



Data-Driven Advocacy

Shaping Medicaid Dental Policies
for Disability Access

May 1, 2024

In partnership with:





Agenda

- 1.** Welcome, Housekeeping, and Overview
- 2.** Didactic Presentation & Case Study - Data-Driven Advocacy:
Shaping Medicaid Dental Policies for Disability Access
- 3.** Participant Q&A
- 4.** Community Discussion and Solution Finding

Thank You to Our Funder!



Housekeeping



This session
is recorded.
Please stay muted
until called upon.



Slides, forms, and
materials will be
available on the
AIDPH website.



Please type
your email and
organization in
the chat.



Questions
about Zoom?
Ask in the chat.

The Mission

Empowering our community to advance oral health through **science**, **education**, and **advocacy**

The Vision

A **justice-oriented** oral health system



Our Communities of Focus



LGBTQIA+

By tailoring preventive and treatment strategies to the unique needs of this community, we can contribute to reducing disparities and promoting oral health equity for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status.



Veterans

By recognizing and addressing the distinct challenges faced by veterans, we can contribute to improving oral health outcomes, promoting preventive care, and enhancing the overall quality of life for those who have served in the military.



Disabilities

By prioritizing inclusivity, accessibility, and targeted education, we can contribute significantly to improving the oral health outcomes and overall well-being of people with disabilities.



Rural

By addressing the unique challenges faced by residents in rural areas, we can contribute to reducing oral health disparities and improving the overall well-being of these communities.

Strengthening State Medicaid Advocacy for People with Disabilities



Training Webinars

Virtual sessions sharing real-time successes and strategies for building relationships and advancing legislative action.



Advocacy Toolkit

A step-by-step guide for advocacy efforts, including templates, research, scripts, sample legislation, and more.



Bill Bank

A bill bank containing sample legislation for state-based stakeholders to review and replicate in advocacy work.



Continuing Education Credits

Oral health professionals can request ADA CERP continuing education credits for each training webinar.

Advocacy Training Series

- March — A Community-Led Approach to Increasing Dental Benefits in Medicaid: A Texas Case Study
- **April 30, 2024 — Data-Driven Advocacy: Shaping Medicaid Dental Policies for Disability Access**
- July 16 — Non Traditional Partnerships and Creating Legislative Champions
- September 25 — Implementing Policy after Legislation is Passed

Strengthening State Medicaid Advocacy for People with Disabilities

Advocacy Toolkit

- Section 1: Understanding Political Landscapes
- Section 2: Engaging with Decision Makers
- **Section 3: Using Data for Policy**
- Section 4: Building Non-Traditional Partnerships
- Section 5: Frameworks for Storytelling

Key Challenges for Data and Research in Policy Change

The process of leveraging data to advocate for expanded Medicaid dental benefits for adults with disabilities involves navigating a complex landscape of data collection, analysis, and policy application. This section outlines the key challenges associated with identifying competing data for this demographic and offers strategies to address these issues.

IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT DATA

Challenge

With vast amounts of potential data, pinpointing what is most relevant for policy advocacy can be overwhelming. Essential data should illuminate the needs, barriers, and potential outcomes of expanded dental benefits for adults with disabilities.

Strategies to Address this Challenge

- Focus on data that directly links oral health to broader health outcomes, access barriers, and economic implications of dental care in Medicaid.
- Engage with community members and stakeholders to determine the most pressing data needs and questions.

ACCESSING RELEVANT DATA

Challenge

Identifying and accessing the right datasets can be daunting. Data on Medicaid dental benefits and usage by adults with disabilities is scattered across various sources, including state Medicaid programs, healthcare providers, and research institutions.

Strategies to Address this Challenge

- Build partnerships with state Medicaid agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofits focused on disability rights to access and share data.
- Utilize Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests as necessary to obtain public records on Medicaid dental services.
- Partner with legislators to request data that can be difficult or time-consuming to access.

Action

ing and facilitating processes that build alignment for social change within organizations. Includes: designing the planning process, engaging and agreement that informs taking concerted

Goals of the Process

2. Where do we want to be?

the change effort? What are the social effort? What are the structural

ation that needs to be changed.

Session Facilitators



Chase Bearden

*Coalition of Texans
with Disabilities*



Laura Perna

*Coalition of Texans
with Disabilities*



Elizabeth Flannery

*American Institute of
Dental Public Health*

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

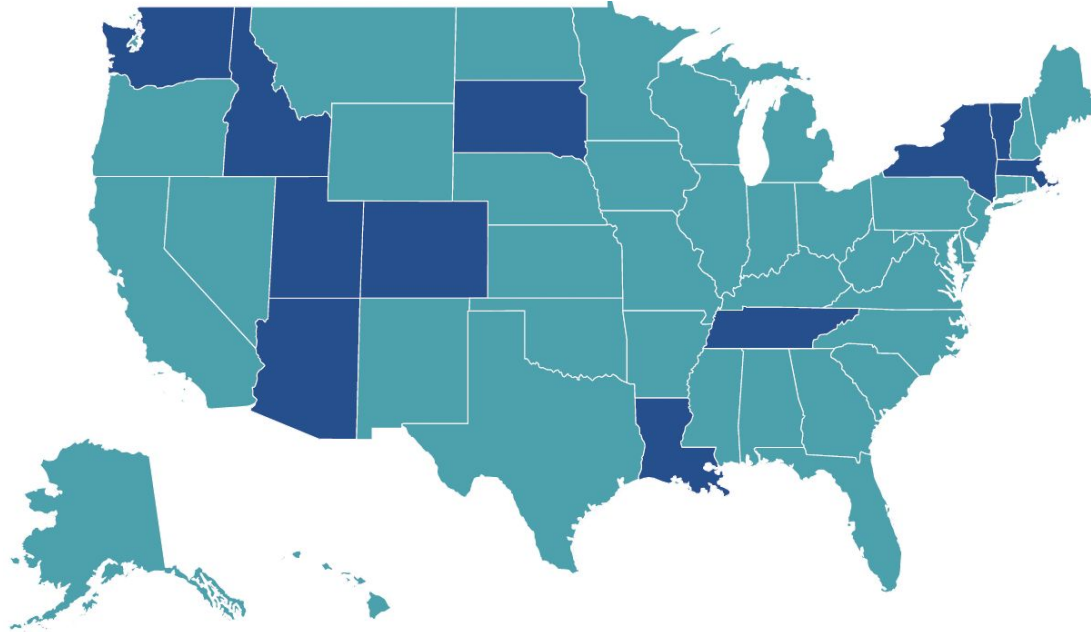
- 1.** Analyze the role of data-driven approaches in formulating and reforming Medicaid dental policies for adults with disabilities.
- 2.** Demonstrate the ability to source and interpret relevant data to support advocacy for expanded Medicaid dental benefits.
- 3.** Construct compelling arguments using data to showcase the necessity and impact of policy changes in dental care for individuals with disabilities.

Disclosures

The presenters declare that they do not have a financial arrangement or affiliation with any corporate organization offering financial support or grant monies for this continuing dental education program, nor do they have a financial interest in any commercial product(s) or service(s) they will discuss in the presentation.

Using Data for Policy Change

Background and Context



■ Reports covering one or more services for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities generally not provided to other adult beneficiaries

■ Does not report covering those services

The Impact of Community-Engaged Research



knowledge
expertise
technical skill
research capacity



lived experience
community trust
representation
direct benefit

Challenges & Solutions in Leveraging Data

Identifying Important Data



- Find oral health specific data
- Find economic implications
- Connect with community members

Accessing Relevant Data



- Forge strategic partnerships
- Use Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- Work with legislators to request data

Challenges & Solutions in Leveraging Data

Data Completeness and Quality



- Advocate for oral health metrics in existing collection tools
- Collaborate with researchers to fill gaps in data

Using Data for Policy and Advocacy



- Connect data and lived experience
- Use data visualization tools

Challenges & Solutions in Leveraging Data

Translating Data into Policy Solutions



- Partner with policy experts and economists
- Understand & Share successful models from other states

Engaging with Diverse Stakeholders



- Develop Targeted Messaging
- Organize community voice with forums and workshops

Evaluating Impact



- Advocate for data collection in policy implementation
- Partner with academic institutions
- Implement evaluation findings for continuous improvement

Using Data and Research to Make the Case



Access and
Utilization Rates



Health
Outcomes



Qualitative
Research



Health Impact
Policy Analyses



Cost Benefit
Analyses

Using Data and Research to Make the Case



Access and Utilization Rates

Data on the use of dental services by adults with disabilities under Medicaid can highlight gaps in access and care.

WHERE TO ACCESS

Medicaid claims data, state health department reports, and publicly-available surveys such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

VARIABLES TO USE

Number of dental visits, types of dental services received, demographic information (age, disability type, etc.).

ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

Analyze trends over time, compare utilization rates between states with different levels of dental benefits, and assess disparities in access among subgroups of adults with disabilities. Stratify by county, demographics, and compare results to state or national benchmarks.

Getting Started: A Checklist for Using Data for Policy

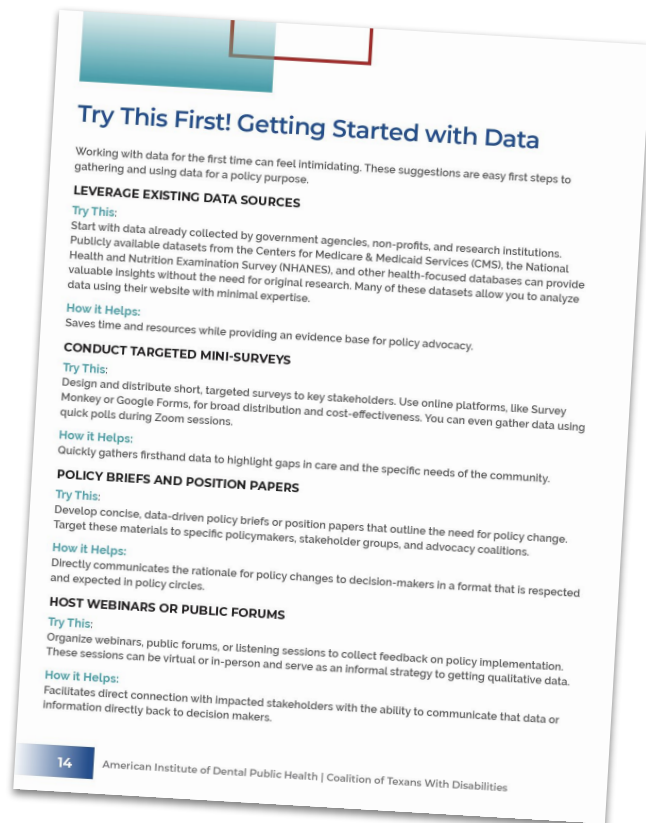
- Define the policy goal
- Identify stakeholders
- Assess available resources
- Engage with data experts
- Gather and analyze data
- Evaluate and adapt



Try This First!

Getting Started with Data

- Leverage existing data sources
- Conduct targeted mini-surveys
- Policy briefs and position papers
- Host webinars and public forums



Moving to Action

A collaborative planning framework supports designing and facilitating processes that build alignment around **shared vision and commitment to strategic action for social change within organizations, networks, and communities**. The pathway to action includes:

- Designing the planning process
- Engaging stakeholders in a series of strategic conversations to build agreement that informs taking concerted action
- Taking action

Designing a Pathway to Action

A collaborative planning framework supports designing and facilitating processes that build alignment around shared vision and commitment to strategic action for social change within organizations, networks, and communities. The pathway to action includes: designing the planning process; engaging stakeholders in a series of strategic conversations to build agreement that informs taking concerted action; and taking action.

1. Where are we now? **3. How do we get from here to there?** **2. Where do we want to be?**

A. Context
The strategic imperatives or other conditions that are driving the change effort. What economic, and political realities that are influencing the change effort? What are the arrangements that contribute to the current reality?

B. Current Reality
The issue or opportunity needing attention or requiring action; the situation that

2. What are the goals of the process?
The desired impact, result, or outcome of the change effort, including changes in structural arrangements and power relationships.

3. Who are key stakeholders?
Individuals and groups that are already part of the network or who need to be engaged in the change effort; any person or group who is likely to be affected by the outcome, is passionate about the issue, is responsible for implementation, or can prevent implementation.

A. List the key stakeholders and stakeholder groups.
B. Identify the wins or "WIFMs" (What's In It For Me) for each stakeholder. A "win" means what they value or care about with respect to the situations, i.e., what would a good outcome be from their point of view?

STAKEHOLDER	WIN

Section Three: Using Data for Policy Change 16

Case Study

Community Discussion

What next steps will you take?

- From the material presented, what catches your attention?
- What methodologies, strategies, etc. do you want to try in your state?
- Do you still have questions?

Next Steps

1. CEUs are available for today's session. **The survey link will show up in your browser immediately after the session.**
2. Recording and resources from today's session will be emailed to you.
3. Review, share, and evaluate the toolkit!
4. Register for the next training on **July 16th: Non Traditional Partnerships and Creating Legislative Champions**