

## The National Dental Therapist and The American Dental Hygienists' Association's Initiative: **What's Next?**

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## ADHA's Role in the Development and Advocacy of New Oral Health Providers



## 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***





## Kellogg's Dental Therapist Initiative

- **Washington State & Kansas**
  - Proposed specific dental-hygiene based models
  - Dental hygiene educators were active collaborators in effort
  - State dental hygiene associations actively engaged in advocacy in support of models
- **Vermont & Ohio**
  - Ongoing discussion about dental hygiene link in legislative efforts
  - State Dental hygiene association and dental hygiene educators actively engaged



## Dental Hygiene Based Proposals in other States

- **Connecticut**
  - Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner Bill
- **Oregon**
  - Dental Therapist (only available to licensed dental hygienists)
- **Maine**
  - Oral Health Practitioner (only available to licensed dental hygienists)



## On the Horizon...

- **The Momentum in Support of New Providers**
  - ACA Grants to Pilot Test Alternative Dental Health Care Providers
  - Continued involvement/investment of stakeholders in developing new providers
  - Continued interest from policymakers at state and national levels
  - Emerging data about providers that speaks to safety, quality and efficiency
- **The ADHA and our state associations, remain committed partners in developing answers to our access crisis.**

