

**Rhode Island Dental Hygienists' Association**  
**Monthly Executive Board Meeting**

Official Minutes  
Tuesday, April 8th, 2025  
(Including for March)  
Zoom meeting 7:00 PM  
Main office: 231 Douglas Ave, Providence

**Rhode Island Dental Hygienist's Association Mission Statement:**

*To ensure access to oral healthcare by remaining a strong and viable voice for protecting and promoting the public's health in Rhode Island.*

**Rhode Island Dental Hygienist's Association Vision Statement:**

*Dental hygienists are recognized as essential primary care providers in delivering total comprehensive oral care by developing a collaborative partnership with the healthcare community.*

1. **Call to order:** 7:04 pm Ashley Soares
2. **Present:** Ashley Soares, Sarah Gilkenson, Karla Vandale, Kathy Macleod, Chantel Janerio, Leah Maricle, Cora Rocha, Kathleen Stack
3. **Establish Quorum: Quorum is established**
  - 7
4. **Agenda:**
  - District Meeting held on Sunday, March 30:
    - RI was the only one that wasn't able to give their support to MA for their initiatives that they are bringing to national come June.
    - There was an email that was sent out on March 16th of the recorded of the Massachusetts proposed resolutions (PR's) to ADH
    - **From Meeting on March 16th:** Currently MA has all of the other states for support but not currently us, they needed the letter of support by March 28th
    - They have passed for their state for law and they are doing a dental diversion proposed resolutions

- National support while managing a DH if they are suffering from addiction, and they are able to seek help without the repercussions from having any backlash. This would be a focus on those seeking help to be completely confidential
- They are also getting rid of their requirement to have to take the ADEX
- They would like to have the GHLOSCE as their exam instead of the ADEX exam or a patient based exam
  - <https://jcnde.ada.org/dhlosce>
  - They have been using this type of ex for the dentist, and they would like to have it in place for the DH exam.
  - They did explain that MA still feel the need to have the exam (which I fully support)
  - University of Maine is in support of this test as well as Harvard's Dental Program
    - RI I feel needs to have an exam in order to “prove” that they are complacent to perform in a “real world” situation
    - It won't be just the DH taking this exam, but it will also be the international trained dentist
  - The push back MA is having is coming from the ADEX board examiners: which is an income for those individuals
- What are the RI board thoughts on what MA is trying to pass?
  - X
- Arizona: Dental Assistant
  - They have passed to allow DA perform prophylaxis
  - RI: From what I have heard we are all on the same page that we do not want DA to be able to perform this
  - From What I have seen on social media north east seem to giving it thoughts and that they are not in support

## 5. CPR Class:

- Sarah:
  - 4 attendees
- 6. Annual Session:
  - Chantel:
    - Reached out to Dr. Andrew Gazerro, possibility of a collaboration between RIDA and RIDHA for the annual dental session. Their conference is scheduled for Saturday September 20, from 9am -5pm at Ballys in Lincoln RI. Our annual session would tentatively be scheduled for Saturday September 13. The Vermont Dental Association conference is scheduled for Sept 17, 18.
    - We both agreed that it would be ideal to work collaboratively in putting together one conference hosted by the RIDA, and RIDHA. This will help prevent members from choosing which conference to attend and to have more support at one event. It also shows that we are in support of each other's respective professions and are unified.
    - Discussed that if we were to do this together, the RIDHA would need a 30 minute time slot to conduct our annual meeting with our members, Dr Gazerro said that would be fine.
    - Dr Gazerro needs to discuss this with other members of the board before confirming if we can collaborate. He will get back to me hopefully in a couple weeks.
    - Details of the Sept 20 Dental conference: There will be 2 separate rooms for CEU courses. 1-room will be designated for 1 hour long lectures, while the other room will be designated for 2- 3 hour lectures. Attendees will have the option of registering for which courses they would like, either 1 hour courses, 3 hour courses, or a combination of both.
    - There will also be the option of having a prix fixe lunch with an additional ce panel that will discuss providing information on going OON with PPO plans. It is not to tell people to drop insurance, it's more to just provide

information and answer questions. Dr Gazerro will be on the panel of speakers during the lunch hour. Those who attend this lunch session will get an extra CEU credit. (The Prix Fixe lunch will additional fee, it is not included in admission price),

- For those that do not want to get the lunch or extra CEU during the lunch hour (12-1pm), they are able to have lunch elsewhere.
- The maximum amount of CEU's to be given at this conference is 7 (if attending the lunch session) \*\*\*\*Attendees can schedule for as much or as little CEU courses as they like.
- RIDA Chief of Staff is Beth, she is helping organize this event.
- They are lining up speakers. I mentioned that we are currently considering 4 possible speakers. Dr Gazerro asked that I send him this list so they can be considered, he wants this conference to be of interest to both professions.
- They have some vendors but are in need of more. Do we have vendors that we can recommend? So I can send this list over to Dr Gazerro?
- Cost to attend for members?? How much would RIDHA be responsible for? Still to be determined, Dr Gazerro mentioned that they are still discussing this and will get back to me.
  - Fee: Member Dr, non-member Dr Fee
  - Fee: Member DH Fee, Non-member fee DH
  - Office: Fee
- There will be vendors there from 9-5, attendees can visit at any time, there will be no separate time slots to visit vendors.
- There will be a Meet and Greet on Friday Night September 19, there will be an option to stay in the hotel at a reduced rate. This may be a good option for offices that want to attend and go up on a Friday - Saturday.

#### 7. PHDH, to bill other Medicaid

- Kathleen Stack submitted a letter of support

- Going on further study
  - They are accepting other letters of support
  - She will give us the info for the bill tracker and the committee that we can send that out too

## 8. DH Graduation

- Monday, May 12 at 6:30 pm
  - Dr. Schmitz sent me an email today asking to speak or give a speech for the DH students at their pinning ceremony
  - I have replied and will be attending

## 9. Current Members:

- 89 total members

## 10. Reports

- COMMITTEE REPORTS:
  - Membership: 89 members
  - Community Outreach: None
  - Legislative: None
- OFFICER REPORTS:
  - President: See agenda
  - Vice-president: None
  - RIDHA TREASURER'S REPORT
    - MARCH 2025
    - Beginning Balance: \$ 12,747.63
    - Deposits and Credits:
      - American Dental Payables: +\$229.88
      - Total deposits: +\$229.88
    - Debit:
      - MDHA : -\$142.60 (CCRI 5 students)
      - Checks:
        - #231 Bill Simas CPR : - \$300.00
          - Total debit and checks: - \$442.60
          - End Balance Checking: \$12,534.91
    - End Balance Savings: \$8,371.61
    - TOTAL: 20,906.52
  - Leah Maricle RIDHA Treasurer
  - Trustees: Nonr

- Secretary: None
- Acceptance of Officer Reports
  - Motion: Sarah Gilkenson
  - Second: Kathy Macleod

11. Additional Items:

- Upcoming Events:
  - January:
  - February:
  - March:
  - April:
  - May: Dinner for Sarah (kinda)
  - June:
  - July:
  - August: Create Promos for Officer replacements...
  - September: Annual session
  - October: ADHA 2025 will be in October 4-6th
    - Long Beach California
  - November:
  - December:

12. New Business: none

- Motion:
- Second:

13. Announcements:

14. Communications: one None

15. Correspondence: None

16. Meeting adjourned: 8:16 pm

- Motion: Sarah Gilkenson
- Second: Kathy Macleod

Respectfully Submitted by: Ashley Soares