

Rhode Island Dental Hygienists' Association
Monthly Executive Board Meeting

Official Minutes

Tuesday, June 8 th, 2025

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:** 7:03 PM by Ashley Soares
2. **Present:** Kathy Stack, Ashley Soares, Chantel Janeiro, Taylor Guilmette, Karla Vandale, Lily LaFreniere, Chris Dillon, Leah Maricle
3. **Establish Quorum: Quorum is established**
 - 7 Voting Members Present
4. **Agenda:**
 - Introduction Christopher Dillion
 - Accepting the role of President Elect for Sep 2025
5. **Annual Session:**
 - Chantel:
 - X
 - Ashley:
 - X



6. Summary of the Ocean State Smiles Initiative

- The Rhode Island Dental Association (RIDA) is launching a new project called *Ocean State Smiles* using funds from a recent \$10 million settlement related to the 6/10 Connector. The goal is to improve dental care for children and individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) in Providence.

- What the Project Includes:

- **Mobile Dental Unit:** A dental van has already been purchased and will serve children and IDD patients in partnership with organizations like Children's Friend and Family Services of RI.
- **New Nonprofit Foundation:** A new group called the *Ocean State Smiles Foundation* will be formed to manage the program's funding and future.
- **Surgical Dental Care Pilot:** A special dental surgery program will begin at the Surgery Center of RI, with plans to expand.
- **Career Pipeline for Youth:** CCRI will help introduce high school students to careers in dental hygiene and assisting.
- **Support for Dentists:** Dentists serving low-income children in Providence will receive loan repayment and mentorship opportunities.
- **Tech & Innovation:** New tools, including AI diagnostics, will be used to improve care.

- Next Steps:

- A **task force** will be formed to finalize the proposal.

Work will be assigned to a **summer intern** for help with planning and research.

The team will wait for final instructions from the Rhode Island Foundation and update the proposal accordingly.

- A **shared document** will be used to keep everything organized (managed by Beth Lamoreaux).

- **Call to Action:**

- The team members that were asked in the email are being asked to review the materials and share their availability for a meeting this week to move things forward.

7. HOD: Any questions thus far regarding the new manual?

- https://www.adha.org/about-adha/house-of-delegates/resources/?_zs=oSJUk1&_zl=O3HDA

8. On June 3rd I received this with in my email about the Medicaid Bill:

- On May 22, 2025, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill called H.R. 1 – the One Big Beautiful Bill Act by a very narrow vote. This bill would make the 2017 tax cuts permanent and bring big changes to programs like Medicaid and food assistance.
 - **Key Concerns for Medicaid:**
 - Adds new work requirements for recipients
 - Requires re-enrollment every six months
 - Demands more income checks
 - Puts limits on federal Medicaid funding
 - Could lead to states cutting programs, including adult dental benefits
- -The Congressional Budget Office says this bill could reduce Medicaid coverage for up to 8.6 million people.
- The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) is worried this would reduce access to dental care for low-income and vulnerable groups, affecting both patients and providers.
 - **What You Can Do:**
- This bill is now in the Senate. Dental professionals are encouraged to contact their Senators and speak out to protect Medicaid and dental benefits. Your voice matters and can help safeguard care for millions of Americans.

- They are still requesting/asking people to use the link in their email to send their concerns to our individual state

9. PHDH:

- Passed at senate level, still needs to pass the house then hopefully get signed

10. Assistants to scale:

- Nevada did not pass
 - But Georgia is trying to get having as scale

11. Leah do list:

- Mail check to RIDA for the money we signed the contract on for the annual session
 - \$5,000
 - Beth is the contact person, please reach out to her to send the money to them
 - cell: 401-871-7833
 - Email: ELamoureux@ridental.org
 - Wix is up for renewable if you could take care of that please
 - Julie is teaching a OSHA class, if we could send her a \$150 check for her fee

12. Current Members:

- 89 total members

13. Reports

- COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - Membership: 89 members
 - Community Outreach: None
 - Legislative: None
- OFFICER REPORTS:
 - President: See agenda
 - Vice-president: See agenda
 - **RIDHA TREASURER'S REPORT**

- RIDHA TREASURERS REPORT
 - MAY 2025
 - Beginning Balance: \$ 12,534.91
 - +96.25 : American Dental Payables
 - + \$50.00 : Check from Karla for reimbursement of CPR
 - Total deposits: +\$146.25
 - Debit:
 - -\$423.60 : Hibachi association dinner
 - Total debit and checks: - \$423.60
 - End Balance Checking: \$12,257.56
 - End Balance Savings: \$8,371.75
 - *TOTAL: \$20,629.31*
 - Submitted by: Leah Maricle RIDHA Treasurer
- Trustees: None
 - Secretary: None
 - Acceptance of Officer Reports
 - Motion: Kathy MacLeod
 - Second: Karla Vandale

14. Additional Items:

- Upcoming Events:
 - January:
 - February:
 - March:
 - April:
 - May:
 - June: RIDHA virtual Session June, Friday, 27 & Saturday, 28th
 - July:
 - August:
 - September: Annual session, Election of officers
 - October: ADHA 2025 will be in October 4-6th
 - Long Beach California

■ November:

■ December:

15. New Business: none

- Motion: Chantel Janeiro
- Second: Leah Maricle

16. Announcements: none

17. Communications: one None

18. Correspondence: None

19. Meeting adjourned: at 7:31 by Ashley Soares

- Motion: Kathy Stack
- Second: Chris Dillon

Respectfully Submitted by: Taylor Guilmette