

AzDHA Advocacy Committee

Report to General Assembly 2020

AzDHA Advocacy Committee Director:

Vacant - Provides oversight and acts as liaison between committee and BOD

AzDHA Advocacy Committee Chair:

Deb Kappes

Committee Members/Consultants:

Karen Christen, Michelle Gross-Panico, Tricia Moore, Emma Violante

Legislative Representation:

Compass Strategies (Jessie Armendt & Kelsey Lundy)

Primary Objective:

To initiate and influence legislation and regulatory activities relating to the public's health and the dental hygiene profession.

Save the Date: 2021 Capitol Day Event – **Thursday, March 11, 2021** in the Historic Supreme Court Room. Fingers crossed we will be able to hold an in-person event!

Activities:

- The Committee continues to work toward 2019-2021 established priorities that align with the AzDHA Strategic Plan.
- 2020 Legislation: Senator Kate Brophy McGee sponsored SB 1227 on behalf of the Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association. It was expected to pass when the COVID-19 upended the session and stalled work on all bills. We plan to reintroduce again in the 2021 session. The bill sought to clarify that Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITR) includes permanent and primary dentition, remove several unnecessary restrictions on Affiliated Practice Dental Hygienists (APDH), and clarify the conditions for root planing and local anesthesia by APDH. We again supported efforts to establish an AHCCCS Adult Dental Benefit for Pregnant Women.
- 2020 Capitol Day Event – 59 attendees; 21 meetings with legislators prearranged with 18 confirmed meetings occurring; recognition in both House and Senate; in addition to receiving info about our 2020 legislative priorities, all 90 legislators received info about oral health in AZ, dental hygienists, and AzDHA contact info.
- Sunrise Report – consistent with our established priorities, we are working to take the 1st step toward increasing our scope of practice by adding limited prescriptive authority (e.g. Rx strength sodium fluoride, chlorhexidine) and dental hygiene diagnosis & dental hygiene treatment planning by submitting a Sunrise Report to the Legislature. It is due November 1st. This may or may not lead to legislation in 2021.
- Board of Dental Examiners
 - Ongoing participation in rules process for dental therapy – next special session will be held Friday, October 30th.

- Submitted a request for BODEX to begin a rules process to amend Article 6 Dental Hygienists. Main objectives are to eliminate antiquated and overly burdensome rules and strengthen the role of the Dental Hygiene Committee.
 - Solicited candidates for upcoming dental hygiene position on BODEX – 3 inquiries received.
- Presentations – “Dental Therapy Rulemaking and Universal Licensing” at the Dental Therapy in Arizona: Opportunities and Challenges, August 21st virtual forum sponsored by Southern AZ Oral Health Coalition, Arizona Oral Health Coalition, and Dental Care for Arizona Coalition.
- Coalition Participation
 - Arizona Oral Health Coalition
 - The AZ Partnership for Immunizations (TAPI) Work Group re: HPV vaccination – work focused on provider and health professional student education