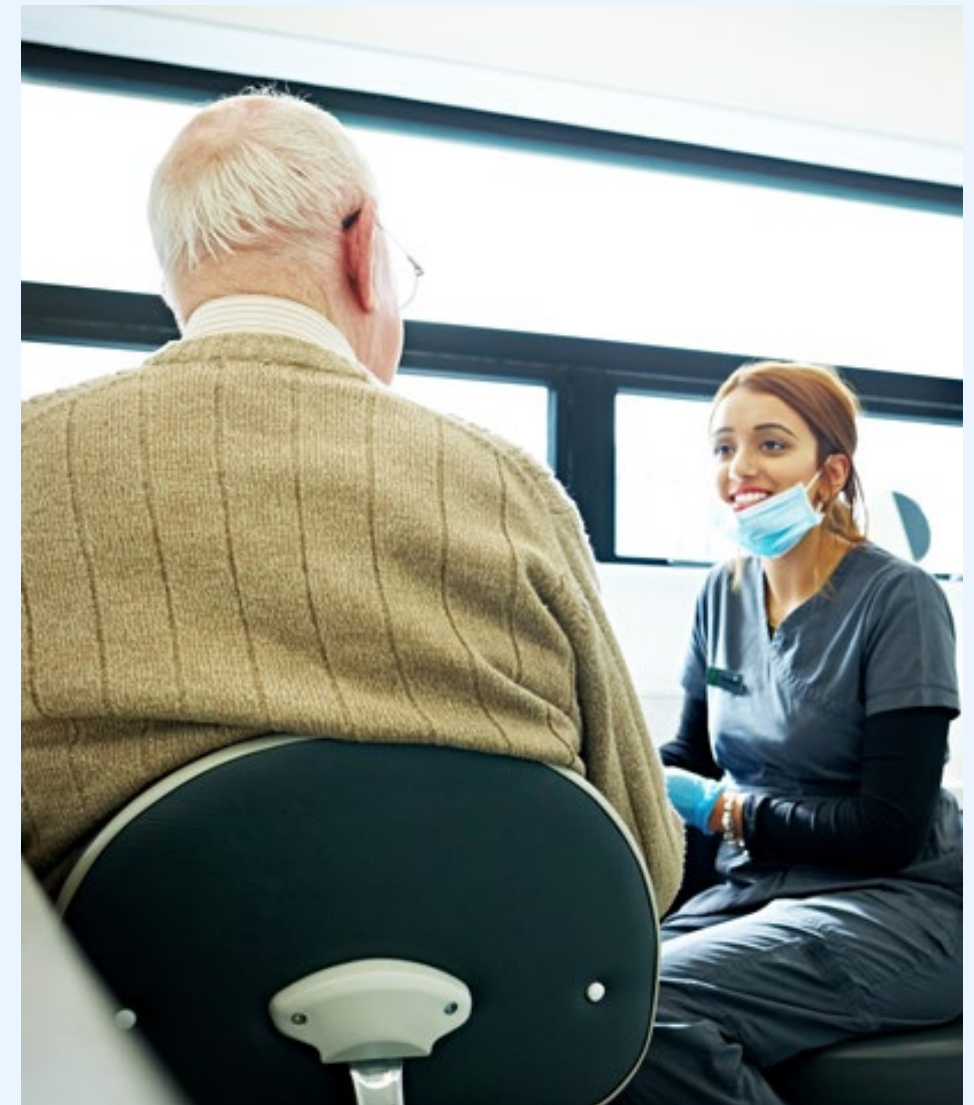


## Create Innovative Reimbursement Model

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Understanding that every member and disability may need to be handled with a heightened sense of patience, **Inclusive Dental® offers enhanced compensation for the treatment provided.**

Providers treating members with the disabilities and conditions listed may submit D codes 9920, 9430, and 2941 for members with the appropriate diagnosis codes (ICD-10) associated with their disability.





## Training and Continuing Education

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We recognize that having a knowledge of and experience with the disabled community and the techniques associated with successful visits are what will truly close the gaps of providing meaningful dental care. **Comprehensive in-person and online training for providers will be available.**

Each participating dentist will be required to complete an initial four-hour continuing education (CE) course focused on treating individuals with special needs, and then four hours of CE every two years.



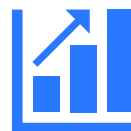


# Outcomes/Metrics

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**Cost-benefit analysis**



**Increased utilization**



**Reduction in services rendered for  
general anesthesia**



**ER visit reduction**



**Improved management  
of physical health  
comorbidities**



**Cost savings**





## Outcomes/Metrics

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### Subjective measures:

- Improved quality of life.
- Better nutrition.
- Better-managed behaviors through pain control.







Thank you

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