



Mount Baker District Dental Society
September 7, 2021
Hybrid Meeting

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** President Marion Hernon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Moved, seconded, and carried to approve minutes of May 5, 2021, as printed in September issue of *Toothsayer*.
3. **Introduction of Guests**

Nancy Tupper introduced Larry Thompson and Carl George, of North Sound ACH / LIN.
4. **Short presentation by Larry and Carl:** Medicaid reimbursement rate increase
 - Access to care for Medicaid patients is difficult. Only 19% of Washington private practices accept Apple Health. Biggest obstacle for providers is low reimbursement rates. Recently rates increased significantly—most codes have now increased 100%.
 - Call for private practice dentists to consider accepting Apple Health patients to increase access to care for this vulnerable population. No pressure to open the flood gates; small actions taken by many practices/dentists adds up. Please consider setting aside 2–3 appointments a month for Apple Health patients, volunteering with mobile dentistry (SmileMoblle), or offering a free dental day.
 - DentistLink.org is a free referral service that allows patients to find a dentist or specialist by zip code that accepts their insurance. Providers can connect to accept referrals from DentistLink on the website.
 - More information or questions? Contact Carl George (outreach specialist) at cgeorge@acorafoundation.org or 208-771-0444.
5. **Announcements**
 - Reminder: Attendees expecting to receive a CE attendance verification: Attendance is required throughout the lecture. Be sure your name is showing on the screen; if not, sign in to Chat with both first and last name; if Chat is not an option, voice your attendance. AGD members, please provide your AGD number or at least indicate your membership. AGD verification code to be issued at conclusion of tonight's lecture.
 - No other announcements
6. **Correspondence:** Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Micah Marth shared an invitation from Snohomish and Pierce County Dental Societies. MBDDS members are invited to a free 2-credit CE virtual presentation on Sept. 21, sponsored by the Snohomish and Pierce County Dental Societies. Speaker: Dr. Aran Garg. Topic: Autologous Blood Concentrations. For details, see email sent yesterday.
7. **Budget Report:** Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Micah-Marth gave the financial report.
8. **Committee Reports**
 - Membership Committee: (Kurt Swanson and/or Will Nichols)
 - Dr. Will Nichols announced two new members to MBDDS: Drs. Richard Clough and Halee Hyatt.
 - No other committee reports
9. **Business: Old and New**
 - a) WSDA–HOD: Dr. Kathleen Stambaugh gave an update on resolutions for the upcoming HOD session:

- HOD meeting to be held in Spokane 9/9 - 9/11; Delegates/alternates include Drs. Kathy Stambaugh, Linh Vu, and Karen Homitz, and Emily Hobart. Dr Hobart will be running for ADA Delegate this year!
 - Main issues to be discussed (and comments):
 - Dental Therapists (opposed- concerns about irreversible procedures)
 - Non-dentist ability to own a dental practice (opposed)
 - Preventive care coverage without meeting deductible (support/prioritize)
 - Dental workforce (support, focus on schools to address labor shortage)
 - Long standing issues that will continue discussion (and comments):
 - Dental Assistant (all assistants, not just expanded function) duties suggested to expand to include prophylaxis, scale, perio probe, give anesthesia, gross debridement with ultrasonic (pro cites access to care, however, concerns include IA block paresthesia, irreversible damage via ultrasonic, hygienists are not represented in this decision that could very much affect them)
 - Vaccine mandate discussion is not currently on the agenda
 - Will address developments at next general meeting. Please contact a delegate with any questions or to comment on issues to be discussed.
- b) WSDA HOD Delegate: 1 opening to fill, 3-yr position; elections to be held at Oct. 5 meeting. If you are interested in serving as a delegate or would like to nominate someone, please contact one of our officers.
- c) Veterans Smile Day: Dr. Aaron Lemperes announced Veteran's Smile Day, Nov. 11, and called for dentists to consider volunteering services in support of Veteran's Smile Day. Dr. Lemperes needs to know who can help and what services you are willing to perform. Patients will be coordinated through the Opportunity Council. Option to either adopt them into your practice or not, schedule them into your office at your convenience. Any help you can give is appreciated. Contact Dr. Lemperes at aaron@lemperesdentistry.com or 360-738-0444.
- d) Skagit Regional Health / Radiation Oncology: Pre-Radiation Dental Care Volunteer Program Update: Information about the volunteer program is included in the recent newsletter, with a link to volunteer form.
- e) Gifts of Gold—Skagit update: Similar to Whatcom Gifts of Gold, the Skagit collections will benefit Skagit Boys and Girls Clubs; more info to come.
10. **Continuing Education**: President-Elect Dr. Will Nichols introduced guest speaker Sam Martin, CPA, who lectured on the topic of Financial Health for Dentists. Mr. Martin gave an excellent, engaging presentation with a lively Q&A to finish off the evening. If you missed the meeting, Mr. Martin will be speaking at PNDC this year with special sessions directed at new dentists and those closer to retirement.
11. **Course Completion Verification Code, for AGD members**: President Dr. Marion Hernon gave out the code.
12. **Next Meeting**
- Date: Oct. 5 Hybrid meeting: virtual link will be provided in newsletter
 - Speaker: Rep. Michelle Caldier and Cindy Pauley, DDS
 - Topic: Legislation Impacting Dentistry
 - [Post-Meeting Announcement: Due to rising infection rates and discussion with neighboring dental societies, the decision has been made to return to virtual meetings for the remainder of the calendar year. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and adjust accordingly. Those who have already made dinner reservations for the next meeting will be reimbursed.]
13. **Adjournment**: President Marion Hernon adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

