



ODONTIA

Official Publication of the
Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association

SUMMER 2015
VOLUME 63, ISSUE 2

Creating Value

By Amy Kinnamon, RDH, BS

President's Message



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Last week, I found myself in an interesting conversation with a patient. She had recently moved to the area from Michigan. She was an unemployed nurse. She explained that she knew the body, but she definitely did not know the mouth. She had so many questions and I explained the differences between restorative materials, the benefits of each, new and emerging treatment options in comparison to options that were still available. At the end of the appointment, she shook my hand and asked, "Are you a doctor?"

"No," I replied, "I am the dental hygienist." "You are very knowledgeable," she said. I thanked her and as she left she scheduled the rest of her family with me.

The goal is to create value for what we do and how we do it. In that appointment, the patient realized the value of my knowledge and in that trust was created between patient and clinician. We have a unique and special gift. Today and for the future, it is not enough to satisfy ourselves with "picking, flicking and polishing," as a dear friend would say. Our knowledge and expertise goes so far beyond our clinical ability. Now is the time to let that knowledge and expertise shine not only for our patients, but our communities as well as crossing the boundaries in an interdisciplinary effort.

The first step to creating value and communicating it in a meaningful way is to think differently about what we do. We must keep an open mind and think about not only what dental hygiene as a career means to us and what we see for your future, but also about the dental hygienist working next to you who may have a different vision of what dental hygiene means to them and to their future. Every dental hygienist and their vision deserve a voice in our organization because at the end of the day we are all on the same team. We are all dental hygienists and as such we should support each other and our differing passions.

The second step to creating value is utilizing and communicating what we know. Healthcare as we know it is going to be different.

Technology is moving forward exponentially, especially, with the oral-systemic link. What the world of dentistry knows in its current state is going away. The oral-systemic link and the access to care issues are the inciting incidents that are forcing a progression into collaboration among healthcare professionals for total body health and new and innovative ways to provide dental care to patients. We are an integral piece of the oral (perio) systemic puzzle. We are the prevention specialists, our communities' first line of defense in the fight for total health.

Finally, the American Dental Hygienists' Association environmental scan a few years ago revealed that the general public did know what a dental hygienist was. Do they know what we do...in a sense, yes. However, how many of us are guilty of downplaying our role? We all get mistaken for the doctor. So many times I have heard hygienists say, "Oh no, I'm JUST the hygienist." Let's eliminate the word "just" from our vocabulary. I could have said, "I'm just the hygienist," but the first step even though the patient may have had no idea what I was saying was to elevate myself to the proper level. We are prevention specialists. We are experts on inflammation. We are an integral part of whole body health. We are dental hygienists. We need to create a unified message that incorporates our education, licensure, and skill, with our ability to be forward thinking, critically thinking, decision-making major stakeholders in the advancement of whole body health and the access to care issues that face us and our colleagues.

I am not a mathematician by any stretch of the imagination, but I definitely know that as an army of like-minded dental hygienists supporting each others' passion for our career we are more powerful and can send a stronger message than if we are each fighting a separate battle to promote a single vision.

We have to conquer what impedes progress, which is F.E.A.R. (False Evidence Appearing Real) and commit ourselves to H.O.P.E. (Helping Other Practitioners Evolve). We are standing at the crossroads of a dynamic, fantastic future. We have to focus, we have to believe, we have to empower and we have to support each other.

Total Development Weekend

By Sandy Brado, RDH, BA
Total Development Weekend Council Co-Chair

Another successful Total Development Weekend has come and gone and if you weren't there, you missed another great opportunity to learn from outstanding speakers. My heartfelt thanks to the hard working council members: Betty Bowling, Doreen Bradac, Katie Camp, Sharon Christiansen, Ruth Earl, Pat Powers, Kristy Unterbrink, Sandy Winchell, and the many volunteer hosts and assistants!

Fantastic courses, phenomenal exhibitors, along with time to relax, rejuvenate and even catch up with friends and family! What more can you ask for?! ODHA appreciates the support of all who attended this year's event. We hope to see everyone next year at the Embassy Suites Airport in Columbus the weekend of April 28- 30th, 2016.

The Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association would like to express our sincere thanks to all 2015 Total Development Weekend sponsors, exhibitors and colleagues.

A special THANKS to ODHA's 2015 course sponsors!!

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The ODHA Academy of Dental Hygiene Studies



Attendees-Shawn Petrillo-Molchan,
Deb Oblisk, Dar Theodous



Chair Winner- Linda Alexander

Mark your calendars now for TDW 2016 – You won't want to miss another outstanding line up!

Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association's

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND 2016

Mark your calendars now!

Thursday • Friday • Saturday
April 28 • 29 • 30



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Lobby Day was considered an overwhelming success by all attendees. The evaluations that were returned listed the event unanimously as **Very Effective**. Attendees felt that the one on one visit with legislators empowered them and the Lobby Day 101 helped educate them on current legislative issues. Attendees also voiced that attending helped them feel that ODHA was indeed protecting their profession.

There were many new attendees to the event. The attendees enjoyed the Lobby Day 101 and were very engaged and asked Matt Whitehead our Lobbyist many questions. ODHA had two speakers, Randy Gardner, who received the ODHA Friend of the Profession Award and David Maywhoor from Dental Access Now. Both speakers were warmly received and thought provoking questions were asked.

ODHA needs to continue to encourage members to visit legislators, especially the House of Representatives. At this time we have only contacted 25% of the Reps. ODHA needs to formulate a plan to have all members take the time to visit the home office of their prospective legislators and share ODHA's message. ODHA Government Relations Council will continue to encourage members to contact their legislators until we reach 75%. ODHA needs to become more strategic with influential legislators, who sit on Committees such as Health, Medicaid and Commerce.

O-HY-PAC donations were also encouraged. ODHA encourages all members to send contributions to Amanda Cummings and ask non-members to contribute to our legislative efforts.

Ideas for future success:

Plan date 6 months in advance to help encourage attendance and provide date at Annual Session.

Date should not be in April as this limits educators and students from attending due to end of the semester and CDCA exam schedule. March can be problematic due to Easter and Spring Break.

If Web meeting program is purchased by ODHA, consider having a Web Lobby Day 101 for new attendees prior to the event.



Left: Grace Rader, Tayler Mannon, Brooke Wise, Beth Tronolone, Britni Butler and Kali Battin.

By Matthew S. Whitehead, Manager of Legislative Affairs, Governmental Policy Group, Inc. mwhitehead@gpgrhr.com.

Legislative Update

Since my last article a number of things have occurred. We've had nearly 400 bills introduced, including HB 64 the 2,784 page 2-year state budget, last year's HB 463 took effect and the Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA), lobby day happened on April 15th. ODHA usually does not have many things to discuss with regard to the budget bill and testimony is limited to supporting continued Medicaid adult dental reimbursements. However, this budget was full of things that ODHA could support and matches the mission to promote dental hygiene as a part of solutions to problems plaguing Ohio.

House Bill 64 proposes to increase Medicaid dental provider rates by 1% or \$5 million in the 2-year budget. The very modest increases sought haven't been raised since 2000; ODHA argued that the increases are well overdue.



(Legislative Update continued on page 5)

The time for nominations is now!

If you are interested in running for an elected office of ODHA (President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Speaker of the House, Delegate to ADHA 1 or 3 year term or Alternate Delegate to ADHA) please contact: Linda Wilson, RDH ODHA nomination committee chair at lindakwilson@att.net or call 740-215-3927.



Main Registration Fees:

VALID May 8 – June 5 and Onsite

\$229 - Members/Delegates/Alternates

\$ 145 - Students

\$ 305 - Non-Members (dentists, dental assistants, etc.)

Main Registration Fee Includes Admission to:

Thursday & Saturday Plenary Sessions

Table Clinics/Research Poster Sessions on Thursday (2 Hours CE)

Exhibits on Friday & Saturday (1 Hour CE)

Marketplace on Saturday

DENTSPLY/ADHA Graduate Student Research Poster Sessions

Many Networking Evening Receptions

Legislative Update

The increases are paid from the savings through prevention efforts, thus, we supported this increase and the minimal \$3 co-pay requirement to obtain these services. ODHA further argued that if Medicaid was required to assign Medicaid provider numbers to dental hygienists, we could bill for services that we provide under the authority of the dentist and be reimbursed for the same service if it was billed by a dentist. Also consider that last year, House Bill 463 was enacted with a provision that allowed a dentist to supervise 4 dental hygienists at a time. While this change was promoted as an employment tool for hygienists, it could be used as the intended tool for access to serve Medicaid patients. If a dentist hired that one additional hygienist to work specifically on Medicaid patients the position would pay for itself and more patients would have access. The modest reimbursement increases proposed would go much farther avoiding those costly hospitalizations and creating more funds for future reimbursement increases.

We further argued that in 2010, the General Assembly authorized the Oral Health Access Supervision Program (OHASP) to allow a hygienist to work with more flexibility under a supervising dentist in underserved areas. Adding the ability for this reimbursement could streamline this program even further because a hygienist may be working under the supervision of a dentist who does not have a Medicaid provider number because they do not traditionally accept Medicaid patients.

While no changes were made to reflect this, the House did insert a dental provider rate pilot project. The bill establishes a demonstration pilot project that pays Medicaid dental providers in Brown, Scioto, Adams, Lawrence, Jackson, Gallia, Vinton, Perry, Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, Washington, Pike, Athens, Noble, and Monroe counties at 65% of the American Dental Association survey of fees for dental services. The Ohio Dental Association advocated for the change and it will be curious to see if the language remains in the budget as the amendment costs nearly \$16 million over the biennium and the Senate has been messaging they do not want to entertain new or increased spending without justification. ODHA also supported efforts in the bill around infant mortality and advocating dental services for people with disabilities, as they are

proposed to be allowed to select optional enrollment in managed care. The Senate will work on the bill until mid-June, followed by a 2-week conference committee of the Chambers and a goal of a Governor's signature by June 30th.

ODHA was the only group to bring in a student to support House Bill 1, the Ohio House's top legislative agenda item. Meagan Niezgodski, a graduating student from Sinclair Community College, testified about her story and the challenge of finding a job for many dental hygiene graduates around the state because of the restrictive dental practice act. Her testimony is on the ODHA website. House Bill 1 sets aside \$35 Million in fiscal year 2016 and \$35 Million in fiscal year 2017 for the proposed Workforce Grant Program. ODHA supports requirement of the Chancellor to develop metrics showing the number of grants awarded and the number of grant recipients who became employed in an in demand job (dental hygiene qualifies) within 12 months of completing a qualifying degree, certification, or license. However, we believe the metric should be completed before the proposed 2018 date. ODHA testified on the need for a review of scope of practice changes to encourage more job opportunities and will pursue in a separate bill. ODHA also appreciates the \$5,000 per academic year grant funds, not to exceed 75% of the cost of tuition per academic year. Finally, we support the effort to create lists of in-demand jobs in the state and in each region. (There are 84 Dental Health professional shortage areas throughout the state; these areas should be included in the regional in-demand job areas).

ODHA is taking the opportunity to spread its message and testify on issues of importance and relevance to the profession. Our efforts at the Statehouse are complimented by your engagement with your State Representative and State Senator to share your position on the state of oral healthcare in Ohio, the preservation of Medicaid dental coverage or how to increase employment of dental hygienists in Ohio. As we enter county fair season, legislators are spending more time in the districts and these can be great opportunities to introduce yourself and offer to educate them if they are unaware of what dental hygiene is all about. Remember it is easier to ask something from someone that you already know!

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Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association

Annual Session

November

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Dental Hygienists' Association

Dear Dental Hygienists,

Please join MRVDHA for our upcoming 3 CEU continuing education course.

Saturday, August 1, 2015

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Champaign County Library

1060 Scioto Street

Urbana, Ohio 43078

Agenda

Registration and breakfast

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Nutrition for the Dental Hygienist

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

This course will focus on providing a deeper understanding for the dental hygienist of nutrition for their patient's oral health and for the health of the practitioner as well. It is broken into 3 components: anti-inflammatory nutrition, how nutrition affects dental health -both good and bad, and nutritional nuggets of wisdom for the health professional.

Speaker: Chriss Thompson, RDH, CHHC, CPT

Cost: \$35 for ADHA members, \$50 for non-members

Please contact Jessica Moore, MRVDHA President, for questions

Email: wagesj23@yahoo.com

Phone: 937-215-7411

Please register by
Friday, July 24th, 2015 for \$5 off!

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Next Deadline: August 1, 2015

Please format submissions in Word

ODONTIA is published four times a year by the Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association. All submissions to ODONTIA must be in possession of the editors by the printed deadline in Word format. The ODHA and the Editors of ODONTIA accept no responsibility for opinions and statements presented by contributors.



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HISTORIAN CORNER



Part of the ODHA delegation representing at the ADHA Annual Session 2003 Left: Mary Herrmann, Linda Wilson, Past President, Suzy Savanick Past President



ODHA leaders representing at ADHA Annual Session 2014 Left: Gretchen Matty, Senior Delegate; Beth Tronolone, Past President, Delegate; Shannon Sweeney, Vice-President, Delegate; Deborah Stevens, Delegate; Amy Kinnamon, President, Delegate

ODHA HISTORIAN

Calling all members!!

ODHA has established the ODHA Historian in order to develop a full representation of all that ODHA has accomplished over the years.

I need your help.

If you have photos, newspaper articles, or anything that represents our past, please contact me. Look for a display depicting ODHA's history at next year's annual session.

Suzy Savanick, RDH, ssavanick@hotmail.com