



***Word of Mouth***  
***enews from the***  
***South Florida Dental Hygiene Association***  
***April, 2008***

**SFDHA**

**Message from the President- Next Meeting**

The next meeting for members will be Sunday, April 13th at the Yacht Club at the usual time 5:00pm. (Directions to the Yacht Club are at the end of this newsletter. We will hold elections for the next term's officers who will take office in October. If you are interested in being actively involved in SFDHA please come to this meeting. A May CEU meeting, sponsored by Colgate, is currently in the planning stage. The meeting is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>, a Wednesday. The location will be announced as soon as we have a venue.

I hope everyone is having a beautiful start to spring. This is the time of year for rebirth, fresh flowers, and the warmth of the sun. This spring season is full of opportunities and possibilities that we can grasp to help our association and membership enlarge. Thank you to all the volunteers that took the time in their busy schedules to help at the SFDHA booth at the St. Patrick's Day Festival on March 15th. We all had a great time! May your spring be filled with fun and flowers!

Diana Galvis RDH, President

**St. Patrick's Day Festival**

Many thanks to Miami Dade College, Dental Hygiene student volunteers. Manuela Barreto, Indhira Tejada, Mileidy Hernandez, Mileidy's daughter Yudany Lopez, Daimy Dominguez and her daughter, Ivis Delgado, Lydia Harper, Arlene Robin, Aida Martinez and her sister, Maritza Jean, and Maritza's son Kelly Pierre-Louis provided welcome service at the dental health care booth at the St. Patrick's Day Fair in Coral Gables on Saturday, March 16, 2008. A good time was had by all giving tooth brushing instruction and passing out dental care kits. Students were assisted by SFDHA members Carroll Cameron, Barbara Amazon, Elsy Juan, Karen Mattox, Betty Meador, Diana Galvis, Becky Smith and her daughter Aerial Smith-Thomas. The children were particularly helpful using the "gator" model to teach other children the importance of good oral hygiene. What an effective way to make our presence known and

to bring emphasis to the important access to care issues that are currently plodding through the state legislature.

### ADHA

ADHA has started pages on Myspace and Facebook. Both sites are vastly popular and include representation from a variety of national and local organizations. The sites will offer an opportunity to provide regularly updated information about ADHA programs and efforts. Facebook requires an account to view the ADHA page, but Myspace can be viewed by anyone at: <http://www.myspace.com/dentalhygienist>

### FDHA

#### Very Important Legislative Message!!

Senate Bill 2760 was heard in the Senate Health Regulation Committee and action postponed until interested parties could provide input. FDHA supports the bill, referred to as the Governor's "Access to Oral Healthcare Act. " When the bill is passed, public health supervision for dental hygienists would become a reality. It would allow dental hygienists to provide preventive oral health services in public health venues that do not have an available dentist. We need your support to get this bill passed. Please contact the Senators on the Health Regulation Committee asking for their support of the bill. You can review the language at <http://www.flsenate.gov/>

Senate Committee on Health Regulation  
530 Knott Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

#### Committee Members:

Chair: Senator Jeff Atwater (R) <a href="http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S25">http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S25</a>	Senator Mike Fasano (R) <a href="http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S11">http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S11</a>
Vice Chair: Senator Gary Siplin (D) <a href="http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S19">http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S19</a>	Senator Dennis L. Jones, D.C. (R) <a href="http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S13">http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S13</a>
Senator JD Alexander (R) <a href="http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S17">http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S17</a>	Senator Alfred "Al" Lawson, Jr. (D) <a href="http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S06">http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S06</a>
Senator Dave Aronberg (D) <a href="http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S27">http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S27</a>	Senator Durell Peaden, Jr. (R) <a href="http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S02">http://www.flsenate.gov/legislators/Senate/S02</a>

FDHA has prepared the following talking points to help you explain public health supervision to other organizations interested in expanding access to care for Florida's medically underserved populations. Use these points in your messages to the above committee members. If each of us picks one or two points, then the senators will be receiving the entire message from several sources. It's much more effective than an identical email sent by a group.

#### WHAT IS THIS LEGISLATION?

- **DOES NOT** change the scope of practice for dental hygienists (it changes the supervision)

- Allows dental hygienists to provide the same care they currently provide dental offices in public health settings
- Uses an existing, educated dental hygiene workforce to provide critical care to the underserved
- Will reduce disparities and improve direct access to preventive care for the residents of the state at highest-risk for dental disease, the low income, children, elderly and the developmentally disabled.

***IS THERE A NEED IN FLORIDA? Yes!***

- Florida has consistently received failing grades on National Oral Health report cards <http://www.oralhealthamerica.org/OralHealthParity.html>
- Need identified in US Surgeon General's Oral Health Report <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/oralhealth/>
- Florida's current laws and rules restrict:
  - Dental hygienists from delivering needed care to low-income and other underserved patients cost effectively
  - County health departments from using their limited resources efficiently and effectively

***ARE DENTAL HYGIENISTS QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE CARE IN PUBLIC HEALTH SETTINGS? Yes!***

- Dental Hygienists are educated, licensed and underutilized in Florida
  - Graduates of Accredited Dental Hygiene Programs or Graduates of Foreign Dental Schools <http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/accred/standards/dh.pdf>
  - Successfully pass state clinical and written examinations
  - Successfully pass National Board Examination
- The following reports confirm the qualifications of dental hygienists
  - Access to care, 2001. American Dental Hygienists' Association Position Paper. [www.adha.org/profissues/access\\_to\\_care.htm](http://www.adha.org/profissues/access_to_care.htm)
  - Improving the Oral Health Status of All Americans: Roles and Responsibilities of Academic Dental Institutions The Report of the ADEA President's Commission March, 2003 <http://www.jdentaled.org/cgi/reprint/67/5/563?ck=nck>

***IS IT SAFE? Yes!***

- 26 states, in one form or another, allow direct access to dental hygiene services in public health settings without dental supervision
- 42 states allow dental hygienists to place dental sealants without the presence of a dentist.
- According to the professional liability coverage available through the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA), neither the degree of supervision nor the services provided affects the costs of the insurance for the dental hygienist

***IS THIS A LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY? Yes!***

- Included in the Governor's Access to Oral Healthcare Act
- Oral Health Florida (previously the State Oral Health Improvement Plan) identified public health supervision for dental hygienists as an objective in the Early Childhood Caries (ECC) Workgroup Action Plan.

- Listed in the Innovative Ideas For Florida's Future 100ideas.org

### **HOW WILL THIS AFFECT REVENUES?**

- Provide downstream savings in the following areas:
  - Dental Care – Children's Dental Health Project states a 40% savings when preventive services are provided <http://www.cdhp.org/downloads/CostEffect.pdf>
  - Medical care – by avoiding medical complications, emergency room visits, and pre-term births
  - Schools - by recouping the funding lost due to missed days because of dental disease
  - County Health Departments by allowing them to fully utilize their staff and resources

### **Clinical Practice**

**Current Opinion on Drug-induced Oral Reactions: A Comprehensive Review** by Mohammad Abdollahi, PharmD, PhD; Roja Rahimi, PharmD; Mania Radfar, PharmD is a newly published comprehensive review of drug-induced oral reactions occurring in 2003. All drugs that may cause adverse effects in the mouth and related structures are reviewed. <http://www.dentalcare.com/cgi-bin/email/direct.cgi?xa353874l644p169>

### **Readers Corner**

#### **Unlicensed Activity**

From Pura Monroe: I recently received the Word of Mouth with the reminder to report "whitening schemes." I deleted the information. Yesterday I was amazed to find in the middle of Dadeland Mall a set up for "whitening." There was a girl in scrubs with cards and the "lights" set up with a client using one! I asked if she was a Dentist and of course she was not! I picked up one of the cards with this web address <http://www.thewowsmile.com> It claims to be a cosmetic procedure they sell for \$100 and lets the client perform the procedure! **Wow** is right.! Please run the reporting information again.

Okay, here it is. An RDH or anyone who wants to report a tooth whitening business that is operating in locations outside of dental offices should contact the Department of Health at **1 877-425-8852**.

#### **Drive Through Mastectomies**

From Susan Mitchell: If you know someone who has had a Mastectomy, you know that there is a lot of discomfort and pain afterwards. Insurance companies are trying to make mastectomies an outpatient procedure. Let's give women the chance to recover properly in the hospital for 2 days after surgery. It takes 2 seconds to do this, and, if there was ever a time when our voices and choices should be heard, this is one of those times. Go to this website and sign the petition urging Congress to pass the "Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act" which will require Insurance Companies to cover a minimum 48-hour hospital stay for patients undergoing a mastectomy. You need not give more than your name and zip code number. <http://www.lifetimetv.com/breastcancer/petition/signpetition.php>

#### **Interesting Remedies**

From Joyce Stuteville: Colgate Toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns. And you can get rid of unsightly toenail fungus by soaking your toes in Listerine Mouthwash. The antiseptic leaves your toenails looking healthy again. Listerine also works as a balm for broken

blisters... to disinfect a broken blister, dab on a few drops of Listerine, to speed healing and prevent secondary infection. Finally, try Listerine on your teen's acne. Dab it on three times a day after cleaning the affected areas. At least these off-label remedies won't do any harm and they might work. Let us know if you try one of them and find it works.

### **Safety Tip**

From Gale Gerard: When driving in the rain, don't use cruise control. Should you hit a slick spot in the pavement, the car may hydroplane. Cruise control may register the spin as a decrease in speed. If this happens, the car may accelerate out of control. When it rains, turn off your cruise control.

### **Health and Welfare**

Billie T. Burr, RDH passed away February 16, 2008. Billie's career as a dental hygienist began in 1953 where she worked in many prominent dental offices including the L. D. Pankey Clinic. After many years in private practice she became a faculty member at Miami-Dade Community College, Department of Dental Hygiene. She shared her clinical expertise at the College from 1978 to 1988. Billie is remembered as an excellent teacher and a leader in dental hygiene. She served as President of East Coast District Dental Hygiene Society (now South Florida Dental Hygiene Association) and Florida Dental Hygiene Association (FDHA). Billie was an original member of the Brass Roses. She remained an active member of our component until 1996 when she moved to Georgia to live near her children. She will be missed.

### **Reminder about the Newsletter List Serve**

**You've heard this before: our listserve will be purged to remove the following people: those who block the newsletter, those whose mail boxes are full, those who have not activated their email accounts, and those who change their addresses without notifying the editor. Every month, we have had to take this action because a faulty email address can end up blocking the entire list.**

**The editor's address is [cameronc@bellsouth.net](mailto:cameronc@bellsouth.net).** Be sure the editor's address is in your contact list. We will add names to the listserve only when an interested person emails us and notes that the editor's address has been added to their contact list. If you can't open the attachment, notify the editor and she will paste a copy in to the body of your email.

Once again, the success of this newsletter depends on you. Let's get the **Word of Mouth** out.

Carroll Cameron, RDH, EdD, Editor,  
South Florida Dental Hygiene Society

### **Addendum**

#### **Directions to Miami Yacht Club**

The Miami Yacht Club is behind the new Parrot Jungle at 1001 MacArthur Causeway. Take the Palmetto or I95 to 836. Head east following the signs that say Miami Beach (395) until you see the big Parrot Jungle sign on the left and the Miami Children's Museum on the right. Exit to the right at the Miami Children's Museum and take the access road back under the causeway. (Don't worry. You can only go one way on the access road.) Stay on it until you see a small sign for the Yacht Club and turn left there. (It's the same turn you would make

if you were going to the Parrot Jungle.) Just after you pass the Parrot Jungle parking garage, you will see an unpaved area with a lot of boats surrounded by a fence. The gate should be open, but if it isn't push the button and tell the person who answers that you are there for a dental hygiene meeting. Park as close to the building as you can, but do not take the space reserved for the Commodore of the Yacht Club. The building only has 2 rooms. One is the bar. Just opposite the bar is the meeting room.