

**NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT**  
**HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**North Dakota Oral Health Coalition 11/04/2015**

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Chairperson Lee and Members of the Committee;

My name is Cheryl Underhill, and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Oral Health Coalition (NDOHC). I am here to provide an update on the Collaborative Practice discussion facilitated by myself as director of the coalition.

The North Dakota Oral Health Coalition, established in 2005, is a 501c3 organization with over 110 committed individual and organizational members representing many facets of oral health care from education and public health, to professional associations and community health centers. The coalition's mission is to "develop innovative strategies to achieve optimal oral health for all North Dakotans."

During the 2015 North Dakota Legislative Session, the NDOHC was brought forward by legislators as an organization who could help facilitate discussion around Collaborative Practice between North Dakota Dentists, Dental Hygienists and other key stakeholders.

Collaborative supervision is a concept in which the dentist and dental hygienist enter into a written collaborative agreement that designates authorization for the scope of services provided by the Registered Dental Hygienist working under the general supervision of a dentist. Dentist-dental hygienist collaborative practice is "a commitment to interact on a professional level that empowers the participants to blend their talent to achieve a goal that neither can do alone." *D.J.Thompson, Florida Atlantic University*

The coalition director convened a planning meeting with key stakeholders including Bridging the Dental Gap, the ND Dental Association, ND Dental Hygienists Association, ND Department of Health Division of Oral Health, and the ND Oral Health Coalition. This group agreed to function through a consensus based process as the "Core Planning Group". An additional group of stakeholders, the "Advisory Group" were identified as potential partners and advisors to provide technical assistance and other input as the process evolves.

The Core Group has convened three time by teleconference and once in a half day face-to-face meeting in Fargo to review, discuss and agree upon key elements of a collaborative practice definition for ND. Key elements of collaborative practice definitions were reviewed and selected from other state's existing Collaborative Practice Agreements, particularly Minnesota and South Dakota. The final document will be reviewed by the Coalition Advisory Committee and then presented to the Board of Dental Examiners for opinion and recommendations. Our timeline for this submission is prior to December 31, 2015.