



# Newsletter

October 2025



## NTDC is Dec. 8-10 in Sacramento. Register today!

### Just 5 weeks until NDTC!

Co-Chaired by [The American Dental Therapy Association](#), [Community Catalyst](#) and [COHEC](#), the 2025 National Dental Therapy Conference takes place in Sacramento, California December 8-10, 2025! Stay tuned for an announcement for the 2026 ADTA Annual Conference.

**Join us** December 8-10 in Sacramento, CA for the **2025 National Dental Therapy Conference (NDTC)** – the premier gathering for leaders, practitioners, advocates, and innovators driving the future of oral health.

We are thrilled to announce that **Travel Scholarship Applications** are being **reopened to attend the 2025NDTC!** Travel support may include registration costs, travel costs (flight/mileage), or lodging costs.

Fill out the **Travel Scholarship Application form** no later **November 11th, 2025**. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Parrish Ravelli at [pravelli@communitycatalyst.org](mailto:pravelli@communitycatalyst.org).

- American Dental Therapy Association



### A don't-miss CDE opportunity Dec. 8

A special note for **dental therapists** and other oral healthcare providers: **Arcora Foundation** will provide up to **17** ADA CERP continuing dental education sessions during the full conference! (11 CDE meet CHAP S&Ps).

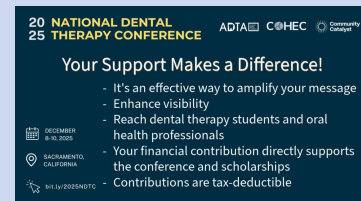
### Conference at a glance

ADTA is pleased to announce **Arcora Foundation** will provide Continuing Dental Education sessions at NDTC.

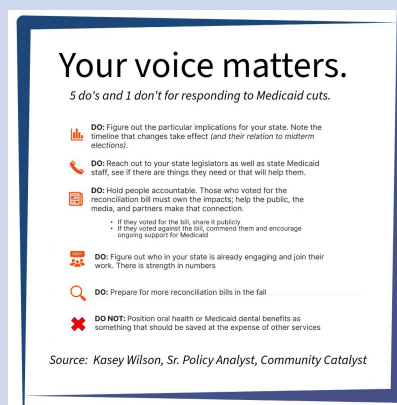
- Day 1 (Dec. 8): a no-cost pre-conference day featuring California-specific sessions on statewide and Indian Country policy, advocacy and implementation. There will be a hands-on training course related to Minimally Invasive Dentistry. We'll also join together as dental therapists and allies to talk about how the ADTA can support the workforce.
  - Full conference to begin at 3:30pm
- Day 2 (Dec. 9): full day with breakout sessions.
- Day 3 (Dec. 10): half day with a morning plenary session.
- Full draft agenda can be found [here!](#)

## Sponsorship: Your dollars help sustain us!

We can't say it enough -- conference sponsors and exhibitors are part of why NDTC is so great. Not only does it offer excellent exposure for you, but your dollars directly support our ability to offer travel scholarships, educational opportunities and conference expenses. Look for more details in our separate sponsorship / exhibitor email.



## Legislative Update



### Oral Health Threats and Opportunities in Medicaid

On June 29, ADTA hosted a webinar with Kasey Wilson, Senior Policy Analyst with the Dental Access Project at Community Catalyst. In case you missed it, here's a brief recap of how the Big Beautiful Bill, passed into law earlier this summer, is likely to affect our profession.

Wilson discussed the impact of recent federal policies on Medicaid, highlighting the largest cuts since its inception. She emphasized that Medicaid is crucial for dental care, covering

23 million adults, including many low-income and elderly individuals. The new law introduces work requirements, cost-sharing, and increased eligibility checks, which could strain state budgets and lead to cuts in optional Medicaid services like adult dental benefits.

So, what can you do about it? Wilson encourages individuals concerned about these changes to speak up. Giving elected officials feedback on how their actions will hurt or help dental therapy as a profession, and our patients, helps advocate for access to care and helps hold decision makers accountable. Just make sure that if you're doing something on behalf of your employer, or under the banner of your employer, you check before you do it as it can be considered lobbying.

## Additional Resources related to federal policies and Medicaid:

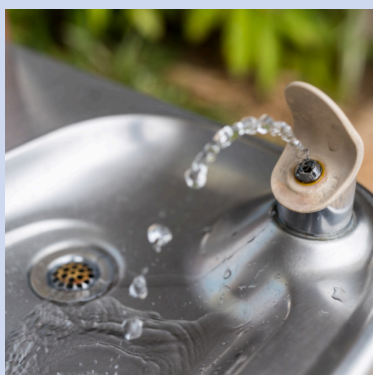
- [Tracking Health Provisions in the 2025 Federal Budget Reconciliation Bill](#)
- [Federal Medicaid Cuts Threaten State Dental Benefits: Lessons from 6 States](#)

## Compensation Survey Update

This important survey required additional data to ensure we deliver meaningful findings. ADTA partnered with [CareQuest Institute for Oral Health](#), to administer a Provider Satisfaction Survey to collect a second set of compensation data that we will use to create a report to be submitted for publication. We aim to create a baseline compensation standard similar to other oral healthcare provider types for dental therapists nationally.

Dental therapists, dental health aide therapists and advanced dental therapists: **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

## In the News



[Sweet Home, Oregon, will discontinue adding fluoride to its public drinking water this month](#), following a City Council vote in early July to enact an ordinance. Fluoridation had been a long-standing practice since 1964 after a vote by residents. The decision stems in part from the cost of running the system—approximately \$20,000 annually—being weighed against the city's \$7.7 million general fund for 2025–26. While some community members called for a public vote, the mayor noted that many residents preferred a council-led decision. The ordinance takes effect August 7, 2025.



The British Dental Journal has an interesting article out this month entitled "[Cultivating a resilient future workforce.](#)" In the article, the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy (BSDHT) highlights a growing crisis in dental therapy (DTh) and hygiene (DH) training, as outlined in the [March 2025 editorial "Therapy in jeopardy?" by Professor Philip Preshaw](#). Despite recognition of the need to expand dental therapy education within the NHS Long-Term Workforce Plan (2023), BSDHT raises concerns that DTh and DH programs are systematically underfunded compared to dental (BDS/BChD) training, leading to course closures—especially in institutions not co-located with dental schools—and threatening the future workforce pipeline. The

A mule, a mission, and improved oral health for aging seniors.



[Mike Siddall, a farrier and mule wrangler, has embarked on a month-long journey across Iowa—riding a mule and leading a mammoth donkey—to draw attention to oral hygiene needs among residents of long-term care facilities.](#) The trek, which began near Rock Valley along U.S. Highway 18, serves to promote his wife Anita's nonprofit, Toothbrushers and Balaam's Donkey, aimed at providing oral-care assistance to underserved populations. Siddall's unusual mode of travel is capturing attention and raising awareness for the cause.

BSDHT calls for equitable investment in academic leadership and research capacity for dental therapists to ensure profession-led progress and sustainability

## Upcoming Opportunities

### Minnesota Dental Therapy Association Conference 2025

The 2025 MDTA Conference is where dental professionals gather, learn, network, and discover the world of dental therapy. This year, it will feature six presentations on a variety of dental-themed topics. Attendees can obtain up to 7 CE credits from this event.

Learn more about MDTA 2025 [here](#).

### On Demand: Arcora - "Optimize Dental Teams with Dental Therapists"

The "[Optimize Dental Teams with Dental Therapists Course](#)" will help providers and the benefits they bring to clinics that support optimizing dental teams. By completing this course you will receive 3 Continuing Dental Education Credits. (Note: this course specifically addresses singularly credentialed Dental Therapists. If you have an education resource that would help support integrating dual licensed dental therapists, [please reach out!](#) \*this training applies to singularly credentialed dental therapists. [Register here](#).

## We're recruiting director positions for terms beginning in Jan. 2026!



Help strengthen our profession. Support providers and the patients they serve by sharing your time and talent with us.

**We're recruiting board members for positions beginning Jan. 2026.**

*"I wanted to be on the foreground of helping move dental therapy along in other states. By being on the board I stayed in tune with what was happening across the country. It's rewarding to get to see dental therapy beyond our day-to-day time in clinic, and it's important to advocate for our profession and connect with other professionals."*

- Claire Surges, ADTA board member 2021-2025

Visit the ADTA website to learn more about open roles: [www.americandentaltherapyassociation.org](http://www.americandentaltherapyassociation.org)

Or contact Kari Kuntzelman, ADTA executive director, at: [ed@americandentaltherapyassociation.org](mailto:ed@americandentaltherapyassociation.org)

**Joining the ADTA Board of Directors** is a great way to help shape the future of dental therapy while growing your leadership skills. We're at our best when we're fully represented by providers and students who are committed to excellence, advocacy and growth. Learn more [here](#). If you think you might be interested, but aren't ready to commit, please fill out the [Board Member Interest Form](#) so that 1) we know you're thinking about it, and 2) we can start talking with you about what's involved and answer any questions.

Still have questions? [Contact us](#) and we'd be happy to talk more in-depth about ADTA board member roles and responsibilities.



## Dental Therapy Education Program Updates

### [dax̣ẉx̣ayabus Dental Therapy Program](#)

"Our enrollment cycle is now open, and we are accepting applications for the next cohort beginning ***July 1, 2026***. Priority deadlines are *October 31, December 31, and February 28*. Initial admission interviews for the first priority deadline of October will take place on November 14 and November 21. We currently have 12 applicants and anticipate that this number will continue to grow over the coming months. Our goal is to fill the cohort and maintain a waitlist of additional qualified candidates.

To support these efforts, we have launched a robust recruitment campaign and expanded our team to include a Student Success and Recruitment Coordinator, Dr Pheni Chuma who assists with both recruitment and student retention.

We have also enhanced our application process to make it more streamlined and user-friendly. Additionally, our updated 30-month curriculum (previously 28 months) now offers the flexibility to complete the first quarter of general education courses online. We are in the process of revising our tuition scale and anticipate a reduction from the current \$125,000 to approximately \$85,000. These continued improvements reflect our commitment to strengthening the program's vitality and advancing our mission to provide student-centered, culturally competent dental therapy education".

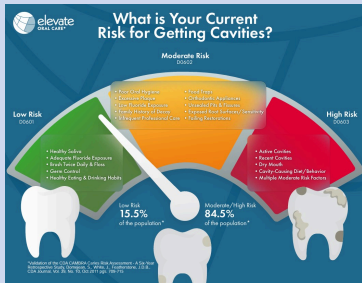
## Bookmark these Resources

[The Dental Therapist National Standards Report and Model Act](#) provides a comprehensive framework for states seeking to authorize and regulate dental therapy as a means to expand access to oral healthcare. Developed through broad stakeholder input, the report outlines national standards for education, licensure, and scope of practice, emphasizing evidence-based practices and alignment with Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) standards. The model legislation included serves as a template for policymakers and advocates, offering clear language to establish dental therapy programs that are effective, accountable, and adaptable to local needs. For professionals, this model act is a vital resource for understanding how standardized legislation can ensure quality care, workforce integration, and improved oral health outcomes in underserved communities.

[Vermont Statute Title 26, Chapter 12, Section 612](#) establishes the licensure requirements for dental therapists and includes a pathway for those who have not graduated from a CODA-accredited dental therapy program but have been practicing in the field. While the standard route

to licensure education through a CODA-accredited program, passing a Board-approved clinical exam, and completing 1,000 hours of supervised clinical practice, the statute also allows the Board to grant a license to an applicant who does not meet the CODA education requirement if they can demonstrate that they have been functioning as a dental therapist in another jurisdiction and possess “substantially equivalent” education and training. This alternative pathway enables experienced providers to become credentialed in Vermont, helping to expand the dental workforce while maintaining rigorous standards for public safety and competence.

## Don't Miss



[elevateoralcare.com](http://elevateoralcare.com)

Elevate Oral Care has two great info graphics with an easy-to-follow visual assessment for determining your risk of getting cavities, and strategies for reducing risk. The second of the two graphics helps patients identify oral health goals and steps they can take in the dental office and at home to achieve them. Find a printable version of these educational materials [here](#).



[verywellhealth.com](http://verywellhealth.com)

Verywell Health has a useful article (and this info. graphic) explaining the benefits, recommendations and risks of fluoride in toothpaste. It's a good guide for having conversations with patients who may have questions and concerns about fluoride's safety. The article addresses how fluoride works, its benefits and risks in toothpaste, and alternatives. Read the full article [here](#).



[ilikemyteeth.org](http://ilikemyteeth.org)

The Campaign for Dental Health, a program of the American Academy of Pediatrics, is dedicated to providing the public and policy makers with the evidence-based information and tools they need to promote and protect [community water fluoridation](#) as an important public health measure. The easy-to-navigate and aptly named website, [ilikemyteeth.org](http://ilikemyteeth.org), has facts about oral health and [preventive strategies like fluoride](#).



[Oral Health Learning Café](#)

The [Oral Health Learning Café](#), part of the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, is a group of stakeholders working on medical-dental integration. An informal, supportive space where professionals can engage with others and learn. the café includes a discussion list and monthly webinars that provide information about oral health programs and services (e.g., integrating oral health care and primary care) throughout the country and share strategies, challenges, lessons learned, and resources.

## On-Demand Learning



**ADTA Learning Management System** - ADTA Members and Education Subscribers receive access to On Demand Webinars with CE credit as part of their membership benefits, excluding specialty webinars and online workshops.

If you are a current ADTA member or education subscriber, [click here](#) to login to your member account. Once you have logged in, click on the Learning Management System button to gain access to online programs.

Non-Members can purchase individual webinars using the registration form below. Interested in saving money? Join the ADTA as a member or Education subscriber. [Click here](#) to review pricing and benefits.

[To access on demand webinars, click here.](#)

## More Resources

[Arcora Foundation](#) is an ADA CERP recognized provider, and another great resource for continuing education. Click [here](#) to access their library of courses, which includes the 1.5- CDE course (Oct. 2024) on [Minimally Invasive Dentistry: What It Is and Why it Works](#), the 1 CDE course (Sept. 2024) [Dental Care is Prenatal Care](#), and the 3 CDE credit course (February 2024) [Optimize Dental Teams with Dental Therapists](#).

The National Coalition Of Dentists for Health Equity has developed a [webinar series on the most accurate information on Dental Therapists](#). Knowledgeable and experienced researchers, practitioners and program administrators share findings regarding the education, supervision and quality of patient care provided by dental therapists. They also delineate financial information that dental practices need to use to determine whether dental therapists would be an asset to their clinical operations. [Access the webinar series here](#).

Elevate Oral Care's products provide valuable tools for implementing preventive measures and managing caries, which align with the principles of minimally invasive dentistry. [Sign up here](#) to schedule a staff meeting to learn more about what they offer.

# Our Partners



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