

# Professional Promises: Hopes and Gaps in Access to Care



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# Professional Promises: Hopes and Gaps in Access to Care

Summary Report:  
Reflections and Directions



# Purpose of Workshop

- Examine core ethical issues related to access to oral health care for underserved, indigent, and otherwise vulnerable populations.
- Examine how the dental professional can better integrate the values of access and justice, while enhancing the professional responsibilities associated with professional rights.



# Goals for the Workshop

- Initiate a national discussion about the issues with a focus to clarify and integrate organizational core values and professional principles of ethics and codes of conduct.
- Address moral decisions & professional promises with respect to their effect on oral health care for the underserved.



# Education

- Prerequisite to Obit





# Education

## Relationship of ethics to the educational process

- Conduct an environmental scan to assess and improve.
- Influence critical thinking and knowledge.
- Guide institutional mission and direction.
- Impact relationships in the educational setting.



# Education: Ethical Tool

## Strategic uses:

- Assess current educational strategies and their success in achieving appropriate outcomes
- Share lessons learned: strategies and resources
- Focus on community based education & reflective learning during DS1& DS2
  - Values and skill development
- Enhance curricula: the ethics of access and ethical decision making cases/issues related to community focused issues



# Education: Ethical Tool

Collaborate with professional associations focusing on access to care

- Practitioner/student joint activities
- “Real life” exemplars
- Seek and utilize evidence provided in publications and meetings





# Education: Ethical Tool

Refocus education on learning outcomes

- Redefine and rethink “requirements”
- Thread the ethics of access throughout the curriculum
- Foster lifelong commitment to the promotion of improving access to care and oral health.



# Education: Ethical Tool

Focus: Tomorrow's providers



# Education: Ethical Tool

Focus: Today's providers

- Strategies for licensed professionals
  - Continuing education
    - Specific educational programs
    - Credit for community based service towards CE requirements
    - Cultural competence and sensitivity
    - Identification of resources, eg. web based materials/information
    - Association resources/activities



# Education: Faculty

- Faculty in-service and professional development on the ethics of access
- Evidence of commitment to concepts throughout curriculum
- Role model community service
- Acknowledge and reward faculty demonstrating commitment



# Professional Associations

## *ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct*

– A look within and from outside

– Value

- *Aspirational*
- *Educational*
- *Sanctioning*



– Influences professional strategies and directions



# Professional Associations



- **AAPHD:** Optimal oral health for all
- **ADHA:** Basic Belief – *All people should have access to health care, including oral health care & Standards of Professional Responsibility - ...promote access to dental hygiene care*
- **HDA:** *Objective: Promote the oral health of the Hispanic community through improved prevention, treatment and education.*



# Professional Associations

## Mission of the National Dental Association

- The mission of the National Dental Association ...*The National Dental Association is dedicated to elevating the health status of the underserved by serving as advocates in the public arena and private sector in order to increase their access to care.*

# Professional Associations

- Access as a priority
- Professional associations should link as a “community” to educate and motivate practitioners
- Possess the power to move the agenda forward on multifaceted levels



# Practitioners

As both individuals & societies

- Build and sustain networks and coalitions with community advocates and health care providers to address local needs
- Seek and share knowledge about current activities and resources
- Evaluate and utilize successful models, eg. dental hygienists



# Practitioners

## Identify and disseminate tools

- Practice management strategies
- Educate/Educate/Educate
  - Facts and figures
  - Myth busting
  - Reality based contributions
    - Universal patient agreement





# Collaboration and Networking

## Collaboration

- Interdisciplinary teams
- Non traditional approaches and alliances eg. AARP, Children's Defense League



# Information Sharing & Resources



- Impressive breadth and scope of publications
- Develop a document repository source: reports and recommendations
  - Beyond dentistry; medicine, public health, sociology, psychology
  - Ethics and professional responsibility literature

# Evaluation, Licensure & Accreditation

## Modify standards

- Example: Standard 1 requiring institutions to demonstrate socially responsible care
- Diversity
- Competencies for ethical standards



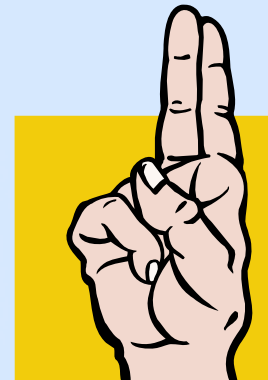
# Research

- Refocus research agenda to create evidence
- National and global perspectives



# Promises

- Presentation of findings at a variety of key forums
- Contact Commission on Dental Accreditation
- Published summary





# Promises



- Collaboration and Future Partnerships
  - American College of Dentists
  - American Society for Dental Ethics
  - ADA/ADHA-NDA/NDHA
  - American Association of Public Health Dentistry/State Territorial Dental Directors





Thank you!

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