

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATE PROGRAM FOR ORAL HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 22, 2025
9:00 a.m. until adjournment.

This meeting is being held virtually. There is no physical location.

Participate Online

[Click this link to join the meeting.](#)

Meeting ID: 210 756 711 055

Join by Phone

Call-in number: 1-775-321-6111 | Conference ID: 544 570 860#

NOTICE:

1. Agenda items may be taken out of order;
2. Two or more items may be combined; and
3. Items may be removed from agenda or delayed at any time

1.) Call to Order and Roll call_ Chair Dr. Bryce Putnam call to order at 9:15 AM

| <i>Members Present</i> | <i>Members Excused</i> |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Dr. Bryce Putnam, Council Chair | Jennifer Bradley |
| Dr. Whitney Bryant, Vice Council Chair | Dr. Catherine McCarthy |
| Dr. Tina Brandon Abbatangelo | Dr. Benjamin Prohaska |
| Ms. Terri Chandler | Dr. John Koopman |
| Dr. Lisa Collier | Dr. Maryam Tabrizi |
| Ms. Lynn Short | |
| Dr. Tara Van Orden | |

2.) Public Comment

- o No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To provide public comment telephonically, dial 1-775-321-6111.

When prompted to provide the conference ID, enter 544 570 860#.
Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Members of the public utilizing the call-in (audio only) number may raise their hand by pressing *9. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record, spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.

There was no public comment

- 3.) **For Possible Action:** Review and approve the meeting minutes from May 30, 2025

There was a motion to approve the meeting minutes for May 30, 2025, by Dr. Collier. There was a second to the motion by Ms. Chandler and Dr. Van Orden. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4.) **For Information Only:** Welcome new Nevada State Dental Hygienist Julia Gillen – Dr. Keith Benson, State Dental Health Officer, Nevada Health Authority

Julia is the new state dental hygienist and she will be full-time and fully funded through the Nevada Medicaid budget. She has experience running sealant programs in both Washoe County and Clark County. She is still active in clinical practices, and has an interest in public health, which is why she is joining us.

- 5.) **For Discussion and Information Only:** Changes to Medicaid and the Federal impact on Medicaid and/or grants for dental recipients – Dr. Keith Benson, State Dental Health Officer, Nevada Health Authority

Beginning July 1, 2025, I am now under Nevada Health Authority. There is a new vision and a new mission. Our director is Stacie Weeks. There are many divisions housed in the Nevada Health Authority such as Division of Nevada Medicaid, formerly known as the Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy, as well as Health Care Purchasing and Compliance, Division of Consumer Health Services and Public Employee Benefits Program. There are a lot of changes happening at the state level and we are looking at driving some processes to make healthcare affordable and reliable.

The Nevada Health Authority is no longer a part of the DHHS or Department of Health and Human Services, which is now called Department of Human Services, and they will still carry Aging and Disability Services. In addition, the Division of Child and Family Services, Public and Behavioral Health and the Department of Welfare and Social Services will now be housed under the Division of Social Services.

- 6.) **For Discussion and Information Only:** Increase the number of primary providers who are applying fluoride varnish to children's teeth and refer them to a dental home – Dr. Keith Benson, State Dental Health Officer, Nevada Health Authority

With the restructuring of the agency, Dr. Benson is hoping to work on a project involving early childhood caries. Based on funding and effort to get access to general anesthesia care in offices with a dental anesthesiologist or through ambulatory surgery centers or hospitals available to children and folks with disabilities, the focus is now on prevention.

Studies have shown that mothers with young children have more touch points with medical colleagues than with dentists and getting a child at one year old into a dental office is more challenging compared to a medical office. The goal is to work with medical colleagues, pediatricians and oral health providers to help do early interventions and get oral health information to parents and prevent full mouth rehabilitation under general anesthesia for young children. Dr. Collier mentioned a medical-dental integration project at Community Health Alliance and offered to discuss it with Dr. Benson.

- 7.) **For Discussion and Information Only:** Update on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for school-based sealant programs - **Ms. Lynn Short**, Sealant Coordinator, Nevada Health Authority

Entering year three of ARPA funding. For previous school years, including this new school year, we have been funding school-based sealant programs with the directive of re-engaging school sealant programs as well as expanding school sealant programs, and that directive came from the governor's office.

Funding began in SY2023-2024, to reinstitute as well as expand school-based sealant programs statewide. In the first year, school-age children in 7 out of the 16 counties were served. In SY2024-2025, school-age children residing in all 16 counties as well as Carson City were served by school-based programs supported with ARPA funding. In SY2024-2025, 13,000 children/youth were screened by a licensed dental professional and of those about 6,000 receiving dental sealants. In total, more than 16,000 dental sealants were placed preventing tooth decay in permanent molar teeth.

We are developing issue briefs for the CDC and they will be finalized within the next week with data in regard to our first-year funding since our grant year ends August 30th. We are updating our online tool kit that we have for school-based sealant programs and, we will be updating a very slight minor changes to the tracking form to help our evaluator better look at the numbers for the CDC.

For ARPA, in school year 2023-2024, we served 159 schools statewide or school-based sealant programs. In this last school year, we sought 237 schools and they were served. There was a 20% increase, I also can tell you that the greatest gap are all schools in Clark County. And there's a variety of reasons for that, but number one, they have many more schools than in any other county in the state. We are working to improve the addressing of all of the schools and provide more schools in Clark County with services.

- 8.) **For Discussion and Information Only:** Update from the Nevada Dental Association – **Marianna Kacyra**

Possible collaboration between the NDA and the NDHA next year

- 9.) **For Discussion and Information Only:** Update on CE, Town Hall and upcoming Events from the Nevada Dental Hygienists' Association – **Caryn Solie**

Both of our North and South components have been holding CEs in their areas, and they have been well attended. On July 31st, we held a statewide town hall that had over 130 attendees. On August 23rd, we are hosting a Caries Risk Management CE that will be virtual. On October 24th, it is our House of Delegates and the following day on October 25th, is our annual scientific session which will provide eight continuing education units, as well as a big cadre of vendors for dental products. Earlier this week, the Nevada Dental Association and the Nevada Dental

Hygienist Association did have a brief meeting with our lobbying teams to look at things that we could collaborate on in the next year.

10.) For Discussion and Information Only: Update from LIBERTY dental – Dr. Afshin Arian

Provided an update on the utilization for deep sedation and general anesthesia codes D9222 and D9223. Since the fee increase on January 1st, 2025 a utilization report was ran to show the application of this code along with the number of members being treated with these solution codes during the first six months of the current year, comparing it to the same six-month period for the last three years to see if the increase had any impact on the utilization. We looked at two general specialties, dental anesthesiologists and oral surgeons. For the dental anesthesiologists we saw a decrease in the number of members and application of these sedation codes in the first half of 2025 when compared to the first six months of 2024 and 2023. The number of members seen by dental anesthesiologists for the first six months of 2025 was 359, compared to 472 in 2024, and 438 in 2023. For the same period, the number of sedation units used was 1,752 units in 2025 compared to 2,350 units in 2024, and 2,151 units in 2023. For oral sedations there was a decrease in the utilization. The number of members seen by oral surgeons for the first six months of 2025 was 2,716 compared to 2,982 in 2024 and 3,816 in 2023. The number of sedation units used by oral surgeons was 7,093 in 2025, 7,096 in 2024 and 9,069 in 2023.

We looked at the hospital cases for GP and pedo in the first half of this year comparing it to the prior three years and noticed an increase in the number of members that were seen. Hospital cases in the first six months of 2025 increased to 2,534 members from 2,319 in 2024 and 2,221 in 2023. We continue to monitor the utilization in the second half of this year.

We had some obstacles in the first half of this year that have since resolved and hopefully will see an upward trend more in line or exceeding the previous years that we can share. Billing issues and an office selling their practice played a role in the reduction of cases; however, those issues have since been resolved and there is a new anesthesiologist that contracted with Medicaid in July 2025.

11.) For Discussion and Information Only: Curodont and D2991, ICD-10 committee update and Code Recommendations – Terri Chandler, RDH, Future Smiles

Looking at CDT codes that are pertinent to school sealant programs and what would be the crosswalk within the ICD 10 codes to make recommendations for school sealant programs. Lynn suggested if the advisory committee votes on this document and approves it, it could be posted on the state's website for school sealant programs to use as a resource with recommendations. Dental hygienists can provide an assessment and an oral hygiene treatment plan. Per Dr. Arian, hygiene services haven't had any issues with billing Z codes since they are not diagnostic. Dr. Putnam advised for the document to be added to the next agenda to vote on as it was only available for discussion today.

I wanted to know if others on the committee would be interested in a curodont presentation at the next AC4OH meeting. Curodont is a fluoride that has a peptide chain in it which allows the demineralized area of a tooth to attract calcium phosphate minerals from saliva and helps to re mineralize. It can take care of white spot lesions and early interproximal caries. Future smiles has been using it for about two years and I wanted to ask the state if we can add the curodont code D2991 into the Medicaid contract.

Per. Dr. Putnam, curodont presentation will be added to agenda for the next meeting. Cost concerns discussed, as curodont is \$30 per unit and 1 unit will cover 1-2 lesions dependent on the size. This code is already in Liberty's Medicaid contract in New Jersey, Ohio and West Virginia. Per Dr. Benson, expanding the scope of a service in dental we need the legislative authority as well as the budget authority to add a new code in. Dr. Benson is curious about the research on this item, as well as the 5-minute wait time using this product. Terry stated that the 5-minute wait time was removed by the manufacturer. Per Dr. Arian having Medicaid approve the code and assign a fee to it will take two years.

12.) For Discussion and Information Only: Vice Chair nomination and committee member re-appointment/ addition

No voting at this time, there will be an action for next meeting.

13.) For Discussion and Information Only: Open Floor for Advocates of Oral Health

Adam Higginbotham, Executive Officer for the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners joined the meeting to provide an update regarding Portable and Pop-Up Clinics.

We have three projects that we're trying to tackle at once. It's the advisory opinion that you received yesterday, the infection control program development, and our public health program, our special endorsement. Those three projects are correlated but not directly connected to one another.

Our complaints are being generated at non-traditional dental settings where services are being provided and the people that are providing the services are not connected to any program. They're not administered by the department of Health and Human services, a health district or a school district. These are ongoing increasing complaints, and our regulations require us to identify where service is provided as a facility so we can address this growing patient safety issue. We have to reorganize who our programs are by reaching out to them to provide us with current information. Once we have their current information our goal is to find out who their hygienists are. I've been working with Ms. Chandler and Dr. Benson on reframing our public health program and special endorsement program so it can be better organized with not only the application process, but the inspection process and the communication of our approved programs and special hygienists on our website.

This advisory opinion was not initially drafted to look at any existing program that's been historically considered approved by the board and are out working with the Department of Health and Human Resources, the health district, or the school district. We are improving organization of those programs so we can better identify the programs versus the non programs that are masquerading as programs. I hope that that frames the intent and where we're going.

With the infection control program that we have developed, the goal is to create inspection procedures that are catered to these pop-up situations. Our board agents are going out with 92 questions and they're picking and choosing which 92 questions to ask from because we don't have an established program that would cater to what we would specifically need to look for.

This is a result of dentists or hygienists answering a job ad and going to a location under the disguise that these are public health programs, but really these are businesses that are

contracting with companies and setting up spaces within a facility that is not a medical facility and are delivering dental services. This is a consumer safety issue where there is no access to water or electricity in some of these complaints. It is not public health we are looking at. It's the operations that are pretending to be programs and putting patient safety at risk with no protocol in place until we get a complaint from a patient 6 weeks later.

When we update our public health website, I will be reaching out to existing programs to update their most current information about each program. We will also get a list of hygienists that are working with each program. An individual cannot complete a public health endorsement application without being affiliated with a program which is why the oral health program application is completed first.

NNDS General Membership Dinner Meeting "Dental Management of Cleft Patients and the Pediatric Airway" Panelist presentations by: Dr. Chris Galea, Dr. Kellie McGinley, Dr. K.C. Gilbert, Dr. Anika Rodgers, and Dr. Courtney Garrett Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025. 6 pm no-host cocktails. 7 pm sit-down dinner & panel presentations at the Atlantis Casino Resort, Reno. 2.5 CEUs

14.) For Discussion and Possible Action: Topics to be included for the next meeting

- Vote on ICD 10 codes
- Vote on new Vice Chairperson
- Curodont Presentation from Terri Chandler
- Discuss and take possible action on the application of SDF for older adults. Particularly individuals with dementia, in early stage, and those in long-term care facilities.
- Add section on the agenda for the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners

15.) PUBLIC COMMENT

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16.) Adjournment: Dr. Bryce Putnam – Chair

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 am by Dr. Putnam, Dr. Whitney Bryant and Dr. Lisa Collier both seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

NOTICE OF THIS PUBLIC MEETING WAS POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

PHYSICAL POSTING LOCATIONS

Nevada Health Authority
4070 Silver Sage Drive
Carson City, NV 89701

INTERNET POSTINGS

Nevada Health Authority website: <https://dhcfp.nv.gov/Pgms/CPT/Dental/>

Nevada Department of Administration's website: <https://notice.nv.gov/>

This body will provide at least two public comment periods in compliance with the minimum requirements of the Open Meeting Law prior to adjournment. Additionally, it is the goal of the Advisory Committee on the State program for Oral Health (AC4OH) to also afford the public with an item-specific public comment period. No action may be taken on a matter raised under public comment unless the item has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. The Chair retains discretion to only provide for the Open Meeting Law's minimum public comment and not call for additional item-specific public comment when it is deemed necessary by the chair to the orderly conduct of the meeting.

This meeting is a public meeting, recorded and held in compliance with and pursuant to the Nevada Open Meeting Law, NRS 241. By participating, you consent to recording of your participation in this meeting. All voting members should leave their cameras on for the duration of the meeting and refrain from entering any information into the chat function of the video platform.

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to call into the meeting. In the event of Microsoft Teams application has technical difficulties, the meeting may be conducted by teleconference from the same location. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify Julia Gillen, Nevada Health Authority, in writing please sent to, 4070 Silver Sage Drive, Carson City, NV 89701 at least five days in advance of the meeting. Written comments in excess of one typed page on any agenda items which requires a vote are respectfully requested to be submitted to the Oral Health Program at the above address five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting to ensure that adequate consideration is given to the material.

If at any time during the meeting, an individual who has been named on the agenda or has an item specifically regarding them, including on the agenda is unable to participate because of technical difficulties, please contact J.gillen@nvha.nv.gov and note at what time the difficulty started to that matters pertaining specifically to their participation may be continued to a future agenda if needed or otherwise addressed.

Please be cautious and do not click on links in the chat area of the meeting unless you have verified that they are safe. If you ever have questions about a link in a document purporting to be from AC4OH, please do not hesitate to contact J.gillen@nvha.nv.gov Please refrain from commenting in the chat area of the meeting, unless requested to, because minutes are required to be taken of the meeting.

A person may also have comments added to the minutes of the meeting by submitting them in writing either in addition to testifying or in lieu of testifying. Written comments may be submitted electronically before, during, or after the meeting by email to: J.gillen@nvha.nv.gov. You may also mail written documents to 4070 Silver Sage Drive, Carson City, NV 89701 at the Silver Sage location.

Use of obscenities or other behavior which disrupts the meeting to the extent that its orderly conduct is made impractical may result in the forfeiture of the opportunity to provide public comment or removal from the meeting.

Supporting materials for the agenda can be found on the State Oral Health Website: <https://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/OH/dta/Boards/AC4OH-Home> or you may contact Julia Gillen, Nevada Health Authority by email at J.gillen@nvha.nv.gov