

Dental Practice Support for Providing Care to People with Disabilities



Holli Seabury
Delta Dental Foundation



Jeffery Johnston
Delta Dental of MI, OH, IN

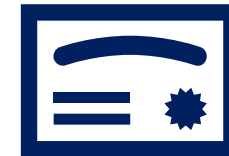
March 28, 2025

<https://www.aapd.org/research/policy-center/webinars/>



First things first...

- **YES, the slides and recording will be available**
- **YES, continuing dental education is available**
 - Live attendee → Instructions to obtain CE certificate will be emailed to you in the coming weeks
 - Recording → Must access through AAPD Education Passport for CE
- **YES, we will have time for Q&A**
 - Use the Q&A box, not the Chat panel



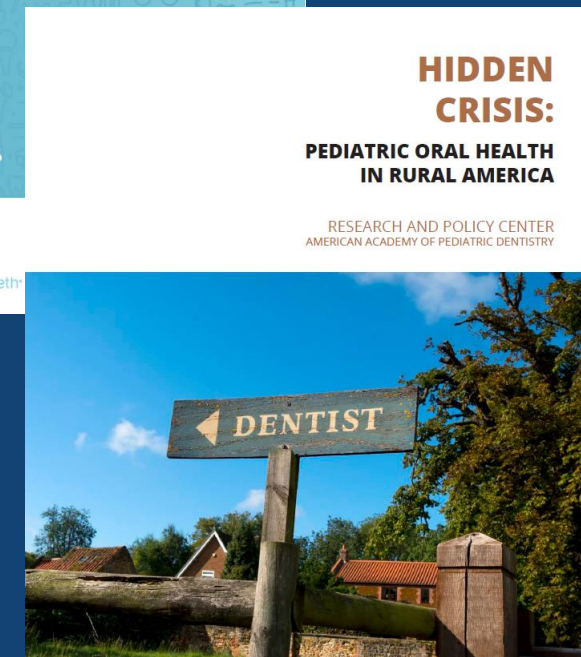
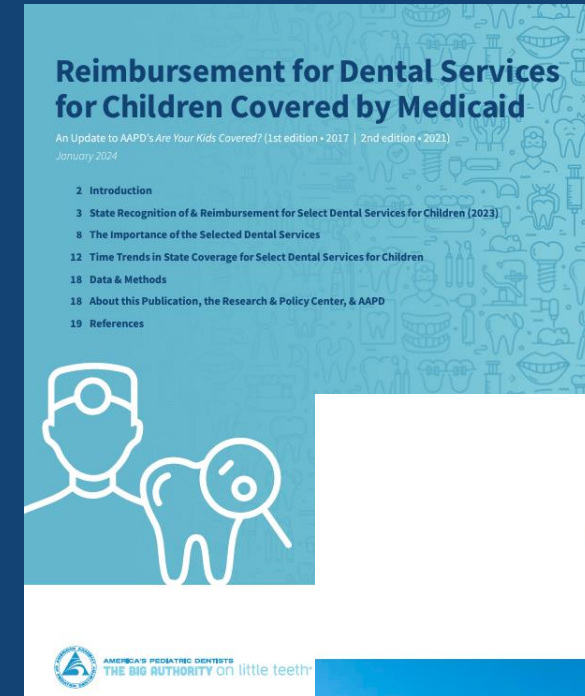
AAPD Research & Policy Center



The RPC aims to conduct impactful oral health services research and advance sound policies that improve the oral health and overall health of children.

We do this by:

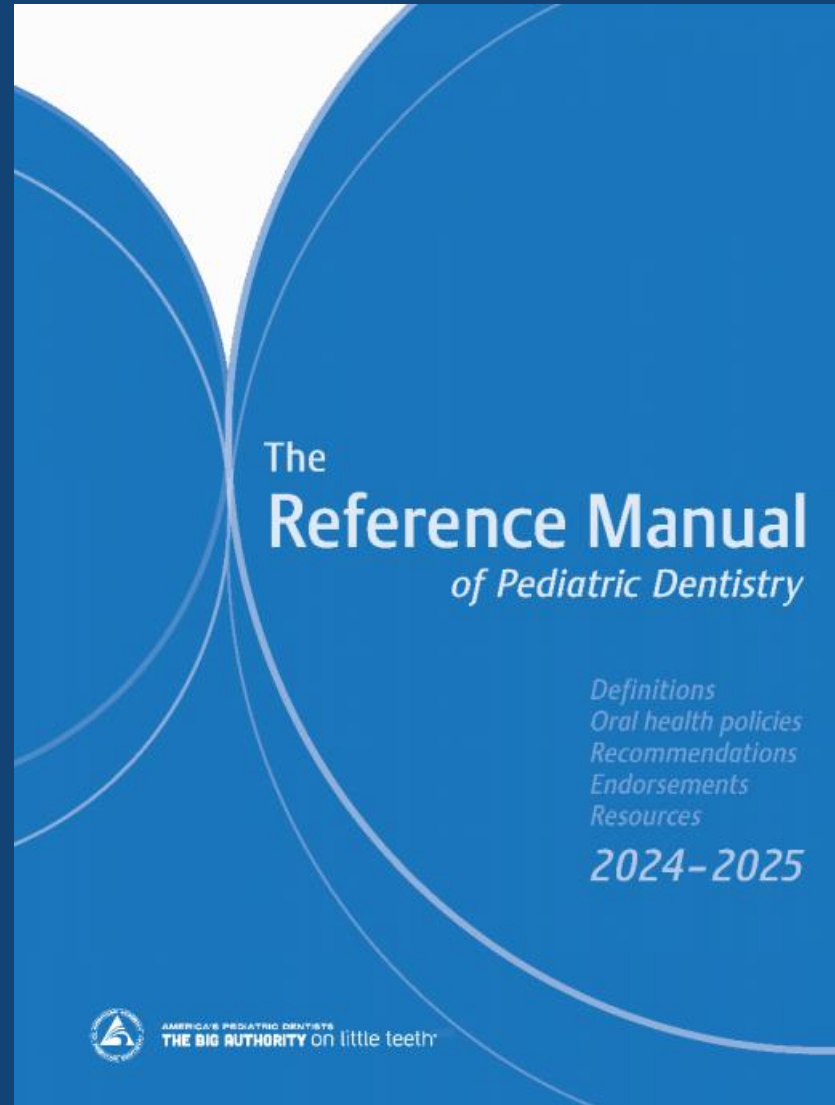
- administering primary research
- monitoring existing reputable data sources
- synthesizing evidence for guideline development
- collaborating with other leaders in oral health and health policy
- generating discussion on contemporary issues in pediatric dentistry



AAPD

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) is the recognized authority on children's oral health. Founded in 1947, the AAPD is a not-for-profit professional membership association representing the specialty of pediatric dentistry. Its nearly 12,000 members provide primary care and comprehensive dental specialty treatments for infants, children, adolescents, and individuals with special health care needs. As advocates for the optimal oral health of all children, the AAPD promotes evidence-based policies, best practices, and clinical guidelines; educates and informs policymakers, parents and guardians, and other health care professionals; supports research; and provides continuing professional education for pediatric dentists and general dentists who treat children. Visit the AAPD website at www.aapd.org or the AAPD's consumer website at www.mychildrensteeth.org for more from the BIG Authority on little teeth.

Oral Health Policies & Recommendations



<https://www.aapd.org/research/oral-health-policies--recommendations/>

Definition of Special Health Care Needs

Special health care needs include any physical, developmental, mental, sensory, behavioral, cognitive, or emotional ~~impairment~~ or limiting condition that requires medical management, health care intervention, and/or use of specialized services or programs. The condition may be congenital, developmental, or acquired through disease, trauma, or environmental cause and may impose limitations in performing daily self-maintenance activities or substantial limitations in a major life activity.

Health care for individuals with ~~special~~ needs requires specialized knowledge, as well as increased awareness and attention, adaptation, and accommodative measures beyond what are considered routine.

This definition was developed by the Council on Clinical Affairs and adopted in 2004. This document is an update of the previous version, revised in 2012.



Revisions Proposed for 2025

AAPD Members: Details are available at

<https://www.aapd.org/resources/member/governance/>

Other Relevant Policies & Recommendations

- Policy on the **Ethical Responsibilities** in the Oral Health Care Management of Infants, Children, Adolescents, and Individuals with Special Health Care Needs
- Policy on **Oral Health Care Programs** for Infants, Children, Adolescents, and Individuals with Special Health Care Needs
- Policy on **Transitioning from a Pediatric to an Adult Dental Home** for Individuals with Special Health Care Needs
- **Best Practice on Management** of Dental Patients with Special Health Care Needs



Transforming Transition in Dental Care for People with Disabilities



CareQuest 
Institute for Oral Health®

AAPD
FOUNDATION™
Big Love for Little Teeth

 **research
& policy**
center

National Inclusive Curriculum for Health Education



Students get
no training on
with IDD*.

We're changing

"An inclusive and humanistic approach."

"Raising the quality for all!"

"Helped prepare me for clinical rotations."

"Has given me confidence to serve adults with IDD."

NICHE-Dental NICHE-MED Contact f



So much we could talk about!

- CODA Predoc Standard 2-25
- Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act
- HEADs UP Act
- NIH: Disability as a Health Disparity
- **GOAL: No Wrong Door**





Dental Practice Support for Providing Care to People with Disabilities

Holli Seabury, EdD

Executive Director, Delta Dental Foundation

hseabury@deltadentalmi.com

260-760-4831

Jeff Johnston, DDS, MS

SVP of Professional Services & Chief Science Officer, DDMI, OH, IN

jjohnston@deltadentalmi.com

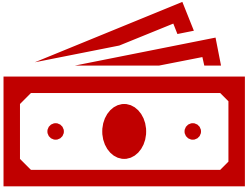


Children and Adults with Disabilities

- 20% of children have a special health care need; 65 million Americans have a disability.
- Parents say accessing dental care is their largest unmet need.
- As children with disabilities enter the adult Medicaid system, in most states they will have substantially less dental benefits.
- A study of dental professionals indicated that only 7% believed their predoctoral dental education prepared them for managing patients with special health needs, cognitive disabilities, and autism.



Breaking Down the Barriers to Care for Persons with Disabilities



REIMBURSEMENT

- Additional reimbursement and services thru both commercial and Medicaid insurances



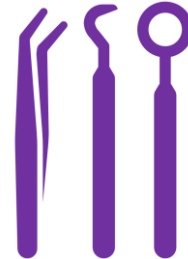
EDUCATION & AWARENESS

- Education for families and professional caregivers
- Awareness, advocacy, destigmatize general public



TRAINING

- Training for dental professionals/students in specialized clinics
- Standardized curriculum
- Hands on training for clinicians



INNOVATION

- Centers for Inclusive Dentistry
- National models for care
- Transition model



NAPD Conference, 2019

“We need a major dental benefits company to start providing additional benefits for the disabilities population, to lead the way for the other companies.”

Dr. Steve Perlman



Delta Dental Expanded Benefits for Patients with Disabilities (Commercial Benefits originating in MI, OH, IN)

These benefits are IN ADDITION to the policy in place.

- **Additional visits to the dentist's office and/or consultations (desensitization)** that can be helpful prior to the first treatment to help patients learn what to expect and what is needed for a successful dental appointment. Additional exam benefits will be allowed for this purpose. *(Procedure codes D0120, D0145, D0150, D0160 and D0180, no limit)*
- **Up to four total dental cleanings** in a benefit year. *(Procedure codes D1110, D1120, D4910, D4346 and D4355)*
- **Treatment delivery modifications necessary** for dental staff to provide oral health care for patients with sensory sensitivities, behavioral challenges, severe anxiety or other barriers to treatment. *(Procedure code D9997, can be billed for any visit requiring additional time)*
- **The use of anesthesia and nitrous oxide necessary** to provide dental care. *(Procedure codes D9222, D9223, D9230, D9239 and D9243)*

Expanded Benefits

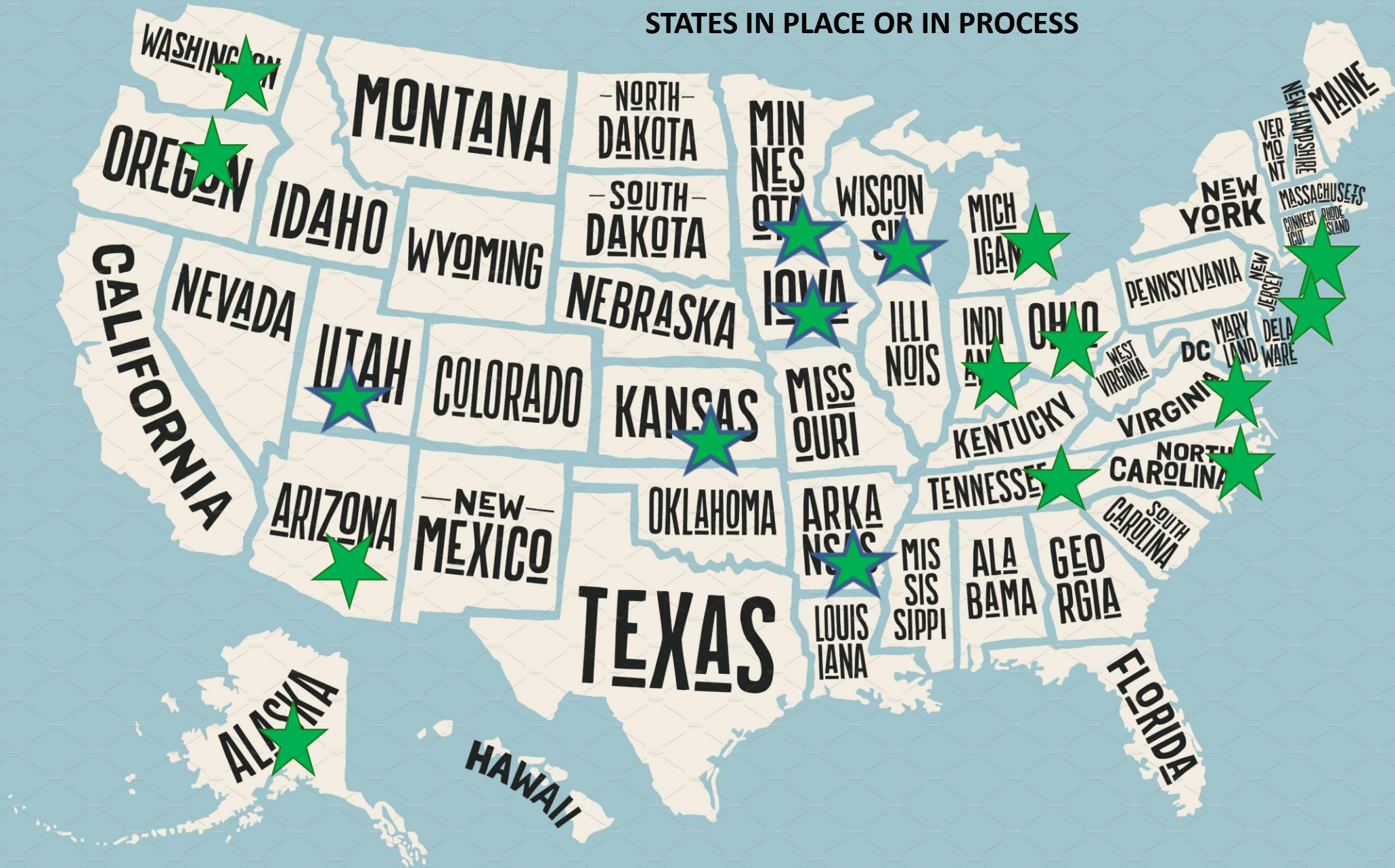
- Dentist determines eligibility
- Expanded benefits are a **standard benefit in all group policies**. There is no extra cost to the customer. Check eligibility before billing.
- Young adults with a permanent disability don't age out of the policy, which keeps them out of adult Medicaid and allows them to stay in their dental home.
- Eligibility is tripped by billing D9997 as the first code. Once a person is determined to have these benefits they always have them even if the dentist doesn't bill the D9997 code at every visit.
- Can be born needing these benefits or age INTO benefits as an adult. This could include dementia, stroke, accident, etc.

Qualifying conditions

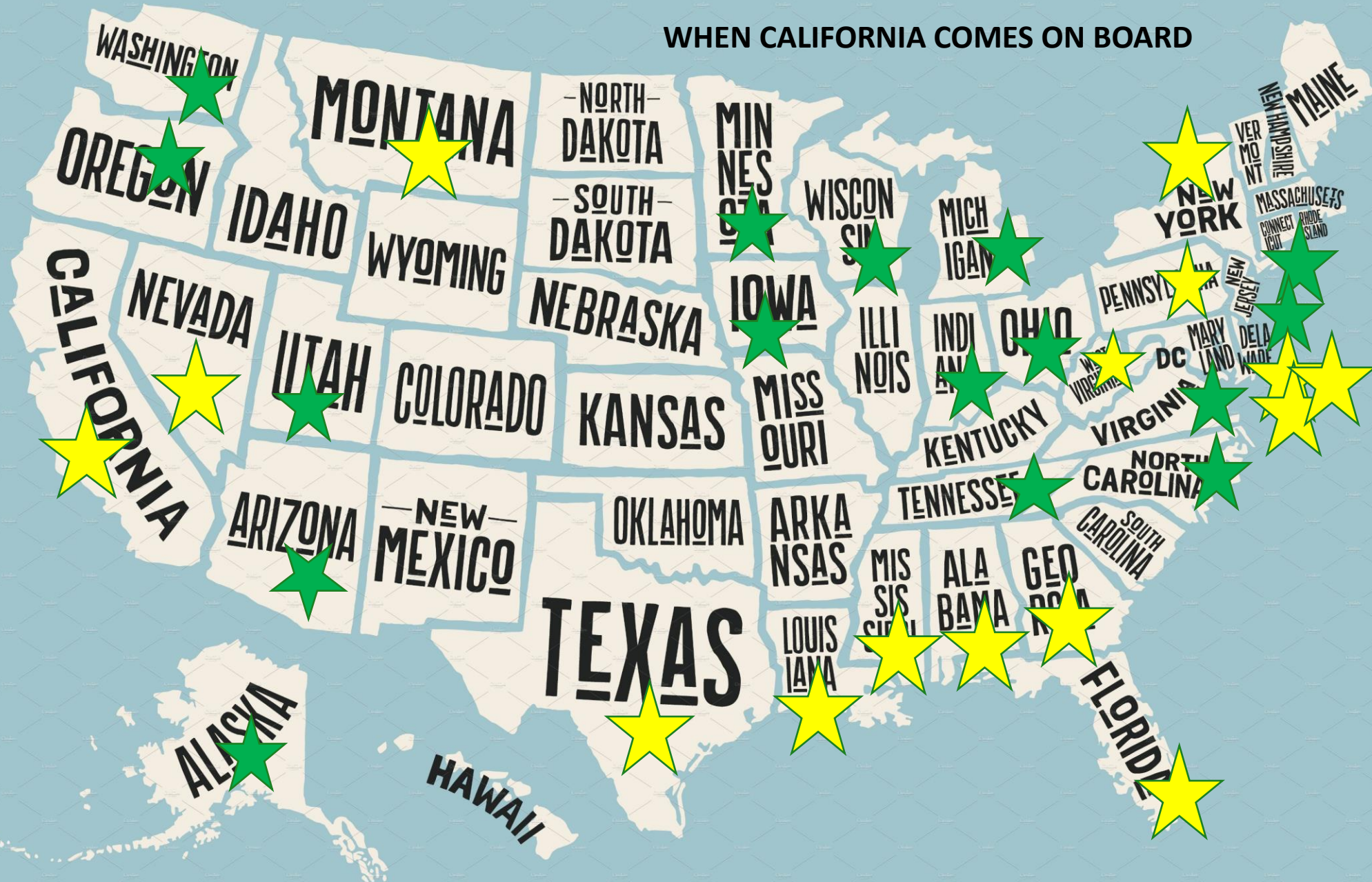
- **Intellectual and neurodevelopmental disabilities**
 - Intellectual disability moderate to severe
 - Neurodevelopmental disabilities (moderate—severe autism, severe ADHD, developmental delay/disability NOS, developmental delay in conjunction with syndrome)
- **Environmental or congenital insult leading to disability**
 - Fetal Alcohol syndrome
 - Cerebral palsy
 - Neurological injury (shaken baby, head trauma)
- **Chromosomal abnormalities**
 - Trisomy 21 (common)
 - Deletion syndromes (multiple) (relatively common)
 - 2q deletion—DiGeorge syndrome
 - Others exist but many fatal in early life
- **Syndromes/sequences with craniofacial/airway abnormalities**
 - Orofacial clefting (severe) (relatively common)
 - Treacher Collins
 - Pierre Robin
 - Microsomia/micrognathia
 - Many others
- **Other sequences that require special dental care needs**
 - Holoprosencephaly
 - Neural tube closure defects (range from clubfoot, spina bifida (LATEX) which don't generally require a lot of special treatment to hydrocephalus which generally has associated Chiari II malformation, IND and shunt. VP shunt does not need premed, VA shunt does). Comparatively common.

Special health care needs include any physical, developmental, mental, sensory, behavioral, cognitive, or emotional impairment or limiting condition that requires medical management, health care intervention, and/or use of specialized services or programs. The condition may be congenital, developmental, or acquired through disease, trauma, or environmental cause and may impose limitations in performing daily self-maintenance activities or substantial limitations in a major life activity.

STATES IN PLACE OR IN PROCESS



WHEN CALIFORNIA COMES ON BOARD



DID YOU KNOW?

In the United States
there are nearly 57 million
people with disabilities.

With the goal of helping to improve access to dental care for individuals with disabilities, Penn Dental Medicine has established a new continuing education series through the support of the Delta Dental Foundation (DDF).

**FREE
TO REGISTER
AND GAIN
CREDIT**

- Live webinars and on-demand courses
- Open to any U.S. licensed dentist and their support personnel at no charge.
- Dentists completing 18 or more of the courses within a three-year period will receive a certificate of completion from Penn Dental Medicine, an ADA CERP Provider, as a *Disabilities Dentistry Clinician Expert*.



**FREE TO ANYONE. 1.5 ADA
CERP CE PER WEBINAR**



Barriers with General Dentists/Hygienists: Undertrained Workforce



CENTERS FOR INCLUSIVE DENTISTRY



- The Centers for Inclusive Dentistry project creates access points through the FQHC/non-profit system for individuals with disabilities, especially I/DD.
- Send dental staff and support staff for immersive training disabilities clinics. Cost for the immersive training is \$2,500 per provider/staff (dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, support staff). DDF covers this cost.
- Funding available for equipment and modifications to physical environment (sensory rooms and sensory modifications to treatment areas.)
- Regular team meetings to develop tracking and outcomes and encourage ICD 10 diagnostic coding and use of F codes.

Immersive training locations



Penn
Dental Medicine
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



NYU

**COLLEGE
OF DENTISTRY**



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

ATSU

ARIZONA SCHOOL
OF DENTISTRY
& ORAL HEALTH



ACCESS FOR ALL SMILES

Your guide to supporting adults with disabilities and their oral health.

DELTA DENTAL
FOUNDATION

Designed and Developed by McMillen Health

***Access for All Smiles* is a free dental health resource for caregivers of teens and adults with disabilities. This resource will help professional and family caregivers learn:**

- The importance of dental health for the teens/adults they support.
- Best practices for daily mouth care.
- Behavior support techniques to make daily mouth care a success.
- How to encourage the desires and goals of the adults they support.

**[https://www.deltadental.foundation/
access-for-all-smiles](https://www.deltadental.foundation/access-for-all-smiles)**

Download the Guide

You can [download the guide in full](#) or you can download individual sections below:

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Behavior Supports
- ▶ Daily Care Basics
- ▶ Decay & Nutrition
- ▶ Chronic Health Conditions
- ▶ Injuries & Safety
- ▶ Dental Visits
- ▶ Adaptations & Positions
- ▶ Product Suggestions
- ▶ Making a Plan
- ▶ Oral Health Care Success
- ▶ Appendix
- ▶ Pre- and Post-Tests



QUESTIONS?

Holli Seabury, EdD, Executive Director, Delta Dental Foundation

hseabury@deltadentalmi.com

260-760-4831

Jeff Johnston, DDS, MS, SVP of Professional Services & Chief Science
Officer, DDMI, OH, IN

jjohnston@deltadentalmi.com



Questions?



Reminder: Attendees will receive an email in 1-2 weeks with instructions on claiming your CE certificate.

And yes, this was recorded (we hope!) and slides will be available.

Thank you!



**research
& policy
center**