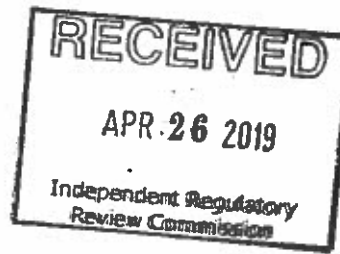


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April 22, 2019

Ariel O'Malley
Board Counsel
State Board of Dentistry
Department of State
PO Box 69523
Harrisburg PA 17106-9523



RE: Rulemaking 16A-4633 (Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner Sites)

Dear Ms. O'Malley:

My name is Lisandra Maisonet, and I am the president of the Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association.

With the abundant available research on how oral disease can affect overall health, it is evident that creating opportunities to provide dental care to those lacking access is more important than ever. The thought of individuals being at increased risk for conditions such as heart disease, stroke, uncontrolled diabetes, cancers, and most recently Alzheimer's disease, has made it evident that dental professionals must be willing and open to create opportunities where the needs of our community can be met.

The unprecedented need of bridging the gap between the dental and medical community is now a must and not a thought or concept that we can continue to ponder. The introduction of the Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner into these settings can be the answer to increasing access to care. By having a preventive specialist in a medical or pediatrician office, patients who do not have a dental home can be educated on the importance of oral health and the value of seeing a dentist on a regular basis.

This expansion can help to drive patients to dental offices and most importantly can help to identify individuals at risk of further systemic complications due to their oral health status. It is imperative that we utilized PHDHP's to their fullest potential in helping to meet the needs of Pennsylvanians. Additionally, placing these professionals in daycare and hospice settings can aid in providing services to individuals who are at most need for dental care.

I support rulemaking 16A-4633 Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner Practice Sites and respectfully request acceptance of the rulemaking as proposed.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Lisandra Maisonet, RDH, PHDHP

Lisandra Maisonet

President Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association