

From: To: Subject:

Date:

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ST. RegulatoryCounsel

[External] 16A-4633 PHDHP practice parameters

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## Good evening

My name is Jim Mancini, and I am the Clinical Director of the Dental Program operated by the Salvation Army of Western Pennsylvania. We have two rural dental centers, one in Johnstown( Cambria County) and one in Oil City ( Venango County). These are dental offices dedicated to performing public health dentistry in these rural areas. As of today, our offices have a total patient population of more than 20,000 Pennsylvanians. This number grows virtually every month, with so many people in these rural areas unable to receive proper dental care.

As a practitioner with virtually no help outside of my office, I cannot recommend high enough the need to expand the role Public Health Hygienists. My office in Venango County is the only public dental health office in the county. We get requests for services from every facility in the area. I cannot be in 5 places at any one time! I need help. The dental profession in Pennsylvania has totally dropped the ball with regards to public health dental care for the poor. I am fully aware of this. I belong to the Access to Care Committee of the PDA and ADA. These groups have tried many ways to increase participation, but with very little in the way of results.

Please consider my email as an endorsement of expanding the role of Public Health Hygienists and helping overwhelmed public health dental centers like those of the Salvation Army. I would be happy to discuss this further with anyone who feels the need for more information from my point of view.

Thank you for your time and consideration with this email. I look forward to a favorable decision and the help of PHDHP's in my area.

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