

Fwd: November Legislative Update

From: **California Dental Hygienists** | memberservices@cdha.org

To: **TCDHSCA Members**

Thursday, Nov 15, 2:15 PM



California Dental Hygienists' Association
The Voice of Dental Hygiene

November is the time to be thankful, a time to remember and to embrace those who enrich our lives.

CDHA is thankful for all of your support and wishes everyone very Happy Thanksgiving!



The Dental Hygiene Committee of California becomes the
Dental Hygiene Board of California on January 1, 2019

Sunset Review Update

Success!! Effective January 1, 2019, the Dental Hygiene Committee of California (DHCC) becomes the Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC) with the signing of SB 1482. This is a huge victory for hygienists in California.



The name change is significant, removing any doubts of the autonomy and independence of the DHCC. As the Dental Board of California (DBC) is to the DDS and RDA, so is the Dental Hygiene Board (DHBC) to the RDH, RDHAP, RDHEF. With SB 1482, it is clear that California hygienists have achieved all the hallmarks that define a true profession including self regulation as well as control and approval of the profession's educational programs.

Looking back at this achievement, one must understand the undertaking by CDHA to get to this victory for our profession. The formation of the DHCC was the culmination of more than a decade of work by CDHA, spearheaded by former CDHA President and GRC Chair JoAnn Galliano. She worked closely with Senator Don Perata and legislative advocates Terry McHale and Aaron Read to achieve this success.

Former CDHA and ADHA President Katie Dawson shares that for a period of six years, CDHA sponsored three bills to start the DHCC. The first two bills were vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger. Persistence, determination and passion paid off! The final bill was a victory and was signed into law on Friday, June 13, 2008.

The DHCC reported directly to the Department of Consumer Affairs. According to Dawson, "Although there are a number of dental hygiene committees throughout the nation, California's committee was the first that is not a subcommittee of a dental board. In other words, like nurses and other professions, we won't be regulated by our employers."

The DHCC had a more equitable representation of dental hygienists, consisting of four dental hygiene members, 4 public members and only 1 dentist. Rhona Lee and Michelle Hurlbutt, both CDHA members, were the DHCC's first President and Vice President respectively. California dental hygienists possessed more control of their profession and therefore were better able to both advocate for their profession and serve the consumers.

Since creation, the DHCC has had full and sole authority to license and regulate three categories of primary care dental professionals: RDH, RDHAP, and RDHEF. However, confusion persisted due to the "Committee" name and "jurisdiction" language. Now, with their 2nd sunset review completed, the DHCC will become the Dental Hygiene Board of California. It is still the only self-regulating dental hygiene board in the nation...so far!

CDHA has worked closely with the CA legislature and Aaron Read and Associates to bring yet another unique change to the oversight of the RDH profession in CA.

DHCC Meeting, November 16-17, 2018

DHCC is holding it's last public meeting of this year at the Raddison Hotel in Fresno. On the agenda are regulatory packages that cover mobile dental hygiene practices, the placement of interim therapeutic restorations, and a new retired licensure status. Potential 2019 legislation will also be discussed. CDHA sent the DHCC a post Sunset Review letter regarding Dental Practice Act amendments and will be present at the meeting.

[Click Here for the agenda and meeting materials](#)

Legislative Day - March 2019

NOW'S THE TIME TO VISIT YOUR LEGISLATORS AT HOME

The California Legislature is on hiatus until January and your legislators will be in their local offices November and December. It's a great time to visit them locally, closer to home, and important to our success come next year's Legislative Day. Say hello. Wish them happy holidays. Tell them your name, that you're a registered dental hygienist in their district and that you're interested in improving healthcare for Californians. We have wonderful plans for 2019 and the more "faces" legislators can put to dental hygiene, the more likely they are to listen and hear what we have to say!

For your legislator's local address or to find out when and where their next meet and greet will be, go to "findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov", input your zip

code and follow the links.

CDHA Legislative Day

Be a part of the 2019 CDHA Legislative Day and continue to help advocate on behalf of your profession and yourself!

When:

Tuesday, March 26th, 2019

Where:

California State Capitol
1315 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Who Should Attend?

This important event will provide hygienists with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively advocate for legislative issues impacting dental hygienists. Any member interested in learning more about the legislative process, or who would like to lobby directly with their Legislator, this is the event for you!

Goals:

- *Learn about the legislative process
- *Advocate effectively for dental hygienists
- *Communicate the priority legislative issues facing dental hygienists
- *Collaborate with colleagues to create legislative solutions

Meet Your local Legislator!

We will be making our voices heard together, as one CDHA. You will be meeting your legislators -- alongside fellow California RDHs and RDHAPs.

CDHA takes care of all logistics for Legislative Day

The program will begin at 9:00 am with an orientation. No need to worry about what to say! You will be provided with a unified message, talking points and an agenda. A mentoring session with speakers will take place in the morning and your appointments with legislators scheduled for you in the afternoon. The program will conclude with a reception at Aaron Read &

Associates (CDHA Legislative Advocates) across the street from the Capitol.

RSVP:

Registration to Legislative Day is FREE to CDHA Members! To RSVP, email the following to alison@cdha.org:

- 1) Name
- 2) Phone
- 3) Home zip code

The deadline to RSVP is Friday, March 1st, 2019 by 5:00 p.m.

RDHAP Legislative Update - Good News!

Breaking news: More Dental Professionals in Humboldt County to Accept Denti-Cal

Per a press release from the Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS), a Local Dental Pilot Project Grant will provide scholarships to six local Registered Dental Hygienists in Humboldt County so they can become RDHAPs.

Per the DHHS, this scholarship project will improve access to oral health care. CDHA President-Elect Darla Dale is quoted as saying:

"Certainly RDHAPs can clean teeth, but they can do so much more to keep smiles healthy."

[Click Here to read the full article](#)

Liberty Dental Accepts RDHAP Providers

Great News!

Liberty Dental Plan will now accept RDHAPs as providers in its network, due to the significant

efforts of CDHA Alternative Practice Council Member, Karine Strickland, working with our lobby team at Aaron Read and Associates! This is the start to greater inclusion of RDHAPs as plan providers.



Fill out the attached contract, site application and Medicare addendum. Email the completed documents to

prnational@libertydentalplan.com.

Contact one of Liberty Dental's Network Managers directly with any questions (888) 352-7924, 5:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. PST, Monday through Friday.

[Liberty CA Contracting and Credentialing Packet](#)

[Liberty Site Application](#)

[Liberty Medicare Advantage Addendum](#)

LAO Report Supports Expanding AP Scope

California's Legislative Analysts's Office (LAO) released a report "Improving Access to Dental Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. This report analyzes the challenges and considers options and recommendations including expanding the scope for RDHAPs.

[Click Here for the full LAO Report](#)

Other GRC News and Updates...

Prop 56 Supplements and Dental Code for AP Use

DHCS has received additional Prop 56 Tobacco Tax funds to expand their supplemental payment



program through June 30, 2019. The supplements are either a specific dollar amount or a % of the Schedule of Maximum Allowance (SMA), retroactive to July 1, 2018. Better yet, specific services now eligible include radiographs, application of fluoride varnish, adult prophylaxis, full mouth debridement, periodontal scaling and root planing, and periodontal maintenance.

Also in recognition of the extended time needed to provide services to special needs patients, Denti-Cal Procedure Code D9920 (Behavior Management) may be used by RDHAPs, reimbursed 4 times a year with documentation at \$100.

CDHA recognizes that these supplemental payments do not negate the disastrous impact of DHCS policies on access to care by fragile populations, and continues to advocate for better policy on behalf of RDHAPs and those they serve.

[*Click here for the DHCS September Bulletin*](#)

Soda Tax Initiative

Stay tuned! A ballot measure, the California Sugar-Sweetened Beverages Tax Act of 2020, was filed in July by the California Dental Association (CDA) and the California Medical Association (CMA). The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office has concluded this initiative would generate an estimated \$2-3 billion annually from a statewide sales tax of 2 cents (\$0.02) per ounce on sugar-sweetened beverages. Between \$1.6 billion and \$2.5 billion of that revenue would be dedicated exclusively to health care.



CDA and CMA filed this initiative in response to AB 1838, signed by the Governor in June as part of the 2018 budget package, effective immediately. A compromise with the soda industry which had threatened their own ballot measure, AB 1838 bans local taxes on certain groceries (including soda) until 2031. Taxes imposed by cities prior January 1, 2018 are exempt.

[*Click here for the CDA article on the Soda Initiative*](#)

Milk or Water

In related news, SB 1192 (Monning) also passed the Legislature and was signed by the Governor in September. Effective January 1, 2019, milk or water will be the only two options California restaurants can offer as part of standard kid's meals. Parents can still opt for other beverages, but they must ask! This is an important step towards addressing childhood obesity, educating parents and prioritizing healthful beverages in the marketplace aimed at children.

[Click here for the SB 1192](#)

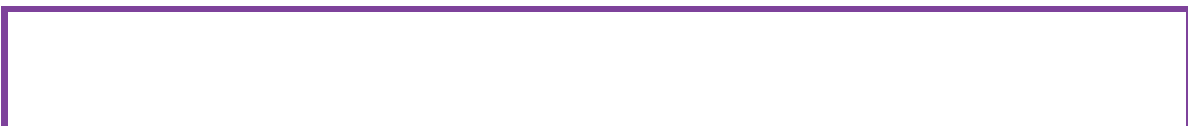
Updated DH Classification

The US Office of Management and Budget has updated the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). Dental hygienists have been reclassified as "Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners." Previously we were classified as healthcare technologists or technicians. This recognizes the growth of the dental hygiene profession, expansion of our scope of practice nationwide, and our role as primary preventive care providers.

RDAEFs Want to Administer Anesthesia

Dental assistants are classified as "Healthcare Support" under the SOC. Yet, Registered Dental Assistants in Expanded Function 2 (RDAEF2s) have asked the Dental Board of California (DBC) to consider expanding their scope to include the administration of local anesthesia and nitrous oxide sedation. Strong opposition was voiced at the DBC's August meeting by CDHA, the California Dental Hygiene Educator's Association (CDHEA), and DH programs. Dr. Stanley Malamad DDS, a well respected dentist anesthesiologist and USC professor, also expressed his firm opposition in a letter. The DBC tabled the discussion and it will be on the agenda for the November 29-30 Board Meeting.

[Click Here to read the CDHA Letter to the Dental Board of California](#)



CalHyPAC:

Keeping Our Political Voice Strong

CalHyPAC is the California Dental Hygienists' Association's Political Action Committee, a separate entity from the CDHA. The PAC establishes relationships with California legislators who believe that dental hygienists are an important and essential part of the health care system. We support candidates for the California Legislature who believe in our interests, concerns and goals.

CalHyPAC is an essential part of CDHA's government affairs program and is the only political action committee that represents California dental hygienists.

[*Click here to learn more about CalHyPAC and donate today!*](#)



Labor Law

A recent California Supreme Court decision makes independent contractor criteria more strict.

CDA says dentists should assume their workers are employees.

[Click here for details on the ruling.](#)

Are you paid for all time worked?

Is your salary reduced if there are openings in the patient schedule?

Learn more about Labor Laws and your employee rights!

[Click Here to download the CDHA Labor Law manual](#)

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