

SSPD Grant Use

**Tennessee Academy of Pediatric
Dentistry**



Primary use of the Grant



- Hiring and Maintaining our lobby firm
- McMahan Winstead & Richardson is one of the most respected lobbying groups in Nashville, TN.
 - What does our lobbyist do in short:
Advocacy, Bill monitoring/ Tracking, Consulting, Legislation drafting, PAC Management, Procurement

Introduction



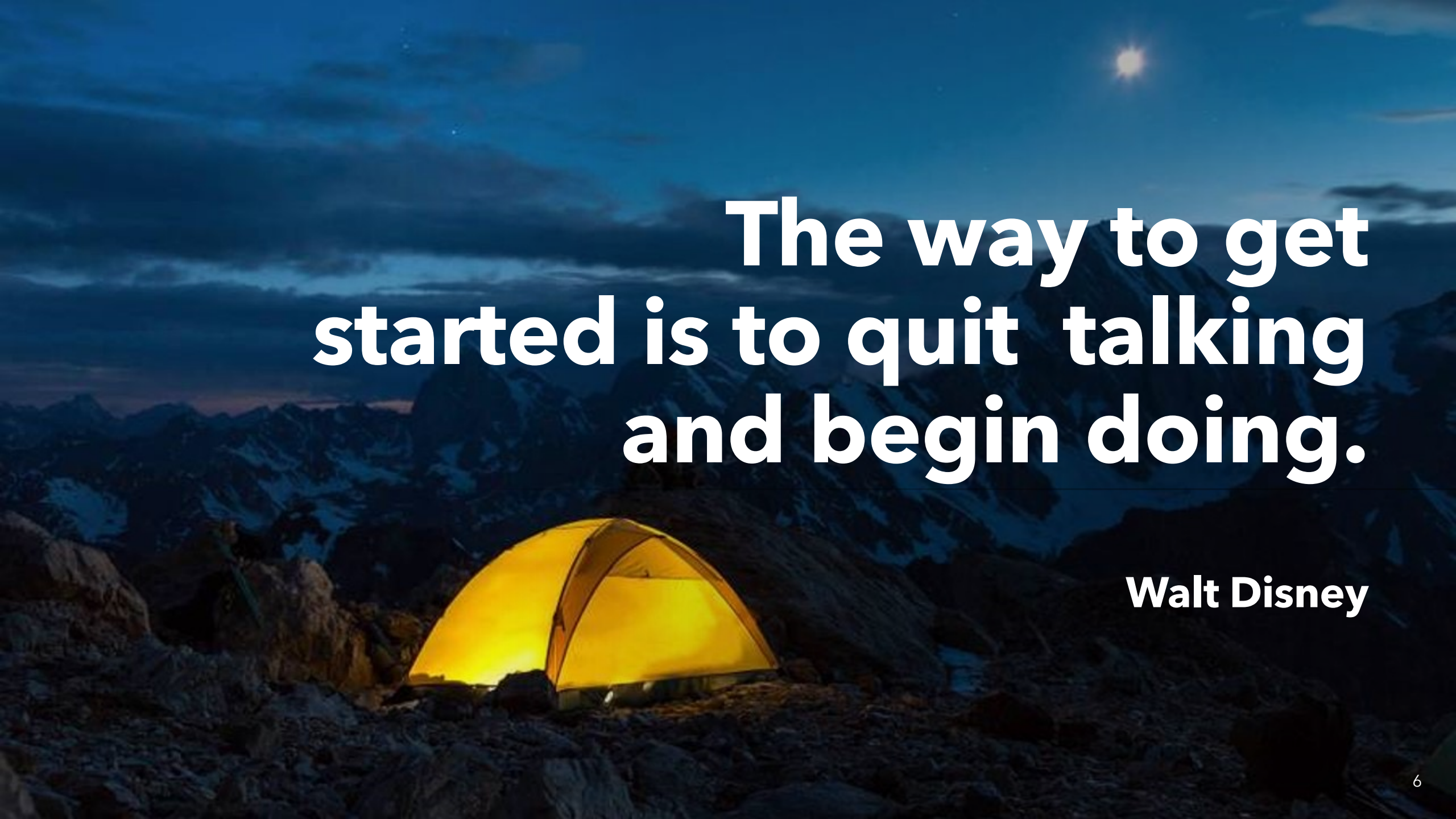
Historically, the State of Tennessee has had a successful medicaid program thanks to many of the leaders within the Tennessee Dental Association and Tennessee Academy of Pediatric Dentistry working with our state officials to make this possible.

Advocating for Children has become an uphill struggle for us in the State of Tennessee due to rising costs and decreased reimbursements.



Unfortunately, Increased paperwork, more denials and decreased pay have jeopardized the great network we once had.



A glowing yellow tent is pitched on a rocky mountain peak at night. The tent is illuminated from within, casting a warm yellow light. The background shows dark, rugged mountain ranges under a deep blue night sky with a few stars and a bright moon in the upper right corner.

**The way to get
started is to quit talking
and begin doing.**

Walt Disney

Current Situation

Middle Tennessee

- We have lost our General Dentist Colleagues to help us with the most complex restorative cases on our teenagers and young adults.
- We no longer have our Oral Surgeons as a safety net because of decreased reimbursements and their sedations are being denied on young children.

Memphis

- Before the Holidays, we were informed that many Pediatric Dentists in the area will not be able to afford taking TennCare due to their rising costs.
- They state that their last oral surgery group that they refer to has said they will no longer be accepting TennCare patients.

Current Situation

Northeast Tennessee

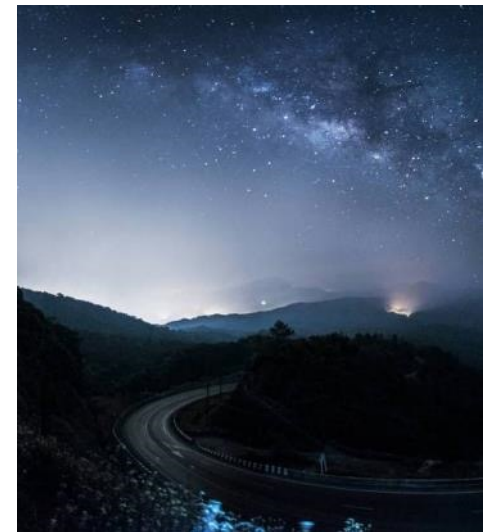
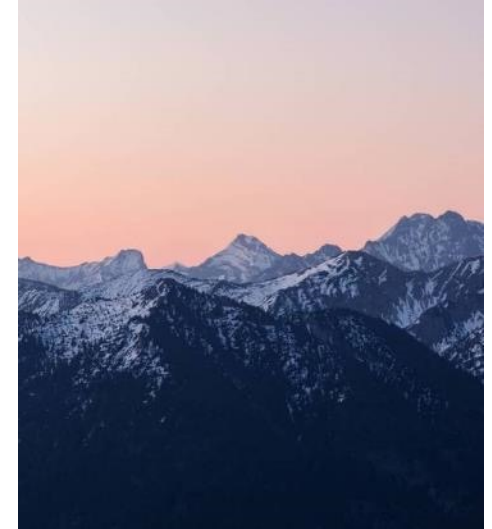
- Pediatric Dentists have dropped taking TennCare because they no longer can afford to accept the fees.
- Patients are having to drive hundreds of miles for patients that need Oral Conscious Sedation/ OR type care.

Summary

In Summary, We want to thank the SSPD for helping us currently work with our lawmakers to increase access to care.

Our goal in Tennessee has been always to put children first. We will continue to fight for children and their right to adequate, appropriate, and necessary dental care based on the AAPD guidelines.

Working along side our lawmakers we want to make our state medicaid program the great program we know it can be.





**Tennessee
Academy of
Pediatric
Dentistry**

Thank you SSPD