



Nevada Dental
ASSOCIATION

Who are we?

- We are part of the American Dental Association's tripartite organizational structure with national, state and local dental components working together to provide resources and services to support member dentists, while educating the public and seeking ways to improve access to oral health care.
- The Nevada Dental Association's main focus in this system is advocacy at the state level to preserve the integrity of the dental profession, strengthen the doctor/patient relationship and promote access to oral health care.

How are we involved in the community?

- Our members routinely participate in statewide volunteer programs such as “Give Kids a Smile, the Northern Nevada Dental Health Program, Adopt a Vet, Remote Area Medical events and many UNLV School of Dental Medicine Programs providing free dental care.
- Data from 2017 through 2018 shows that, in partnership with these and other programs throughout the state, dentists provided over 5 million dollars in oral health care services. We consider this a conservative estimate as many dentists do not report free care they provide.

What are the challenges our members face?

- Third-party payer issues- Insurance companies continue to dictate how dental providers are reimbursed. The Nevada Dental Association will support language developed by the National Conference of Insurance Legislators(NCOIL) to help address these concerns.
- Dentists face a delicate balancing act when determining the make-up of their patient base which includes fee-for-service, insured and Medicaid patients. Medicaid continues to limit comprehensive treatment to children and has few adult benefits. The Association supports increasing adult Medicaid benefits to improve access to oral health care for this patient group.

Some Thoughts on Dental Therapy (SB366)

- It is important to the Association that regulations developed by the Board of Dental Examiners follow the intent of the law as passed regarding the practice of dental therapy.
- The practice of dental therapy must be safe. Training programs approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) ensure patient safety. The written practice agreement with a licensed dentist along with required supervision will further enhance patient safety.
- This new midlevel practitioner was created with the intention of improving access to dental care for specific populations. Provisions in this new law that geographically restrict practice to areas of critical need must be adhered to.

New Legislation

- The Nevada Dental Association hopes to partner with legislators to develop a bill to fund the renovation of two dental units at the Nye County Hospital in Tonopah.
- Dr. Hardy sponsored SB 289 which could potentially fund staff positions.
- Many of our young members have considerable student debt and the Association is interested in any legislation that can alleviate this financial burden while benefitting communities in need.

In Closing

- The Nevada Dental Association advocates for access to oral healthcare.
- Our goal is to better educate the public on the benefits of good oral health and the value of routine dental care.
- We will continue to preserve the integrity of the dental profession and promote the Principles of Ethics and the Code of Professional Conduct of the American Dental Association.
- The Nevada Dental Association is the voice and advocate for oral health care in Nevada.