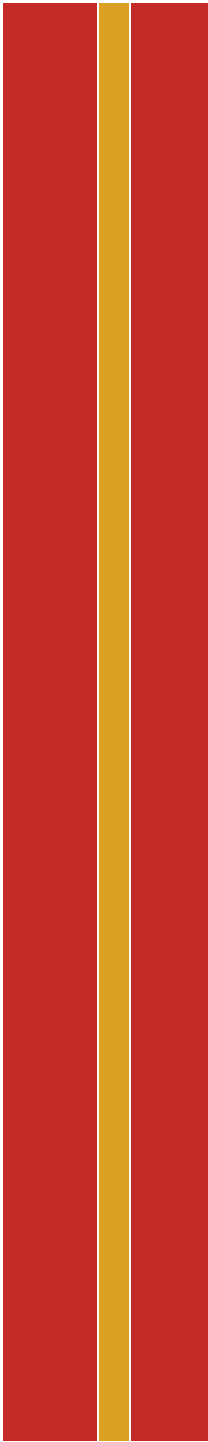


**Dental Therapist Initiatives,
Access, and Changing State
Practice Acts**
*The ADHA Perspective: An
Update*

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President, ADHA
April 29, 2012

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- I. The Dental Hygiene Workforce as a Partner in Addressing Access
 - II. ADHA's Role in the Development and Advocacy of New Oral Health Providers
 - III. What's Occurred and What's Happening Moving Forward

The Dental Hygiene Landscape

- **The workforce**
 - Currently 150,000+ dental hygienists in the U.S.
 - One of the top 10 fastest growing health care professions
 - 38% growth projected between 2010-2020
- **The educational infrastructure**
 - 334 entry level dental hygiene programs
 - 58 degree completion programs
 - 21 Masters programs
- **States' increasing recognition**
 - 35 states allow hygienists to initiate care in community settings
 - 15 states directly reimburse hygienists

Direct Access to Dental Hygienists

- Dental hygienist initiate patient care without the presence of a dentist in settings outside of the private office
- Many forms – collaborative practice, public health supervision, limited access permit, etc.
- Utilizes the existing dental hygiene workforce to increase access

Resource: ADHA's Chart on Direct Access States:

http://www.adha.org/governmental_affairs/downloads/direct_access.pdf



ADHA's Approach to New Providers

- Policies afford ADHA **flexibility** in considering new provider models (not just the ADHP)
- Consider on a **case-by-case** basis
- Work in **partnership** with state dental hygiene associations
- Focus on developing providers who are **appropriately educated, licensed & deliver safe and quality oral healthcare directly** to the public
- Commitment to advocate in support of **dental hygiene-based** models

ADHA Policies on Workforce

We advocate the creation of an advanced dental hygiene practitioner who provides diagnostic, preventative, restorative and therapeutic services directly to the public.

Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner 4-04

ADHA Policies on Workforce

The ADHA supports oral health care workforce models that culminate in:

- Graduation from an accredited institution
- Professional Licensure
- Direct access to patient care

Access to Care 4S-09

ADHA Policies on Workforce

Mid-level Oral Health Practitioner:

A licensed dental hygienist who has graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program and who provides primary oral health care directly to patients to promote and restore oral health through assessment, diagnosis, treatment, evaluation and referral services. The Mid-level Oral Health Practitioner has met the educational requirements to provide services within an expanded scope of care, and practices under regulations set forth by the appropriate licensing agency.

Dental Hygiene Practice 2-10

Why Dental Hygiene-based?

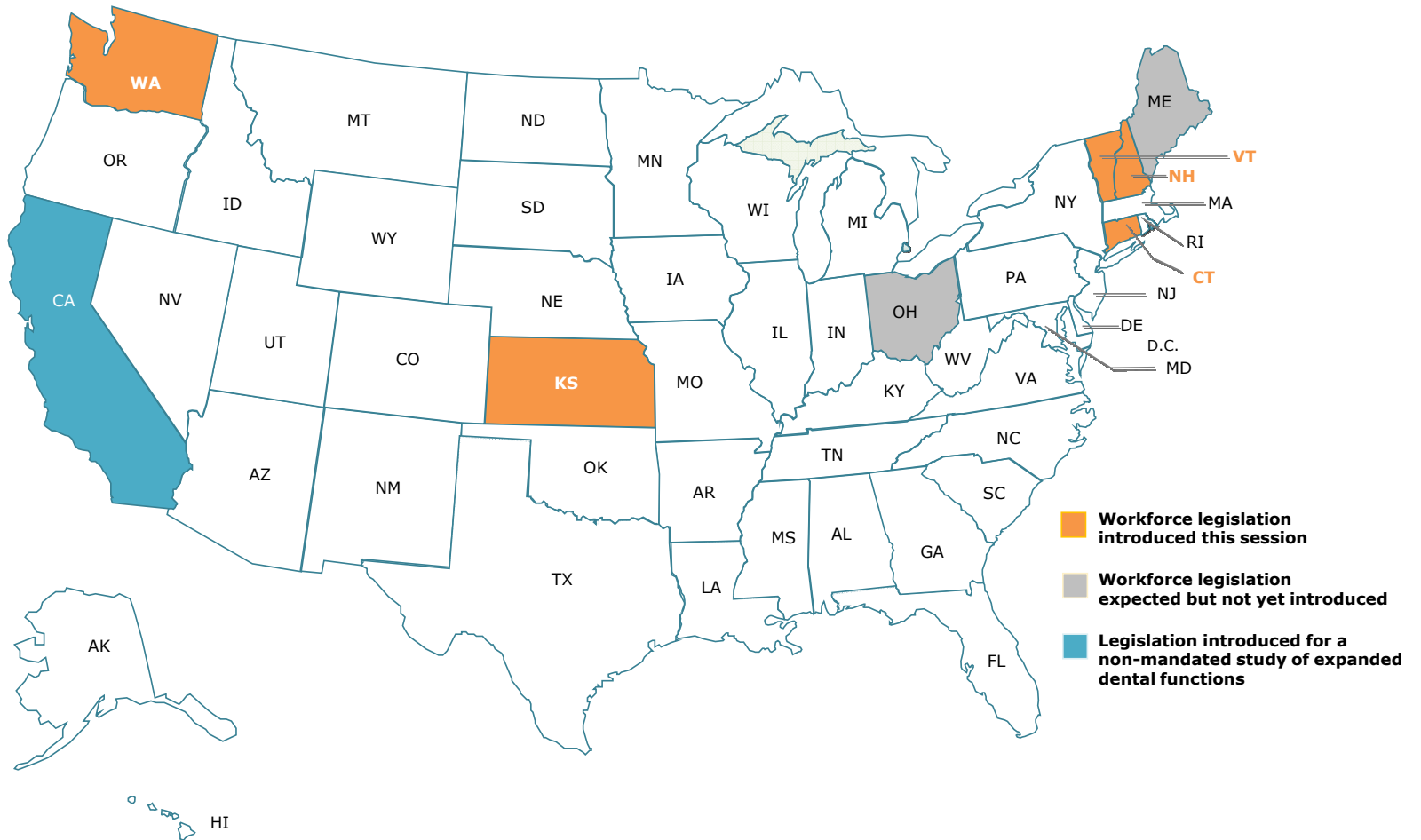
- The workforce is educated, licensed and available
- The educational infrastructure is developed
- Dental hygienists currently work in alternative settings to increase access
- Patients will benefit from a practitioner who can provide both preventive and limited restorative services

What's Already Occurred?

Minnesota Created New Providers

- *Passed in 2008/2009 – ADHA and Minnesota DHA supported legislation*
- *Created two new models:*
 - *Dental Therapist (DT)*
 - *Advanced Dental Therapist (ADT)*
- *ADT Masters program at Metropolitan State University is dental hygiene-based*
 - *Curriculum based, in part, on the ADHP Competencies*
 - *Graduates are dually licensed to provide dental hygiene and dental therapy services*
 - *First class began in 2009 and graduated in June 2011*

2012 Legislative Session Workforce Bills



Kellogg's Dental Therapist Initiative

- **Washington State, Kansas & Vermont**

- Advocating dental hygiene-based models
- Dental hygiene educators are active collaborators in effort
- State dental hygiene associations actively engaged in advocacy in support of models

- **Ohio & New Mexico**

- Ongoing discussion about dental hygiene link in legislative efforts
- State dental hygiene association and dental hygiene educators actively engaged

Other Proposals

- **Connecticut**

- Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner Legislation

- **Maine**

- Advocating dental-hygiene based models
- State dental hygiene association actively engaged in advocacy effort

- **New Hampshire**

- Coalition led initiative to pilot test a new provider
- State dental hygiene association is an active participant in coalition

Moving Forward...

- **ADHA kicked off its Accreditation Study in early 2012**
 - To study existing and potential options for the accreditation of programs that educate oral health providers
- **The Momentum in Support of New Providers**
 - Affordable Care Act Grants to Pilot Test Alternative Dental Health Care Providers
 - Continued interest from policymakers, foundations, stakeholders, the public and the media
 - Continual data demonstrating safety and effectiveness of non-dentist providers
- **ADHA and our state associations remain committed partners in developing solutions to increasing access**

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ADHA Resources

Dental Hygiene Education:

<http://www.adha.org/careerinfo/index.html>

Practice Issues:

http://www.adha.org/governmental_affairs/practice_issues.htm

ADHA Policies

<http://www.adha.org/aboutadha/index.html>

