



*California Dental Hygienists' Association*  
*The Voice of Dental Hygiene*

Partnering with Local Health Jurisdictions  
to Develop and Implement Oral Health Programs

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# What and Who is CDHA

## Professional Organization founded in 1918

- Advocacy
- Councils
- Workgroups
- Management
- Research
- Email database
- Access to care



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# What and Who is CDHA

## Mission

- Advance the art and science of dental hygiene
- Increase the public's awareness of the cost effective benefits of prevention
- Ensure access to quality oral health care
- Promote the highest standards of dental hygiene education, licensure and practice
- Promote dental hygiene research
- Promote the interests of dental hygienists



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# What is the difference between the RDH and RDHAPs

## RDH

- Associate/Bachelor's
- **Employed**
- Can bill under a LHJ with an NPI
- Can provide
  - Sealants
  - Fluoride varnish
  - Counseling
    - Nutrition
    - Tobacco
    - Oral cancer
  - Treat special needs patients and work mostly in private dental offices

## RDHAP

- Advanced education from 2 accredited Universities
- **Self-employed**
- Can bill for the populations that they serve
- Can provide
  - Sealants
  - Fluoride varnish
  - Counseling
    - Nutrition
    - Tobacco
    - Oral cancer
  - Specialize in special needs patients and underserved populations

# CDHA Groundwork

## Understanding the Environment

### Liaisons to DHCS and Local Committees

DHCS: SAC , MCHAP, CDHP

LA County Department of Education-LA Trust Oral Health  
Advisory Board

Sacramento MCDAC

### Oral Health Summit

#### County Health Department Mini Survey

Do they have RDH or APs on advisory boards

Do they need help in locating hygienists

#### Survey of RDHAPs – Phase 2

Are you aware of Proposition 56

Are you a Denti-Cal Provider

If not, why not



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## Role of CDHA

*We are the  
bridge  
between  
RDH/RDHAPs  
and LHJs*

- Assist in the implementation of the State Oral Health Plan
- Identify a **workforce**
  - practicing RDH/RDHAPs
- Inform Local Project Directors about the potential for using the workforce in planning and implementation
- Inform RDH/APs about opportunities
- Encourage participation
- Serve as a resource to RDH/APs
- Serve as a resource for Local Project Directors
- Research the cost effective possibilities for program expansion

# Collaboration

*Aligning with  
the vision of  
the State  
Oral Health  
Program  
Objectives*

## Objective 6

Implement evidence-based programs

## Objective 7

Work with partners....identifying facilitators for care



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Enhance our  
thinking of  
dental  
settings to...





# What Hygienists Can Do

## Oral Health Screening and Referral



## Basic Screening Survey

- Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Basic Screening Survey
- Visual screening
- Lift the lip and look
- Manage programs
- Coordinate schedules

## What Hygienists Can Do

# Provide care to special needs populations



## Training



## What Hygienists Can Do

Provide guidance and training to LHJs on preventive oral health programs

- Community water fluoridation
- Toothbrushing programs for Head Start
- Tobacco Cessation
- Fluoride varnish

## Tobacco Cessation



## Toothbrushing Programs



## Fluoride Benefits





- CDHA understands that Work Plans do not include funding for oral health preventive services, such as sealants; however, RDH/RDHAPs may be included in the initial stages of the LHJs Advisory Committees as an oral health subject matter expert.
- Once the LHJs are in the implementation stage, RDH/RDHAPs can provide sealants as a billable service to develop sustainable school-based programs or link to a Federally Qualified Health Center as a provider.



- Under the Business and Professional Code Article 9: 1911 Dental Hygienists can provide, without supervision, with a government public health program:
  - educational services
  - oral health training programs
  - oral health screenings
    - May submit insurance claims or third party claims for reimbursement
- RDHAPs can provide services, unsupervised, in school and community setting and bill for those services

Extending  
your reach-

Some ideas

## Collaboration between hygienists and Federally Qualified Health Centers



## Collaboration between hygienists and Schools Districts





"Patience and perseverance  
have a magical effect  
before which  
difficulties disappear  
and obstacles vanish"

John Quincy Adams





- As a result of this meeting, we are hoping to begin a list of RDH/RDHAPs contact information in each Local Health Jurisdiction to develop a list statewide.
- Please consider emailing the contact information of RDH/RDHAPs you are collaborating with to help us build a list.
  - Note: RDH/RDHAPs do not have to be members to be on the list.

Respectfully,

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