



February Newsletter



ADTA Virtual Conference Offered as Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

By Chelsea Luong, ADTA Communications Associate

If you missed the ADTA's Annual Conference in October 2023, you can now view programs online. The ADTA will broadcast webinars in **February & March 2024**. Due to the generous financial support of the Arcora Foundation, individuals can attend the live webinar broadcasts for free. Webinars will be held during lunch hours in eastern, central and pacific time zones. **Below is a schedule of webinars being offered. To register, click on the individual link next to each webinar.**

If you are unable to attend the live webinar broadcasts, an on-demand version of each program will be available through the ADTA's new Learning Management System. **Individuals can purchase on-demand access for individual webinars or the entire Virtual Conference.**



[Click here to register!](#)

CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH AND AMERICAN HEART MONTH



February is National Children's Dental Health Month and American Heart Month!

Visit these articles and resources to learn more about this important month:

- [The Link Between Gum Disease and Heart Disease](#)
- [Oral health and all-cause, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory mortality in older people in the UK and USA](#)
- [Impact of Families and Children in Florida](#)
- [The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center \(OHRC\)](#)
- [Preparing for National Children's Dental Month](#)
- [American Heart Month 2024 Toolkits CDC](#)
- [National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute American Heart Month Education](#)

Health Care Advocates Say Dental Therapists will Help Provider Shortage in Wisconsin

By Hope Kirwan, Wisconsin Public Radio



Access to dental care is a problem for many Wisconsin residents. More than half of all counties in the state are facing a shortage of dental care professionals. A 2018 survey of dentists by the state Department of Health Services found much of the state's current dentist workforce planned to retire or leave their practice within the next 5 years.

[Click here to read more.](#)

American Dental Therapy Association Diversifies Board Leadership

By Chelsea Luong, ADTA Communications Associate

The American Dental Therapy Association amended its bylaws in 2023 to diversify its board leadership with dentists, hygienists, and dental therapy students. This change ensures the organization will maintain a pulse on the oral health care industry and health professional shortage areas throughout the United States.

[Click here to read more.](#)



Legislative Updates



FLORIDA - HB 1173 passed in its first committee. This bill offers Florida an opportunity to expand access to dental care and improve the health of Floridians, including giving dentists the option to add dental therapists to their dental teams through the licensure of dental therapists. The dental therapy legislation, HB 1173, passed by a 14-3 vote! For more information, [click here](#). If you have friends, family members or colleagues in Florida, ask them to join the [Floridians for Dental Access](#) today!

NEW YORK - The bill S4428 aims to improve access to dental care in underserved areas by permitting the licensing of dental therapists and advanced dental therapists. This would enable these dental professionals to provide services in communities that currently face difficulties in accessing dental care. For more information, [click here](#).

WISCONSIN - The SB689 bill provides for the licensure of dental therapists, who are health care practitioners who may engage in the limited practice of dentistry. For more information, [click here](#).

Mental Health Is Health: Depression and Oral Health

By TRICARE Communications

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Depression is a serious health issue that can affect your emotional, physical, and social well-being. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), nearly 20% of adults in the United States have been diagnosed with depression.



One symptom of depression is loss of energy and motivation. This may mean that tasks like brushing your teeth or going to the dentist can feel impossible or even pointless. As a result, some people with depression may see a decline in their oral health.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Indian Country Oral Health ECHO

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is hosting the Indian Country Oral Health ECHO clinic **the second Wednesday of every other month at 12pm PT**. The one hour virtual ECHO clinic provides an opportunity to engage in a case discussion, receive recommendations from peers and an interprofessional team of specialists working in Indian Country, participate in a didactic presentation and join a learning community to effectively optimize minimally invasive dentistry, and treat patients locally with holistic, culturally appropriate care. CDE will be provided.



Who Should Attend?: Oral health staff serving American Indian and Alaska Native people, and others are welcome.

To Join: [Simply click here at the time of meeting](#)

To learn more, and sign-up for email reminders to join, [click here](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our team at echo@npaihb.org or Tacey Mason, NTDSC project director at tmason@npaihb.org.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Interested in Volunteering with the ADTA?

The ADTA is accepting volunteers for its five committees: Annual Conference Committee, Editorial Committee, Education Committee, Governance Committee, and Speaker's Bureau. Fill out this application if you are interested in volunteering with the ADTA. **Volunteers must be active members of the ADTA. If you are not a member but are interested in joining, [click here for membership information](#).**



[Volunteer Now!](#)

CareQuest Institute for Oral Health 2023 Impact Report

Explore the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health 2023 Impact Report by clicking below.



[Click here to view.](#)



If you are in need of scholarship funding, continuing education, or are interested in becoming a dental therapist, click on the opportunities below.

- Michigan Community Health Centers are eager to hire dental therapists, and the Delta Dental Foundation will provide a \$5,000 Workforce Development Incentive to any dental therapist who accepts a position at a Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA) member health center! **Watch MPCA's Career Center Page** for new career opportunities.
- The Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA) is seeking consultants to develop and implement an approach to preparing Michigan Community Health Centers (CHCs) to employ dental therapists. Activities will include engaging with Michigan CHCs interested in employing dental therapists, developing an approach to optimize dental therapy within individual CHCs, and providing training, learning resources, and other support to CHCs in collaboration with MPCA. **Project Period: February 2024 through December 2024. For more information, click here.**
- The State of Vermont is in need of a dental therapy director at Vermont State University. Legislation passed in 2016 and filling this position will allow Vermont to begin its dental therapy education program. For more information, **click here.**
- Optimize Dental Teams with Dental Therapists: A free self paced 3 credit CE course. For more information, **click here.**



- **ADTA Virtual Conference Offered as Lunch & Learn Webinar Series February and March 2024**

- Dental Therapy in the Pacific Northwest (.50 CE), February 6, 2024 12 pm to 1 pm PT (2 pm CT, 3 pm ET)
 - Becoming a Dental Therapy Champion: How FQHCs and Public Health Facilities can Benefit from the Adoption and Growth of Dental Therapy (1 CE), February 07, 2024, 12 pm to 1 pm ET (11 am CT, 9 am PT)
 - Civic Engagement as a Means to Improve Health Equity (.50 CE) February 08, 2024, 12 pm to 1 pm PT (2 pm CT, 3 pm ET)
 - Highlighting Dental Therapists Practicing at Apple Tree Dental (.50 CE), February 12, 2024, 12 pm to 1 pm CT (10 am PT, 1 pm ET)
 - From Dental Hygienist to Dental Therapist: A Tale of Two Hygienists (.75 CE), February 13, 2024, 2 pm to 3 pm CT (12 pm PT, 3 pm ET)
 - The Economic Impacts of Dental Therapists (.50 CE), February 14, 2024, 11 am to 12 pm CT (9 am PT, 12 pm ET)
 - It is easy to defend dental therapy when you have the facts on your side! (.50 CE), February 14, 2024, 2 pm to 3 pm CT (12 pm PT, 3 pm ET)
 - Lessons on Trust from Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Investigation (.50 CE), February 21, 2024, 2 pm to 3 pm CT (12 pm PT, 3 pm ET)
 - The Future of Dental Therapy (1 CE), February 22, 2024, 11 am to 12 pm CT (9 am PT, 12 pm ET)
 - Dental Therapy: National Overview (1 CE), February 28, 2024, 2 pm to 3 pm CT (12 pm PT, 3 pm ET)
 - Research Demonstrating Effectiveness of Dental Therapists at Apple Tree Dental, February 29, 2024, 12 pm to 1 pm CT (10 am PT, 1 pm ET)
 - Black History and Oral Health Webinar by CareQuest Institute for Oral Health. February 22, 2024, 1:00 PM ET, 1 CE Credit.
 - 2024 National Tribal Health Conference - Mark your calendars! National Indian Health Board will be hosting their National Tribal Health Conference on **May 19-23, 2024 in Rapid City, SD!**
 - Reducing Consumption of Added Sugars – The Healthy People 2030 Oral Health Promotional Series, Feb 14, 2024, 10:00 AM PT
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ON DEMAND LEARNING



Below is a list of on demand webinars in the dental industry. To learn more, click on the event.

- [Optimize Dental Teams with Dental Therapists](#)
 - [Minimally Invasive Care in Dentistry: Healing Tooth Decay with Brush On Therapies](#)
 - [An Introduction to Value-Based Care in Oral Health: Moving from Volume to Value](#)
 - [Glass Ionomer Cement: Prevention and Beyond](#)
 - [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#)
 - [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#)
 - [Understanding and Providing Trauma-Informed Oral Health Care](#)
 - [Dental Fear and Anxiety: Why It Exists and What Providers Can Do to Help](#)
 - [Updating Your Knowledge of Dental Caries: Causes, Concerns, and Considerations](#)
 - [Connecting Caries Risk Assessments and Cultural Awareness](#)
 - [Managing Dental Caries: Evolving Strategies and Proven Techniques](#)
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Join the ADTA in ensuring all Americans have
access to high-quality oral health care.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



The ADTA proudly partners with



American Dental Therapy Association (ADTA)

www.americandentaltherapyassociation.org

Questions? [Click here](#) for more information.

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