

(1) assess the availability and accessibility of dentists throughout the State participating in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, either on a fee-for-service basis or through a Medicaid managed care organization;

(2) develop and implement a strategy for increasing the participation of dentists in the Program;

(3) establish by regulation a Five Year Oral Health Care Plan that sets utilization targets for managed care organizations and dental managed care organizations under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to measure demonstrated increases in access by Program enrollees to dental services; and

(4) based on the current 14% level of utilization of dental services, set a utilization target of 30% in the first year of the Plan, with annual increases in utilization of 10% until a minimum level of utilization of 70% is attained in the fifth year of the Plan.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Five Year Oral Health Care Plan developed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene under Section 2 of this Act shall include:

(1) an assessment process with ongoing oversight by the Department to determine if utilization targets are being met and to ensure that corrective action is taken by a managed care organization or a dental managed care organization that fails to meet the utilization targets;

(2) a requirement for a statewide follow-up survey to be conducted by the Department in the year 2000 concerning the oral health status of school children in the State.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall collaborate with representatives of the dental care community, dental managed care organizations, and managed care organizations in the State in the design and implementation of the assessment process and statewide survey required under Section 3 of this Act.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the State budget, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall establish an Office of Oral Health in the Department with responsibility for:

(1) promoting the participation of dentists throughout the State in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program;

(2) ensuring that managed care organizations and or dental managed care organizations provide dental services under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program as required by § ~~15-103(b)(9)(xvi)~~ 15-103.2 of the Health - General Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act;

(3) overseeing the assessment process and statewide survey required under Section 3 of this Act; and