MINNESOTA'S DENTAL THERAPIST LAW CONCEPTION TO IMPLEMENTATION

Michael Scandrett
Minnesota Safety Net Coalition
LPaC alliance/Halleland Habicht PA
law, policy and consulting



Minnesota's Dental Therapist Law Chapter 95 - enacted May 2009

Establishes two new types of licensed, midlevel dental practitioners, called dental therapists and advanced dental therapists, who will provide basic oral health and dental services to underserved patients and communities.

MN Mid-level Alliance

- Safety Net Coalition, safety net providers
- MN Dental Hygienists Association
- Nursing homes and long-term care orgs
- Head Start programs
- Health insurance plans
- State government
- Disability organizations and advocates

2008 Law

- Skeleton framework for "oral health practitioner" established
- Work Group established
- Work Group recommendations reported in December 2008
- Legislation introduced in 2009
- □ Chapter 95 enacted in May

2008 Law

- Answered the question of "whether" to establish a mid-level practitioner
- □ Did not answer the "how" questions
 - Level of dentist supervision required
 - Education program requirements
 - Licensing and regulatory system
- Legislature created a work group, which recommended the "how" but this did not end the controversy

2009 Session

MDA and U of M Dental School offered alternative bill:

- MDA/U of M: "physician assistant" model with dentist on site to do diagnosis and supervise treatment. Only the dental school could train:
- 2. <u>Safety Net Coalition</u>: "nurse practitioner" model to provide treatment where no dentists are available.

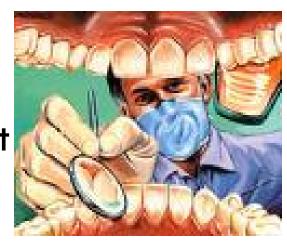
Compromise

- Proposals merged: single practitioner, 2 levels
- Not based on dental hygienist
- Only basic procedures incl. "simple" extractions
- Supervising dentist requirements strengthened
- No diagnosis, but may assess
- No prescribing authority, but may provide
- Clinical practice required before advanced practice allowed
- Educational institutions not specified

Policy Issues

- Scope of practice
 - Diagnosis by non-dentist
 - Defining "routine" or "simple" procedures
 - Extractions of permanent teeth
- Level of supervision
 - ■General supervision vs. indirect
- Education level, accreditation
- Permitted treatment settings





2010 Implementation

- Students began Fall 2009
- Approval of education programs
- Competency exams
- Licensing and certification system
- Reimbursement system
- First students graduate:
 - U of M DTs: 2013
 - Metro State ADTs: 2011

For More Information

- □ MN Dental Therapist Law:

 https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/laws/?id=95
 &doctype=Chapter&year=2009&type=0
- Minnesota Safety Net Coalition: http://www.mnsafetynetcoalition.org/
- MN Oral Health Practitioner Work Group: http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/oralhealth/index.html
- □ The Pew Center for the States: Oral Health http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/initiatives detail.aspx?initiativeID=42360

QUESTIONS?

Michael Scandrett
MN Safety Net Coalition
LPaC alliance
612-269-2589
mscandrett@lpacalliance.com