

Dr. Terry Donovan, Randy Morgan Highlight Annual Meeting

The MDA 101st annual meeting will make its way to Great Falls on May 5-7 for three days of outstanding continuing dental education, dental trade exhibits, social events, and fun. The meeting will take place at the Best Western Heritage Inn. Members of the Fourth District Dental Society and MDA will welcome outstanding speakers Dr. Terry Donovan and Randy Morgan for the event.

Dr. Donovan will present an "Update on Esthetic Restorative Dentistry."

He has lectured world-wide and published extensively on the topics of restorative dentistry and materials science. Dr. Donovan will help participants:

- understand the essential concepts for providing high quality esthetic restorative dentistry;
- select materials to use in specific clinical situations;
- understand the critical manipulative steps required to successfully use these modern materials;
- determine when some newer procedures should be used and when they should not be used.

You also won't want to miss Randy Morgan and his "Life's Lessons



Terry Donovan, DDS



Randy Morgan

Through the Lens of Laughter."

Randy earns rave reviews wherever he speaks and has been a repeat favorite speaker at the Pacific Northwest Dental Conference and Idaho State Dental Association (ISDA) meetings. Executive director Jerry Davis of ISDA says, "I have been conducting these meetings for the past eighteen years and of the many speakers we have had, I cannot remem-

continued on page 4

U-DOC Summer Program Recruits High School Students

U-DOC High School Summer Program is recruiting for the summer of 2004. This year's program is June 20-July 31. U-DOC targets high school students who have completed their junior or senior years and are interested in medicine or dentistry. Montana high school students who have excellent grades and meet any of the following criteria are particularly encouraged to apply: students from a rural area, from economically disadvantaged families, from families with a limited number of college graduates, or from under-represented minority groups

The U-DOC students live in the residence halls at Montana State University for six weeks, attend medically-related classes, visit area rural and urban clinics, job shadow area dentists and physicians, and visit local attractions. The students are coached in all aspects of "what do I need to do to get into medical or dental school?" The U-DOC program is associated with the WWAMI Regional Medical Program and Montana Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program.

If you know a student interested in studying dentistry, encourage him or her to apply. The application deadline is March 15. For more information and application forms, visit web site <http://healthinfo.montana.edu/U-DOC> or contact Larry Jackson at U-DOC@montana.edu.

In this issue

Dentistry and Law	3
New Members	3
Judge Rules Against Denturists in Lawsuits	5
MDA Seeks Nominations for Dental Excellence	5
Flathead County Latest HPSA Designation	6
Donate to MOHF Auction	6
News from the ADA	7
Montana Board of Dentistry Members Reflect	8-9
Dr. Roberts Seeks Re-election	9
Give Kids a Smile Scrapbook	10-11
People We Know	13
Medicaid Dental Program	14
Dentists: Allies in Screening	14
Langford Serves as President of AARD	16
Dr. Johnson Runs for President of AFSD	16
Montana Dental Hygienists' Meeting	16
Dr. Keith Rossein CE	17
MDA Classifieds	19

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Dentistry and the law...

This column is offered to answer some of the queries frequently posed of MDA executive director/ legal counsel Mary McCue about practice issues involving legal questions. If you have a legal question, email MDA at mda@mt.net or call 1-800-257-4988.



Question: How do antitrust laws apply to dentists and their professional societies?

Answer: Generally, for antitrust laws to apply to dentists, there has to be some type of joint activity that amounts to “restraint of trade”. “Joint activity” is usually referred to as a “conspiracy” or “collusive” activity. For example, if all the dentists in a local dental society agreed among themselves not to join a certain dental managed care plan or preferred provider organization (PPO), there is the essential element of a conspiracy. This would be unlawful under antitrust laws. If some members of the same local dental society decide on their own, without discussion or agreement among themselves, not to participate in the managed care plan, there is no joint activity or conspiracy. Antitrust laws

deal with joint behavior, not individual decisions.

In the example given, under the test set down by some courts, dentists who agree together to boycott a particular managed care plan may be guilty of restraint of trade if it’s found that they have collective market power. Other courts have found that even without a finding of collective market power the dentists’ actions may restrict competition.

There are some restraints that are illegal “per se” or on their face. The most common example is this kind of antitrust violation is price-fixing. This occurs when businesses or professionals who otherwise would be competitors agree to set prices or fees at a certain level. In this situation the antitrust violation is presumed to restrict trade or competition.

For answers to other legal questions, the ADA Legal Adviser is available free to members through ADA.org, the Association website. The Legal Adviser provides a broad range of information about how different laws apply to dentists and the dental profession. The articles are written by lawyers who understand the needs and concerns of dentists.

Letters To the Editor

MDA News invites feedback from our readers on material contained in the newsletter or otherwise of interest to dentists. Any communication intended for publication should be addressed to Mary McCue, Montana Dental Association, P.O. Box 1154, Helena, MT 59624.

Welcome to New Members

Benjamin Bushnell, D.D.S.
J. Britt Chandler, D.D.S.
Gregory J. Swica, D.D.S.

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Annual Meeting continued from page 1

ber one who received more positive comments.”

Randy Morgan talks of adding the power of passion to the world of work; he wants listeners to learn how to make work more effective and more enjoyable. Dental professionals who have enjoyed Randy’s presentation say they can’t remember when they have had so much fun learning. Randy is often remembered for his stories about Montana. For a taste of his presentation, logon to his website at www.randymorgan.com.

Another highlight of the meeting will be the visit of ADA president Dr. Eugene Sekiguchi. Calling today’s ADA revitalized and dynamic, Dr. Sekiguchi believes the ADA will continue to be relevant to its members if all of dentistry is part of the process, including dental professionals and staff, manufacturers, insurance companies, payers, government regulators, and patients among others.

Dr. Sekiguchi practiced general dentistry full time in Monterey Park, California, but now describes himself as the “guest dentist” in the practice he shares with two of his children who are dentists. He also is a clinical professor and associate dean for the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. Dr. Sekiguchi embodies the American success story, having spent his youngest years in a World War II Japanese internment camp. His family’s home and business were lost because of the war. But he credits his mother for teaching him the value of giving back as a volunteer.

Dr. Sekiguchi will address MDA members at their General Assembly meeting on Thursday, May 6.

HOW THE ADA HELPS YOU

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If you’ve ever wondered what the ADA looks like, take the ADA virtual tour. The virtual tour is online and available 24/7. This is a convenient way for you to learn more about the ADA from afar until you can visit Chicago or Washington, D.C. and see member value first hand. The science laboratories, library, a glimpse of the “new” ADA and more are featured at the touch of a button. To view the virtual tour, please visit ADA.org.

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Judge Rules Against Denturists in Lawsuits

In the lawsuit filed by Montana denturists against the Board of Dentistry and MDA, Helena's District Court Judge Jeffrey Sherlock recently ruled denturists do not have a legal basis to continue their lawsuit against the Board.

In their claims against the Board, denturists alleged the Board violated their right to privacy under the Montana constitution by adopting rules that limit how they practice. In particular, they questioned the Boards' legal authority to adopt rules to implement the statute that requires referral of a patient to a dentist for examination before a denturist makes a partial denture.

In response, Judge Sherlock held that the Montana legislature has entrusted regulation of denturists to the Board of Dentistry. Denturists are not allowed to perform their trade free from the legitimate police power of the state. Judge Sherlock pointed to past Supreme Court cases that have held the state can impact constitutional rights through its police power to the extent necessary to preserve public welfare. The denturists now will ask the state Supreme Court to review the district court's order.

In the counts of the lawsuit against MDA, the denturists allege that dentists have interfered with the practice of dentistry in Montana since the time of initial licensure of denturists. They allege MDA has refused to accept the profession of dentistry by filing complaints against denturists before the Board of Dentistry; using the power of the state to advance the commercial interests of dentists at the expense of denturists and consumers; and violating constitutional property, due process, and privacy rights. Claims against MDA have yet to be litigated.

In a separate legal proceeding before his court, Judge Sherlock refused to halt the Board of Dentistry's attempt to discipline two denturists for using the word "doctor" to describe their services as denturists. After a hearing officer ruled the denturists could not use the term because it was misleading, the denturists asked the judge to halt the any further disciplinary action by the Board for their use. The judge refused, holding that the denturists had not exhausted all their remedies before the Board. The Board will now review the hearing officer's decision and decide what further action to take against the offending denturists.

MDA Seeks Nominations for Dental Excellence

At its annual meeting in May in Great Falls MDA will once again honor members of the dental profession and their auxiliaries for excellence in the field of dentistry. The association is now accepting nominations for the T.T.Rider, Clinical Excellence, Outstanding Montana Dental Hygienist, and Outstanding Dental Assistant awards for 2004. Individuals and local dental societies may nominate outstanding members of the dental profession for recognition; selections are then made from the nominees.

To obtain a description of the criteria for each award and application form, logon to the MDA web site at www.mtdental.com or telephone the MDA central office at 1-800-257-4988.

Award recipients will be honored during the President's Reception and Awards Presentations on Thursday evening, May 6.

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News from the American Dental Association

A final HIPAA regulation was published in the Federal Register Jan. 23 establishing a **National Provider Identifier (NPI)** for use on all electronic health care transactions after May 23, 2007. This unique identifier will replace existing provider identifiers such as Tax Identification Numbers, Social Security Numbers, license numbers and proprietary numbers for all payers. We're working with the Office of HIPAA Standards to facilitate assignment of this single identifier for our members.

The ADA **HIPAA Security Kit** is being prepared for release in second quarter 2004. It will supplement the HIPAA Privacy Kit to help members meet the enforcement date of April 21, 2005, for HIPAA security regulations and be available through the ADA Department of Salable Materials. We'll keep you posted. Questions about the regulations should be directed to x4608 or HIPAA@ADA.org.

You can take advantage of an opportunity to earn CE credits online based on the 2004 CDC **Guidelines for Infection Control Practices in Dental Health Care Settings**. See ADA.org for more information or to take the free course for two hours of CE credit. Also remember that our new **JADA online CE program** also is up and running on ADA.org.

Most domestic programs will feel a squeeze in FY 2005 if Congress follows the president's wishes. In his State of the Union address, President Bush said his soon-to-be-released budget proposal would **cut most domestic discretionary spending by about 1 percent**. We're wary of the effects the proposed reductions would have on federal dental programs and, as always, we'll work to keep funding levels adequate. Also during the address, the president called for malpractice reform, a legislative effort the ADA would support.

The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California has denied attorney Shawn Khorrami's motions to dismiss the ADA's complaint against him. In this case, the ADA sued Khorrami for defamation based on statements he made on his law firm website advertising his services. He falsely accused the ADA of concealing the dangers of amalgam for our financial benefit and of exerting undue pressure on dentists not to warn patients of mercury dangers. The court rejected each of his arguments. The decision is a **significant victory for dentistry**. The ruling

also paves the way for us to continue to vigorously litigate this case.

The new ADA **Member Handbook** is on its way to all active, licensed members. The Handbook replaces Connections as a one-stop resource for member information and emphasizes the tangible value of ADA membership. State or local dental societies will distribute the handbook to new members throughout the year. We appreciate feedback on the Handbook. Let us know at initiative@ADA.org.

The latest issue of the ADA **Legal Adviser** is now available on ADA.org. This issue looks at a recent Supreme Court decision under the Americans with Disabilities Act, how the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 may affect tax-deferred retirement accounts, third-party sexual harassment in the dental profession and an FTC action against the South Carolina Board of Dentistry. Recent legal issues are also briefly discussed, including a new Illinois whistleblower statute, a recent case dealing with HIPAA privacy regs and a decision on patient privacy.



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On March 29 two members of the Montana Board of Dentistry depart the board when their terms end, Dr. Michael McCarthy, Billings dentist, and Deana Standley, Great Falls hygienist. The MDA News recently asked both to reflect upon their terms on the board.



I was asked to write a letter for the MDA Newsletter reflecting on my experiences over the last five years as a member of the Montana State Board of Dentistry. It will be difficult to respond in a manner that would do justice to the entire experience.

To begin with, I was somewhat surprised in my first year at

the variety of tasks and issues handled by the Board. Granting licensure for candidates who either meet the standard criteria or apply through credentialing is only a small part of the task although a very important one. The law states that the Board “shall set and enforce standards and rules governing the licensing, certification, registration and conduct of the members of their particular profession or occupation within its jurisdiction” MCA (37-1-131).

If you read that carefully, it covers quite a range of responsibilities considering the fact that this Board regulates dentists, dental hygienists and denturists. The main priority in any of our proceedings is always the protection of the public. Therefore, many of the agenda items we face each meeting center on that very issue.

I experienced a significant learning curve that involved both the process and the issues. The composition of the Board, I believe, is quite diverse and fair. Out of ten appointments there are five dentists, two hygienists, one denturist, and two public members. This has always led to some interesting and lively debate. I have detected over the last several years a growing respect and tolerance for one another’s views among most Board members. This I believe has led to the advancement and resolution of some key issues that have been addressed and eventually agreed upon.

The MDA, MDHA, and their leadership also have played a large role in the proceedings as their input at each meeting has always been extremely informative and helpful. I as a Board member have always valued their contribution. Any judgment I made as an individual member of the Board always factored in their suggestions and requests.

The process overall is quite slow and very formal which was hard to get used to at first, but I found that if you persevere and do your homework eventually the process grinds out the solution. I’m convinced the Board has accomplished some good things in the last few years with positive results from our legislative efforts in 2003, and hard

work from our attorneys regarding the sensitive legal issues that we faced.

The Board has been through a number of attorneys over the years but the Department of Labor and Industry back in 2002 assured us that our new legal counsel would meet our expectations. I must say that my hat is off to Darcee Moe and Jack Atkins who have helped us immensely in the last two years. There is another person whose efforts I would like to recognize. Sharon McCullough has been the Board Administrator for ten years, and without her knowledge of Board function, protocol, and issues our job would be so much more difficult. She has certainly earned my respect and I thank her for her dedication.

Another responsibility of the Board sometimes overlooked is the contract with WREB (Western Regional Examination Board). Each dentist and hygienist under the direction of WREB will spend four to five days, several times per year, attending one of the test sites around the United States to examine the clinical skills of new graduates and those seeking licensure thru WREB. It seems like a significant amount of time and money directed toward these exams, but I assure you it is absolutely necessary. Granted the vast majority of candidates pass as we are only assessing minimal competency. There is a small percentage that we cannot allow licensure until they can attain the level of competency desired.

The Board of Dentistry exists solely for the protection of the public, but every decision made by the Board affects the lives of all dental professionals. Therefore, I encourage all of you to consider participation in some form on the local, state, or national level. We are the only ones who can keep the delivery of dental care moving in a positive direction. We know what our patients need and want, and those decisions must remain in our hands.

My time on the Board of Dentistry was a great opportunity to give something back to the profession that has been so good to me. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve. I am very appreciative of those of you who have been patient and supportive of the Board over these last five years. It is an ongoing process, so again I encourage you to do your part and help keep dentistry a profession that is admired and respected by all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael J. McCarthy

My Tenure on the Board of Dentistry

As I look forward to my last Board of Dentistry meeting, the end of a five-year term, I would like to share a few things I have learned and most appreciated about serving on the Board. First of all, I would like to tell you about the perks of being on the Board of Dentistry, and that is, meeting and associating with first class, dedicated members of dentistry. Not only members of the Dental Board of Montana, but members of American Association of Dental examiners and Montana's own Western Regional Board. Being part of the exams and meeting and working with outstanding professional, hygienist and dentists and actively participating in the examining process has 'rounded' my view of the working, educational, and examining aspects of my profession, and I truly love what I do more than ever.

What I have learned is that the Board of Dentistry moves slowly. The requirement of thoughtful and deliberate actions takes time and bringing those activities to fruition involves the process of government. That is not necessarily a 'comfort' to some who get frustrated with solving perceived problems. But quickly one on the Board can learn that the short-term answers fail to address unintended consequences in the long term. Learning the difference between "shall", "may", "or", "and/or" and numerous other simple words that populate our everyday language can change the intended meaning of rules and statute. So therefore crafting of the language can take much longer than you would expect.

I have had the privilege of sitting on the [complaint] screening panel, and the most important thing I have learned there is document, document, document! The second most important recommendation is for all professionals to sharpen their communication skills; let's face it, many times what comes out of our mouths gets us in more trouble than what we do in the mouth.

All in all, to serve on a government board can be rewarding, educational, frustrating, and immensely entertaining and a great privilege.

Many thanks for your support.

Deana S. Standley, RDH

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Dr. Roberts Seeks House Re-election

MDA member Dr. Don Roberts will seek a second term in the Montana House of Representatives in a newly-formed district in Billings. He is the current incumbent in House District 10 but becomes the incumbent in new House District 56 after redistricting of the Legislature takes place.

Dr. Roberts, an oral surgeon, served on several committees in the 2001 Legislature, including State Administration, Human Services, and Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. He sponsored legislation at the request of the Board of Dentistry to prohibit denturists from calling themselves "doctors." During the legislative interim he was chosen to chair the Committee on Child and Family Services and is a member of the study committee on medical tort reform issues.

When asked about his bid for re-election Dr. Roberts said he would continue to work to improve the state's business climate, improve its education system, and develop its resources.

Many MDA Dentists Volunteer for *Give Kids a Smile!* Dental Access Day

Children across Montana were smiling February 6 when many MDA members offered free screenings and care to those in need for *Give Kids a Smile* Dental Access Day. The second annual GKAS event was sponsored by the American Dental Association and MDA to promote access to dental care for underserved children and raise public awareness about the need for better funding of public dental health care programs. The event also emphasizes the need for parents to become involved in promoting good oral hygiene practices for their children.

This year preliminary estimates show that more than \$150,000 in free dental care was provided by Montana dentists and staff as the result of GKAS. MDA members were joined by dental hygienists and assistants and office staff to provide free care in private dental offices and at public clinics. Here are some of the highlights of GKAS in Montana.



- In Billings 42 dentists, half of the actively practicing dentists in that community, provided comprehensive treatment to over 120 children. They received referrals from the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, Head Start programs, and school nurses. Dr. Bob Bergeson organized this impressive effort.



Dr. Robert Bergeson, dental hygienist Mindy Brocopp who is Dr. Bergeson's daughter, and their patient are all smiles. Dr. Bergeson has been the coordinator for GKAS for the last two years in the Ninth District in Billings.

- In Missoula 13 dentists accepted many children on a walk-in basis and seven more provided free treatment to children referred by schools, church groups, or the Partnership Health Center. Dr. Scott Green of Frenchtown organized the event as he did last year.

- Dr. Mark Stapleton, who works at the Butte Community Health Center dental clinic, lead six dentists who volunteered their services at the clinic to treat 11 children and provide about \$2,500 in free care

- In Bozeman Dr. Julie Raaf visited local Head Start programs, providing education on oral health and proper nutrition to more than 120 young students.

- Dr. Lacy Claeys again organized dentists in Helena for GKAS. About 15 dentists provided free screenings and care to children referred by school nurses, Head Start, and the public dental health clinic.

- In Kalispell, Whitefish, and Columbia Falls dentists from the First District Dental Society provided comprehensive treatment for children in their offices. The children were referred by school nurses, Head Start, and United Way. In Polson Dr. Dave Bull, Dr. Gayle Siemers, and Dr. Jim Willis provided treatment in their offices.

- Dentists in Great Falls plan a GKAS event later this spring, coordinating their efforts with dental hygiene students at the MSU-Geat Falls College of Technology.

In many smaller communities MDA member dentists treated children referred from a variety of sources. From Dr. Bob Jestrab in Havre, Dr. Jerry Martin in Chester, Dr. Richard Fink in Sidney, to Dr. Tom Lidahl in Plentywood, many Montana dentists pitched in.

Dr. Tom Wickliffe and Tina Cook participate in GKAS.



Ninth District president, Dr. Allen Blackford, and Kathleen Goodman do their part to make GKAS a great success.



Dr. Tim Pfister with chairside assistant Geda Rock.



Dr. Christian Claeys treats a young Helena patient.



Dental assistant Danine Wald, one of many assistants across Montana who volunteer time for GKAS.



Shaini VanWyk, RDH, also helped out.

“A young patient in Butte, receives treatment on “Give Kids A Smile!” day from the Butte Community Dental Center.





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People We Know... Dr. Carol Scranton

This article is the first in a regular series about MDA members and their special interests and activities — people worth knowing in the Montana Dental Association!

“The never-ending challenges and stresses of a busy dental practice must be offset with an activity that offers a diversion from the daily grind (pun intended!!!)

to achieve balance of one’s mind and spirit. For me, competing in the growing sport of K-9 agility has served as my relaxation for the past four years,” says MDA dentist Carol Scranton.

On any given weekend during the year, Dr. Scranton of Kalispell, along with her two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Kendall and Webster, can be found at a K-9 agility competition somewhere in Canada or the United States. The “boys”, as she refers to Kendall and Webster, love the sport and are a pure joy to work with.

Competition level K-9 agility is quite rigorous, requiring a high degree of discipline and ongoing training. It is not just about training the dogs, but also about training the handler. In agility, the handler runs with the dogs, directing them through a series of obstacles that include jumps, tunnels, weave poles, steep A-frames, bridges, and teeter-totters. The dogs must successfully negotiate the prescribed obstacles and perform each obstacle according to regulations. Both accuracy and speed are crucial for a successful run. Small mistakes, as simple as a twitch of the shoulder, can send a well-trained dog in the wrong direction, or cause him to totally miss an obstacle.

It can take a year or longer to prepare a dog and handler to run in competition, and then only at the novice level. “A dog/handler team can begin competing at the novice level when the dog is 12 to 18 months old depending on the sponsoring organization, but it is not as easy as it looks on television,” Carol explains. “There is a lot to learn. As a handler, I found out that what I do is as important as what the dog does. Each course is different and the handlers are given a brief time to ‘walk’ the course before the competition begins. During the walk through I must figure out a strategy to be in the right place at the right time to give my partner the proper direction. After a few years of training and competition, I discovered how to communicate with my dogs successfully with both verbal commands and body language. It becomes a well coordinated effort – well, most of the time!”

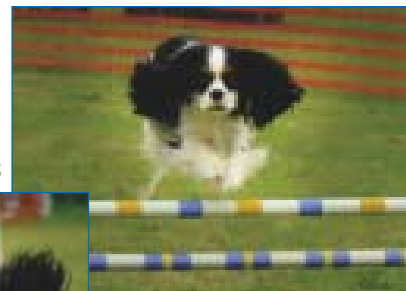
Carol started training Kendall, her oldest Cavalier, at the

age of 16 months. “I had never even thought of competing in agility before my husband and I saw a competition on The Animal Planet. It looked like a fun sport, so my husband suggested I should give it a try. He pointed out that Kendall, who had been trained by three cats to run, jump, and negotiate obstacles all over the house in a perpetual game of chase, seemed to be a natural. Why not give it a whirl? We went to an agility course that an acquaintance had set up so we could see what it was all about. Kendall took to the obstacles like a kid at a playground! And that’s where our adventures began.”

Dr. Scranton’s second Cavalier, Webster, is three and a half years younger than Kendall. “Webster is a totally different soul,” she explains. “Kendall is bold and adventurous. He is fearless, and truly believes he is a big dog. He acts intuitively and with passion. Webster, on the other hand, is a more deliberate dog. He is cautious and fears making mistakes. He thinks, analyzes, and then acts. Sometimes he thinks too much and hesitates. But he is learning, and gaining confidence and skill. I now know the second child syndrome first hand.”

Carol and her dogs train several hours each week to prepare for the weekend competitions. “Each weekend is intense and exhausting. The dogs and I really get a workout. They are athletes and have to be in good condition if they’re going to make time and successfully negotiate the courses without injury. They must move quickly and accurately, and respond to commands in a split second.”

The competitions are held in a variety of venues, including



continued on page 15



Medicaid Dental Program

Staff for the Montana Medicaid Services Bureau in the Department of Public Health and Human Services provided the following information regarding the state's Medicaid dental program.

Thank you for your willingness to serve clients of the Montana Medicaid program. Medicaid has worked hard to remove barriers for participating dentists. In recent years, we have removed the prior authorization requirement from all dental services except orthodontia; reimbursement has increased to 85% of billed orthodontia charges; and we implemented a much more comprehensive reimbursement methodology.

Full/Basic Medicaid. Medicaid has two types of dental coverage, **FULL** and **BASIC**. Clients on FULL coverage age 21 and over are eligible for only diagnostic, preventative, basic restorative (including stainless steel crowns), dentures (immediate, full, and partial), and extraction services. BASIC coverage is only for dental services necessary to seek or maintain employment through "Essentials for Employment" and for emergency dental care. Both of these BASIC services require either the emergency dental form or the Essentials for Employment form to accompany the submitted claim. Routine services are not covered under BASIC.

Orthodontia. Limited orthodontia services are covered for Medicaid children for a medical condition with orthodontia implications. Category A includes those with a possible

cleft/craniofacial condition or syndrome with orthodontic implications. Category B is for children 12 and under with a posterior crossbite with shift or anterior crossbite. Requests for services must complete the Dental Service Prior Authorization Request form, Treatment Plan that supports the specific category, and accompanying molds, x-rays, and/or photographs to complete the review.

Recent Changes. Effective January 2004 dental providers must bill an applicable client's other health insurance prior to billing Medicaid. Please check service limits and criteria details in the dental provider manual. See the Provider Information website for the dental manual, fee schedules, forms, and important dental notices.

Billing Tips. All dental claims should be submitted on the 1990, 1994, or 2000 version of the American Dental Association (ADA) claim form or providers could bill electronically through WinASAP at no charge. Contact ACS provider relations for help with claims or additional information at: (406) 442-1837 in Helena and out-of-state, or (800) 624-3958 in-state.

The Medicaid dental program officer can be reached at (406) 444-3182 or visit the provider information website at www.mtmedicaid.org.

Dentists: Allies in Screening

(This article is reprinted with permission of "Join Together Online", a project of the Boston University School of Public Health. Visit them online at www.jointogether.org for complete news and funding coverage, resource links, and advocacy tools supporting community-based efforts to reduce and prevent substance abuse.)

Dental professionals may be the first to recognize drug use — and should also be aware of patients' substance use histories, including whether someone is in recovery. As such, they may be good allies in a community-wide screening program. Experts recommend that dental professionals be familiar with every aspect of patients' health that could impact on dental treatment.

For example, cocaine, methamphetamine, and ecstasy can have dangerous interactions with anesthetics. Use of acetaminophen, an over-the-counter painkiller, exacerbates liver problems. To avoid relapse, people in recovery need to be cautious of mouthwashes, anesthesia, and prescription painkillers.

Of course, in some cases, dentists may not even need to ask if someone is using drugs. Methamphetamine causes massive, sudden onset of tooth decay, gum disease, and

worn-down teeth. Other drug use causes decreased saliva production, another important clue.

In an article in ADG Impact, Harold Crossley, DDS, an associate professor of pharmacology at the University of Maryland Dental School, recommends that dentists maintain a current medical history. Dr. Crossley recommends questions such as, "Do you have a history of chemical dependency? Do you drink or use recreational drugs? Have you taken cocaine, ecstasy, or methamphetamine in the past 24 hours? Are you in recovery? How long have you been in recovery?"

In the same article, Michael Fishman, MD, addiction specialist, recommends speaking with the person's physician, psychologist, or sponsor before delivering care. "What makes me crazy is when I hear that patients tell their dentists that they are addicts, and the dentist gives them Ultram or

continued on page 17

Dr. Carol Scranton continued from page 13

equestrian arenas, parks, and fields. “The surfaces we run on range from loose dirt to hard packed ground, from wood chips to grass. The dogs really have to know their stuff and be physically able to handle the challenge,” she notes. “Some days we run in temperatures in the high 90’s, and other times we run in unheated horse arenas in the dead of winter. The boys adapt well and take the conditions in stride, unlike their handler who would prefer sunny 70’s with a slight breeze!!!!”

The agility team of Carol, Kendall, and Webster put on over 12,000 miles each year traveling to competitions. Kendall has won the honor of competing in the North American Dog Agility Conference (NADAC) championship finals three years in a row. He has the distinction of taking 4th place against the best dogs in the US and Canada. “Kendall is passionate about agility. You can see it in his eyes. He gets so excited when he sees me packing up his bag for the trip. He knows where he is going, and his whole mental attitude changes from loyal companion to fierce competitor.” Webster, who has just begun his agility career, is also developing a passion for the sport. “Webster has a different style. He is faster and more deliberate, but lacks the efficiency of Kendall. But with more training and a few more competitions, he’ll be an excellent competitor. He has already won several first place ribbons in the novice division, where he has run against some very fast dogs.”

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels are the smallest of the spaniels. And while they are categorized by the AKC as “toy” spaniels, they are sporting dogs. Bred in England by King Charles II, they have a sporting instinct and an adventurous soul. “One of the challenges of working with Cavaliers is their nose. They can sniff out a bird or rodent ‘a mile away’. It took some time to discipline them not to get distracted by every scent they find in a field or horse arena in the middle of a competition course.” Cavaliers are at home in the field or on the couch. “What makes these guys a treat is their enthusiasm for life. They love to get out and have fun, and they love the competition. But they also love to curl up next to you and watch TV.”

Dr. Scranton comments, “K-9 agility has been my great diversion that I get to share with two special critters. Kendall and Webster never complain, are always enthusiastic to travel, and never forget to say thank you for the opportunity to play!”



Quality

Personal Service

Stability

Members of the Montana Dental Association expect personal service, top-quality products and financial stability from the insurer selected to cover their offices and liability. That's why the MDA has endorsed The Cincinnati Insurance Company's Dentist's Program as of January 1, 2004.

To learn more about this program, contact your local Cincinnati independent agent. To locate an agency nearest you, log on to www.cinfin.com or call Mike Terrell at (800) 769-0548.

Enjoy the convenience and simplicity of having all of your protection with one insurer. Consider other policies and services from Cincinnati and its affiliates:

- homeowner/auto
- leasing and financing
- life
- asset management

THE CINCINNATI INSURANCE COMPANY

Dr. Thad Langford to Serve as President of American Academy of Restorative Dentistry

Bozeman dentist and MDA member, Dr. Thad Langford, has been chosen to serve as president of the American Academy of Restorative Dentistry in 2006. Dr. Langford was elected to membership of the group in 1991. Active membership in the Academy, which was founded in 1928, is limited to 165.

He presented a table clinic at the Academy's annual meeting in 1990. He then was appointed to the Photo Roster Committee and served from 1995 through 2001 and as chairman from 1999 through 2001. Dr. Langford also served on the Academy's Essay Committee in 1997. The Committee is responsible for the first day of the scientific program of the annual meeting. He then began his service on the Academy's Governing Council 2001 through 2003, was secretary treasurer in 2002, and is now a member of the Admissions and Nominations Committees.

Dr. Langford will serve as president-elect next year and accede to the presidency of the Academy in 2006.



Dr. David Johnson Runs for President of ASFO

MDA's vice president, Dr. David W. Johnson of Great Falls, is a candidate for president-elect of the American Society of

Forensic Odontology. The association, described by Dr. Johnson as a good, entry-level organization for dentists interested in dental forensics, has more than 1,200 members in 28 countries. It holds its annual meeting in conjunction with the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Dr. Johnson joined the association about 20 years ago and served one 3-year term as a member of its Board of Governors. When his term ended last year he decided to become a candidate for president-elect.

From the Montana Dental Hygienists' Association



Mark Your Calendar

April 3, 2004
Montana Dental Hygienists' Association Spring C.E.
Helena, MT

This year we are excited to host nationally known speaker, Carol Jahn. Her topics will include "Achieving Excellence in Dental Hygiene Care: The Periodontal Patient & the Patient With Diabetes."

Watch for your registration form in the mail.

Looking for a Hygienist?

We are excited to have the first class of Dental Hygiene students graduating from MSU-Great Falls this spring. We will soon have the largest employable group of hygienist that our state has known for over a decade! I also have numerous names of hygienists actively seeking employment right now. 2004 will certainly be a great year to add a hygienist to your practice.

We also want to remind you that MDHA has employment listings available on our web site montanadha.org, visit the site for the details. Internet job posting are such a popular way to search for employment these days that we anticipate this opportunity to be very valuable. We will have dental offices seeking a hygienist, as well as, hygienists seeking employment opportunities.

We will continue to offer a traditional employment service by mail, phone or e-mail, free of charge, as we have for many years. If you have an employment need please contact the Employment Committee, which is part of our newly formed Communication Center. Please communicate the following information: dentist's name, address, phone number, days and hours the office is looking for, any other information that would be valuable to share with a potential employee. You may contact MDHA through our Communication Center as listed below.

Debbie Porter, RDH
MDHA Communication Center



**108th Annual Session
Boise Centre on the Grove
Boise, Idaho
June 17-19, 2004**

If you would like a registration booklet, contact the ISDA at 208.343.7543 or visit the ISDA Website at www.isdaweb.com.



Idaho State Dental Association

Bound for Boise and Beyond

speakers

Thursday, June 17, 2004
"New Aspects of Dentistry-2004"
Gordon J. Christensen, DDS, MSD, PhD

Friday, June 18, 2004
"Adding Passion to Purpose"
Randy Morgan, CSP

Friday, June 18, 2004
"Leading with Laughter"
Randy Morgan, CSP

Friday, June 18, 2004
"Pursuing Perfection in Fixed Prosthodontics"
Jeffrey S. Rouse, DDS

Friday, June 18, 2004
"Practice Successfully Today – Retire Successfully Tomorrow!"
Jerry R. Clark, DDS, MS

Saturday, June 19, 2004
"Odontogenic & Non-odontogenic Pathology of the Jaws: Review & Update"
Jeffrey C.B. Stewart, DDS, MS

Allies in Screening

continued from page 14

uses nitrous without taking precautions," said Dr. Fishman. "They don't understand that it doesn't matter if it's one or a dozen; it can trigger a relapse in a recovering addict that could have disastrous consequences." "This is our job. We're dentists. We're part of the community," said Dr. Crossley.

Recommendations for dentists, from the Academy of General Dentistry, include questions on substance use and recovery on medical history forms. If you suspect drug use, take precautions and avoid prescribing narcotics. Maintain a resource list of recovery resources for patients who admit to a substance use problem. Be gentle: counsel, don't castigate. Avoid prescribing narcotic pain relievers whenever possible. Document all discussions regarding narcotic prescriptions. Familiarize yourself with the contraindications of illicit drugs and pharmaceuticals used in dentistry.

First day of



March 20th

2004 Oregon Dental Conference

April 1 - 3, 2004 • Oregon Convention Center, Portland



New Horizons

Featuring

Dentistry: Adhesive Dentistry for the New Millennium - *Dr. John Kanca, III*

Dental Hygiene: Diagnosis-Driven Hygiene - *Beverly Maguire*

Dental Assisting: Bloodborne Pathogens - *Ginny Jorgensen*

Dental Administration: Successful Teamwork & Communication - *Gary Zalesky*

As well as courses for **Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons** *and* **Orthodontists**

If you would like to be included on our mailing list for Conference information, please call the Oregon Dental Association at 800-452-5628.



For up-to-the-minute information on ODC 2004, visit the ODA website: www.oregondental.org



Montana Dental Association

2004 Annual Meeting • May 5 – 7 • Best Western Heritage Inn • Great Falls, MT

Meeting Highlights

- Golf Tournament at Emerald Greens Golf Club
- American College of Dentists Dinner
- "Update on Esthetic Restorative Dentistry"/Terry Donovan, DDS
- Great Falls Historic Trolley Tour/Lunch at Collins Mansion Bed & Breakfast
- Trade Show
- "Life Lessons through the Lens of Laughter"/Randy Morgan CSP
- MoDePAC Breakfast
- Trade Show
- Component Officers Orientation Lunch
- International College of Dentists Luncheon

Special Guest

Eugene Sekiguchi, DDS, MSEE, BSEE
American Dental Association President



For more information about the 2004 MDA Annual Meeting go to www.mtdental.com or call (406) 443-2061

Dental Hygienist Needed

Looking for a hygienist to work in our established office for 3-4 days per week, approximately 150 days per year. Salary is negotiable depending on experience. Come and enjoy Flathead Lake and the beautiful Mission Mountains. Contact Dr. Gayle Siemers at 406-883-6269 (office) or 406-883-9286 (home).

Processor For Sale

A-T 2000 Air Techniques Processor. Only two years old, like new condition. Contact Dr. Joel Maes at phone 405-443-2780.

Bozeman Associate Needed

Long-term, two to three days per week, position available for committed, caring dentists, Five years experience or GPR preferred. Phone 406-522-4141 for additional information.

Alaska Opportunity

If you enjoy a high income potential and outdoor activities in a beautiful state, then this is the perfect opportunity for you! We are seeking a dentist to join our fast-paced office as an associate in our beautiful, newly built office featuring high tech dental equipment. Possible relocation assistance available. Give us a call for more information at (907) 490-0127, (907) 490-4649/fax, nldc@gci.net.

Belgrade/Big Sky Associate Needed

Associate needed for fun, fast-growing family practice in beautiful Southwest Montana. Future partnership or purchase possible. Oral surgery and endo emphasis helpful. Call (406) 388-0550 or email bigskydoc@aol.com.

For Sale

KAVO Electrotorque 4390 Handpiece Package, one motor, four high speed #25LHA; two slow speed #7LH and 68LH with optics and water; one straight attachment 10CH. Like new condition; \$9,034 invested on May 15, 2002; now asking \$8,000. Also for sale: Dental-EZ unit and chair, older, but functional, \$750. Contact: James Herzog, D.D.S., office phone 406-494-7033, home 406-494-6718 (call evenings and weekends).

For Sale

Automatic PerioPro Processor, \$1,500; amalgamator, \$75, two view boxes and two apex locators. Contact Dr. Edward McGreevey, 1001 SW Higgins, suite 106, Missoula MT 59803; phone 406-542-3454.

For Sale

Oregon assistant cart with high/low volume suction, air/water, light blue in color, used very little \$900; REVEAL SOLO INTR-ORAL CAMERA, with monitor (27 in Philips), stand, camera, and printer in excellent condition, with film, ink, light bulbs, manuals \$4,000; YASHICA DENTAL EYE III CAMERA, with hard case and all accessories, \$1,100. Contact Dr. Robert J. Jose at 406-449-8900.

CLASSIFIED & DISPLAY ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Classified ads are available at no charge to MDA members (limited to 50 words; 50 cents/word above 50 words). Non-member rates: \$29 per insertion up to 30 words; 50 cents/word above 30 words. Payment by check or credit card must accompany ad copy. Deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication (publication months are January, March, May, July, September, November).

Send classified ads to: MDA News, PO Box 1154, Helena, MT 59624 or fax to 406/ 443-1546.

For rates and information about display advertising, please call 406/443-2061 (toll free in Montana at 800/ 257-4988).

For Sale

Cerec II with cart, software, and accessories for \$14,995. Can use it for a \$30,000 trade-in toward a new Cerec III from Patterson Dental. Call Dr. Bryan Finn at (509)535-7787 (work) or (509) 448-1863 (home).

For Sale

New Kavo 642 B fiber optic handpiece (extra turbine), used KCP 5 air abrasion unit, Orascoptic headlamp with light source, Dent X 810 Basic film processor, Midwest Quiet Air and Tradition handpieces, Adec micro cart, Adec amalgamator, Midwest in sight II light source. Telephone 406-587-4741 evenings or weekends.

Staff Dentist

Black Hills of South Dakota. Competitive wage up to \$100,000 DOE and great benefits. Send CV, resume c/o MDA, P.O. Box 1154, Helena, MT 59624.

Kalispell: HELP!

Busy, staff-driven, team-oriented general practice has immediate opening for associate with intent of eventual partnership. We are nestled in the Flathead Valley, adjacent to Glacier Park and Big Mountain Ski Resort. This an outdoor enthusiast's paradise. We are a well-established practice, \$600K gross with seven ops, newly-remodeled reception area. Please send CV, letter of intent to Kalispell c/o Sean Crabtree, 101 West Ogee St., Tullahoma, TN 33388 or call 931-580-5200.

Dental Lab Technician

Experienced dental lab technician needed for small, three dentist office in Missoula. Excellent opportunity to earn equity in lab while working, with full ownership in future. Or use opportunity as slow down or part-time position leading to retirement. Call 406-549-5861.

Dental Datebook

2004

27 & 28 Dr. Charles McNeil, "TMD", Butte Copper King. Contact Dr. Dan O'Neill, 406/494-1316 or Dr. Peggy Cheman, 406/494-7080. Sponsored by the Third District Dental Society and Montana AGD.

27 Montana Board of Dentistry meeting, Helena

March

4 MDA Executive Committee meeting, Wingate Inn, Helena

5 MDA Board of Directors meeting, Wingate Inn, Helena

5 Dr. Keith Rossein, "General Dentistry & Electrosurgery", Billings, The Northern Hotel, 406/254-5121

6 Dr. Keith Rossein, "General Dentistry & Electrosurgery", Missoula, Best Inn Conference Center, 406/251-2665

19 Montana Study Club, Dr. Frank Spear, "Update 2004", Missoula, Contact Bobbie Culp, 406/644-2340.

May

5-7 MDA Annual Meeting, Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls, Dr. Terry Donovan, "Update on Esthetic Restorative Dentistry" and Randy Morgan, "Life Lessons Through the Lens of Laughter"

June

4 Montana Board Dentistry meeting, Helena

July

8-11 AGD National Conference, Anaheim, CA. For more information contact AGD at 888/243-3368 x 4339.

August

27-28 MDA/ISDA Yellowstone Conference - Dr. Terry Tanaka

September

17 Montana Board of Dentistry meeting, Helena

17 Dr. Jack Turbyfill, Jr., "Complete Dentures - Is It a Dying Art?", Billings

18 Dr. Jack Turbyfill, Jr., "Complete Dentures - Is It a Dying Art?", Helena

30 to October 3 ADA Annual Session, Orlando

December

10 Montana Board of Dentistry meeting, Helena

Practice Opportunities

If you are trying to sell your practice or seeking an associate or partner and want the information shared with dentists who inquire at the MDA central office, please let us know. MDA will list your practice opportunity on their web site and will provide details about the opportunity to any interested party who contacts the central office. Call 1-800-257-4988 with information about your practice and needs or log on to the MDA website at www.mtdental.com.

Montana Dental Association
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