

MDA Office to Remain Open During COVID-19 Crisis

Montana Dental Association staff (Al Garver, Jean Strainer and Pam Maslanka) and Donated Dental Services staff (Margaret Petrick) will continue to keep the MDA Central Office open during regular business hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday) during the COVID-19 crisis. All employees volunteered to continue operations and are coordinating as a call center for Montana dentists. The office is generating COVID-19 update e-mails to all members, based on inquiries and FAQs.

“We’ve had an amazing variety of inquiries from dentists,” said Mr. Garver, MDA Executive Director, “and we’re getting answers and getting them out as quickly as possible.”

Inquiries have included:

- Whether dental offices can remain open
- Whether any procedures are restricted by state or federal declarations

“We’ve had an amazing variety of inquiries from dentists,” said Mr. Garver, MDA Executive Director, “and we’re getting answers and getting them out as quickly as possible.”

- Whether the Montana Board of Dentistry will be making any statements
- Whether DPHHS is restricting payments to non-emergency procedures
- Whether they should pay employees differential pay above unemployment
- What are other dental offices doing to respond?
- How long this crisis will last
- Whether practice insurance will cover loss of income

As MDA staff receive inquiries, they will continue to seek answers and push out answers via e-mail blast update. Of the first 12 e-blasts sent, an average of 56% of MDA members (about 285) opened them. If you’ve missed any, they are archived on the MDA website: montanadental.org

MDA staff monitors messages and updates from all 54 state executive directors, the ADA State Public Affairs Team, the ADA Government Affairs team in Washington, DC, and the ADA Executive Director, Dr. Kathleen McLaughlin. Together, this network advises on any new or significant changes that affect dentists, and MDA pushes out anything that affects Montana dentists.

INSIDE

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Dental Resources for COVID-19

ADA has posted Coronavirus/COVID-19 dentist resources. Go to ADA.org and click “ADA COVID-19 Resources for Dentists”. ADA has provided information and guidance on emergency procedures, patient communication, employment agreements, dental claims, safety training videos, and more.

Elect Jane to the Montana House! You can help!

Many of you know a dentist from Bozeman named Jane Gillette. Jane served as our MDA president in 2017. She's been one of MDA's delegates to the ADA for several years. She's served on and chaired ADA commissions and committees and travels all over the country speaking and consulting as well. She's passionate about public health and she's been instrumental in developing the Sealants for Smiles program here in Montana. She's been involved in private practice and public health dentistry – she sees the 'big picture' like very few of us do. Did I mention that she's a science nerd? In short, she's an energetic, passionate, well informed, influential leader. What's my point, you ask?

Jane is running for a seat in the Montana House of Representatives – House District 64 in Gallatin County to be exact. It would be really, really, really good for all of us to have Dr. Gillette serving in Helena. It will be good for dentists and good for the whole state. Consider the influence she's had within our profession both here in Montana and nationally. Now imagine what she could do as a legislator in Helena! Her influence will go way beyond the single seat she will hold as a member of a legislative committee that

impacts our profession or the one vote she will have in the Montana House of Representatives.

How, you ask, can you help? Please contribute to Jane's campaign. She has an opponent in the Republican primary in June. She needs financial support NOW to get her message out to voters before the June 2nd election. The maximum an individual can contribute is \$180. Together you and your spouse can contribute \$360. Your significant other, family members, and neighbors can also each contribute \$180. When Jane advances to the general election, she will likely need your financial help again.

Please contribute your \$180 today online at drjanegillette.com. (Please see page 6 for more information.)

Please also consider contributing to MoDePAC, MDA's political action committee. MoDePAC has made the maximum contribution of \$180 to Jane. MoDePAC makes contributions to statewide and legislative candidates who support dentistry and other issues, especially those that help small businesses. There is no limit on the amount you may contribute to MoDePAC.



DR. RONALD JARVIS
President

Continued on Page 6

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

Dental Board Approves Denturist Implant Rules

On March 6, 2020, following many years of controversy, including extensive litigation against the Board of Dentistry (and at one point the MDA) the Board has adopted a new rule permitting denturists to place dentures over implants with restrictions.

The rule became effective March 28, 2020, and reads:

(1) A denturist may make and fit dentures over implants under the following conditions:

(a) the fitting must be performed after written referral from a Montana licensed dentist;

(b) the denturist may not refer directly for implant placement;

(c) the denture must be fully soft-tissue supported; and

(d) the denture must be manually removable without tools.

(2) A denturist may not cut, surgically remove, or surgically reduce any tissue or natural teeth in the process of making and fitting an implant-retained denture.

(3) A denturist may not fit or adjust any abutment or otherwise adjust any appurtenance to a dental implant, except on the denture itself.

(4) A denturist may relin or rebase the original implant-retained denture.

Other Board Actions

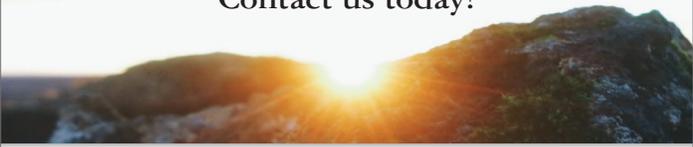
The Board considered a rule to prohibit dental assistants from taking final impressions for orthodontic appliances, sleep apnea appliances, or bruxism appliances. Some dentists objected to the rule and the Board did not approve the proposed restriction.

The Board also adopted a rule eliminating the initial licensure requirement for affidavits from three persons not related to the candidate, of the candidate's good moral character.

For information contact Al Garver, MDA executive director at (800) 257-4988 or agarver@montanadental.org

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Board of Dentistry Adopts Rules Allowing General Supervision of Certified Dental Assistants

Legislation sponsored by the MDA and passed in the 2019 Legislature allows a Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) to work under a dentist's general supervision for some functions (see below) in compliance with rules approved by the Board of Dentistry effective March 28.

This means that 190 Montana CDAs currently certified by DANB may now practice under general supervision. A dentist may not delegate procedures to a dental assistant under general supervision unless the assistant holds current DANB CDA certification.

Here is a summary.

1. To become a CDA a dental assistant must complete the DANB exams in general chairside assisting, radiation health and safety, and infection control. See below for information on how to become a DNAB Certified Dental Assistant.
2. CDAs must hold current DANB certification (which includes completing continuing education requirements) to continue to work under general supervision. See below for information on how to maintain current CDA status.

3. CDAs may work under general supervision and perform all procedures allowed to be performed by dental assistants under direction supervision, EXCEPT as specifically prohibited. Procedures prohibited to CDAs include:

- initiating, adjusting, and monitoring nitrous oxide flow for a patient who has been prescribed and administered nitrous oxide by a licensed dentist;
- applying silver diamine fluoride agents;
- placing and removing rubber dams;
- placing and removing matrices;
- polishing amalgam restorations; and
- applying topical anesthetic agents.

4. CDAs may place pit and fissure sealants under general supervision, but only following an in-person comprehensive oral examination or periodic examination by a dentist within the preceding 30 days.
5. CDA make take radiographs under general supervision,

Continued on Page 7



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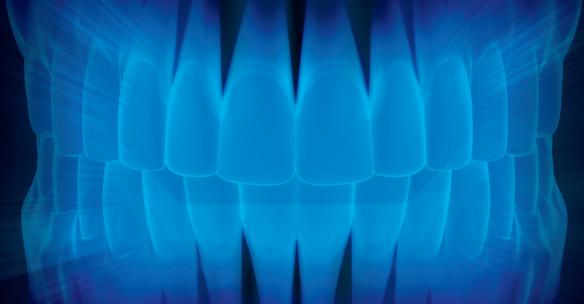
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Elect Jane to the Montana House...

(Continued from Page 2)

On a related note, wouldn't it be fantastic if Jane had other dentists serving with her in the Legislature? Are you retired? Looking at retirement in a few years and wondering what's next? Or do you just have that fever to take on public office? Consider serving in the Legislature. Talk to our Executive Director, Al Garver – he's experienced with political campaigns and he can help you explore the possibilities.

Speaking of service, MDA is developing our roster

of dentists, hygienists, and public members to who are interested and willing to serve on the Montana State Board of Dentistry. If you, or someone you know is interested, please talk to Al Garver.

It's been an honor to serve as MDA President this past year and I hope you will join me in supporting Jason Tanguay of Bozeman as he takes over as MDA President on April 18.



Ensure a Bright Future for Dentistry!

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Montana Board of Dentistry Adopts...

(Continued from Page 5)

6. Rules and statutes that prohibit dental assistants from performing certain functions, such as those allowed to be performed only by dentists or by dental hygienists, apply to CDAs.
7. General supervision means treatment provided with the intent and knowledge of the dentist licensed and residing in the state of Montana. The supervising dentist need not be on the premises.

How to become a DANB Certified Dental Assistant.

The Dental Assisting National Board is the only dental assisting certification organization recognized by the state of Montana. Candidates must apply to DANB and be accepted to take the CDA exam. The fee is \$450.

There are no eligibility requirements to take the radiation health and safety exam or infection control exam. (Note that a Montana dental assistant must already pass the DNAB radiation health and safety exam to be allowed to perform radiographic procedures, or be otherwise qualified under the rules of the Board of Dentistry.)

To be eligible to take the general chairside assisting exam, applicants must meet the requirements of one of three pathways:

Pathway I

Graduate of a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited dental assisting or hygiene program or Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH).

Pathway II

Minimum 3,500 hours dental assisting work experience accrued over a period of at least two years to a maximum of four years; must be verified by a licensed dentist.

Pathway III

Former CDA certificant OR graduation from or enrollment in a CODA-accredited D.D.S. or D.M.D. program OR graduation from a dental degree program outside the U.S. or Canada OR graduation from or enrollment in a post-baccalaureate program affiliated with a U.S. or Canadian dental school on DANB's list of accepted post-baccalaureate programs.

CDA Applicants must hold current DANB-recognized certification for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, Basic Life Support or Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support.

For more details on DANB CDA requirements and CDA application, go to this link:

<https://www.danb.org/Become-Certified/Exams-and-Certifications/CDA.aspx>

DANB will provide a list of exam locations.

Exam preparation.

DNAB provides study aids for the required exams. Information on these materials can be found at this link: <https://www.danb.org/Become-Certified/Prepare-for-DANB-Exams.aspx>

How to maintain current CDA certification.

A dental assistant must maintain current CDA certification to continue to work under general supervision. CDA certification is valid for one year. Recertification requirements include obtaining requisite CDE credits annually, maintaining current DANB-accepted CPR, BLS, or ACLS certification and payment of a renewal fee. More information can be obtained at this link:

<https://www.danb.org/Maintain-Certification.aspx>

For information contact Al Garver, MDA executive director at (800) 257-4988 or agarver@montanadental.org

Dental Board Statement on COVID-19

The following was excerpted for the Board of Dentistry website (<http://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/den#0>).

“The board (Board of Dentistry) has fielded a number of calls regarding Coronavirus/COVID-19 and the use of PPE, specifically masks. The board maintains ARM 24.138.418, which can be found here. The rule directs licensees to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. It is up to each licensee to use their own professional judgment in reviewing and complying with board rules and statutes. Please use best practices when deciding how to use PPE under current circumstances as well as in the operation of your businesses. You may also wish to consult the CDC website and its FAQs on respirator use found here. Additional healthcare provider guidelines can be found here. While the board does not expressly endorse any associational guidelines, the American Dental Association has issued its recommendations as well for practitioners to consider. The recommendations of the ADA can be found here. Similarly the American Dental Hygienist Association has issued a statement as well, which can be found here.

“The board is continuing to monitor the pandemic and will update this website as a point of public communication. Please make sure your e-mail is up to date in our licensing records using the change address form on the right side of this web-page or e-mailing the help desk at dlibsdlhelp@mt.gov.”

Montana Dental Association

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March 20, 2020

Governor Steve Bullock
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Governor Bullock,

If the state of Montana is considering an executive order that all non-life-sustaining businesses close their physical locations to curb the spread of COVID-19, we urge you to allow dental offices and facilities to remain open to treat patients who need urgent or emergency care.

Dentists and dental specialists are a critical part of Montana's healthcare system. The closure of dental offices or clinics in the state would exacerbate the burden to hospital emergency departments, many of whom are already overwhelmed with additional patient volume and protocol changes associated with the COVID-19 crisis.

Most hospitals in Montana lack on-site capabilities to treat dental emergencies and usually refer patients with serious dental conditions or trauma to a dental office. In contrast, dentists regularly treat patients seeking care for potentially life-threatening dental conditions and those requiring immediate treatment because of uncontrolled bleeding, facial infections, avulsed teeth, and other serious conditions.

For example, to better assist hospitals with these challenges, the American College of Emergency Physicians has been in touch with the American Dental Association and requested contact information of dental offices that are able to address dental issues often seen in patients who present at hospital emergency departments.

Dental offices have always worked to hold the highest sanitary and infection control procedures in dental operatories, not only for patient safety but for their entire dental staff. Many dental offices are instituting additional precautions, such as limiting the number of patients in the office at one time, or asking patients to remain in their cars outside the office until they call them in, so that multiple families aren't in the waiting rooms together.

The Montana Dental Association recognizes that dramatic steps like closing non-essential businesses, retailers and professional offices are needed to help curb the spread of COVID-19. We have already recommended that Montana dentists should postpone elective dental procedures like cleanings, restorations, elective prosthetic procedures and oral examinations.

We hope your office refers to the American Dental Association's March 18, 2020, guidance that distinguishes between dental emergencies and nonemergency dental care,

and ask that dental offices and facilities be allowed to remain open and be exempt from any state directive for “non-life-sustaining” businesses to close their physical location.

We urge you to keep in mind the important role dentists play by providing access to necessary and emergency dental care to the citizens of Montana, and their value in assisting the medical community by reducing the demand on our emergency rooms and hospitals.

Thank you for your consideration on this critical issue. The 601 licensed dentists in Montana remain ready, willing and able to assist their local communities in weathering this unprecedented health crisis.

Respectfully,



Dr. Ronald Jarvis
President
Montana Dental Association

Your Annual Meeting Registration Refund is Being Processed

MDA staff reports 60% of the Annual Meeting registration refunds are now processed. If you have not received a confirmation of your refund by April 3, please call the MDA office at 800.257.4988 or email MDAoffice@montanadental.org.

MOHF Scholarship Winners Express Their Thanks

The Montana Oral Health Foundation awards scholarships each year to dental hygiene and dental assisting students enrolled in Montana colleges. The MOHF Board of Directors is sharing the thank you letters from this year's recipients. For information on

the scholarship program, please contact Pam Maslanka at mdaoffice@montanadental.org or (406) 443-2061. Please consider a contribution to MOHF to ensure these scholarships are sustained.

Dear Montana Oral Health Foundation,

I am Rachelle Miller, a student at Salish Kootenai College in the Dental Assisting Technology Program. I wanted to say thank you and to express my gratitude for your donation scholarship that you have made to our program. Your donation will get us one step closer to taking the DANB national exams to become certified dental assistants. We greatly appreciate you and your generosity.



Sincere thanks,
Rachelle Miller

Dear Montana Oral Health Foundation,

Let me start out with saying thank you very much for your donation to our dental program. My name is Sophia Jeffries. I'm 19 years old and from Hot Springs, Montana. This scholarship will help me pay for my CDA exam, which I will take once I complete my 300 externship hours. Again, thank you for thinking of our program.

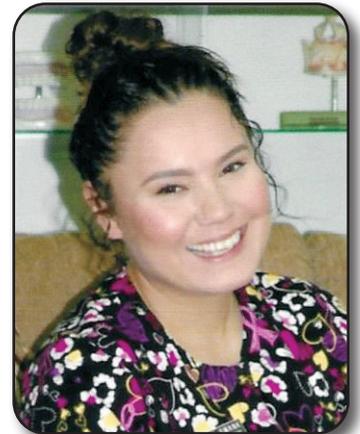


Sincerely,
Sophia Jeffries

Dear Montana Oral Foundation,

I am so honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Montana Oral Foundation Scholarship. Thank you for your generosity, which has given me the opportunity to take the CDA exam. With this opportunity I will be furthering my goals of becoming a certified dental assistant!

Sincerely,
Sirraya L.
Swank



Dear Montana Oral Health Foundation,

I am honored to be one of the recipients of your scholarship. Thanks to your generous support I am going to be able to complete the Dental Assisting National Board. This is huge, not only for me, but for my classmates who also received your generous donation. Once again, thank you!

Sincerely,
Malysa
Lamphere



Continued on Page 11

MOHF Scholarship Winners...

(Continued from Page 10)

Dear Montana Oral Health Foundation,

Thank you for your donation to SKC's Dental Assisting program! With the scholarship I have been awarded I plan to register to take the full CDA exam. I am so appreciative and can't thank you enough for helping me achieve my goal of becoming a CDA.

*Best wishes,
Ciara Roberts*



Dear Montana Oral Health Foundation,

We are so appreciative for the gracious scholarship donation to the students in our program. This is a huge step in helping all of us reach our goal to be certified dental assistants. Not only will this help the students financially, but I believe it will

impact our future greatly and give us the motivation we need to further and better our careers in dentistry.

Sincerely,
Rayne Albert



To whom it may concern,

I would like to thank Great Falls College MSU for selecting me as the recipient of the MT Oral Health Foundation Dental Hygiene Scholarship. I have felt great support from everyone that I have met throughout my college journey, including staff members and fellow students. Great Falls College MSU has had a very positive impact on myself as well as my family. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to pursue my dream career as a dental hygienist and this scholarship will help lift some of the financial burden along the way. I promise to continue putting all my effort into my education and striving towards success. I look forward to the next two years in the dental hygiene program and representing Great Falls College MSU as an active participant in the Student Member American Dental Hygiene Association. Once again, thank you very much for selecting me as the scholarship recipient.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Coyne

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for selecting me as the 2018-2019 MT Oral Health Foundation Dental Hygiene Scholarship recipient. I am honored to have been chosen, and I look forward to meeting the donors this spring. My plan is to use the money to help pay for my upcoming board exams. This generous scholarship will be a great help on my road to a successful career.

Thank you!

Raney Hatten, DHS

Continued on Page 12

MOHF Scholarship Winners...

(Continued from Page 13)

Dear Montana Oral Health Foundation,
I would like to thank you for your generosity. Words cannot describe how much scholarships mean to students like me. I now feel like I can focus more on school rather than focusing on how to pay for it. This will allow me to succeed in my classes and become a hard-working dental assistant in the near future. I am so excited to begin a career in dental assisting and help others begin to truly love their smile. I am honored to be given this scholarship and am thankful for the opportunity.

Sincerely,
Paige Kujala

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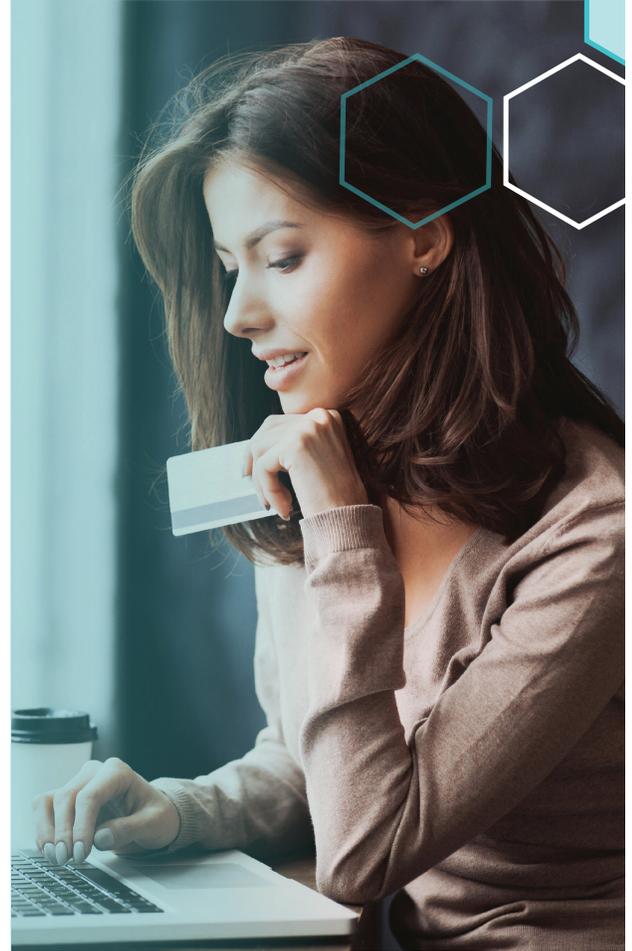
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Montana Dentists to Offer Emergency Care During COVID-19 Crisis

This statement was released to the Montana news media by MDA on March 18, 2020.

The Montana Dental Association (MDA) recognizes the unprecedented and extraordinary circumstances dentists and all health care professionals face related to growing concerns about COVID-19. On March 16, 2020, the American Dental Association and Montana Dental Association issued a recommendation for all dentists to postpone elective procedures for the next three weeks (March 16 through April 6, 2020). The MDA expects many dental practices and community health centers will remain open to handle emergency, urgent and emergent dental needs.

“One of our dentists related that 30% of their daily patient appointments are reserved for emergency and urgent needs,” said MDA President Dr. Ron Jarvis, “If we don’t treat those patients, many will end up going to urgent care facilities or hospital emergency rooms and create an undue burden on our medical system. Dentists are health care professionals and we’re going to do

everything we can to work with our colleagues to stop the spread of COVID-19.”

Each dental practice will independently determine if they are closing for the three weeks or staying open to offer services. Montana dentists will review all available resources, such as the Centers for Disease Control guidelines, and apply that information to their individual situations when making a decision to keep practices open.

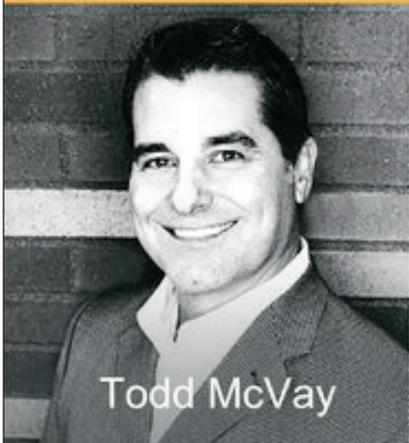
Dental offices have always worked to hold the highest sanitary and infection control procedures in dental operatories, not only for patient safety but for their entire dental staff. Many dental offices are instituting additional precautions, such as limiting the number of patients in the office at one time, or asking patients to remain in their cars outside the office until they call them in, so that multiple families aren’t in the waiting rooms together. Patients with immediate dental needs should contact their dental provider. To find a dentist, go to <https://findadentist.ada.org>

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MSU Seeks to Train Dentists for Rural Montana

Gail Schontzler

Reprinted from the Bozeman Chronicle, Dec. 1, 2019

People living in many of Montana’s rural communities and on Native American reservations have no dentists, a problem Montana State University is working to solve.

MSU is working with the University of Washington’s Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE) program to bring dental students from the Spokane-based program to train in Montana’s rural and Native American communities.

MSU Provost Bob Mokwa gave the Board of Regents a progress report on the RIDE program at their recent meeting in Bozeman. The regents approved the RIDE curriculum in January 2018.

In the last year, new training partnerships have been established across Montana—on the Blackfeet and Northern Cheyenne reservations, in Libby and at Urban Indian Health Centers in Missoula, Helena and Billings. That’s in addition to 18 existing sites where RIDE dental students can train in Montana, from Dillon to Scobey.

MSU officials hope eventually to persuade state lawmakers to create a dental program for Montana students in cooperation with the University of Washington.

It would be patterned after the successful WWAMI program that trains medical doctors from Washington,

Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho and after a similar cooperative program that trains Montana veterinarians.

But educating dentists is expensive—more expensive than training doctors, Mokwa said.

So for now, the RIDE team in Montana has been working to get grant money to expand the number of dentist training sites in rural Montana.

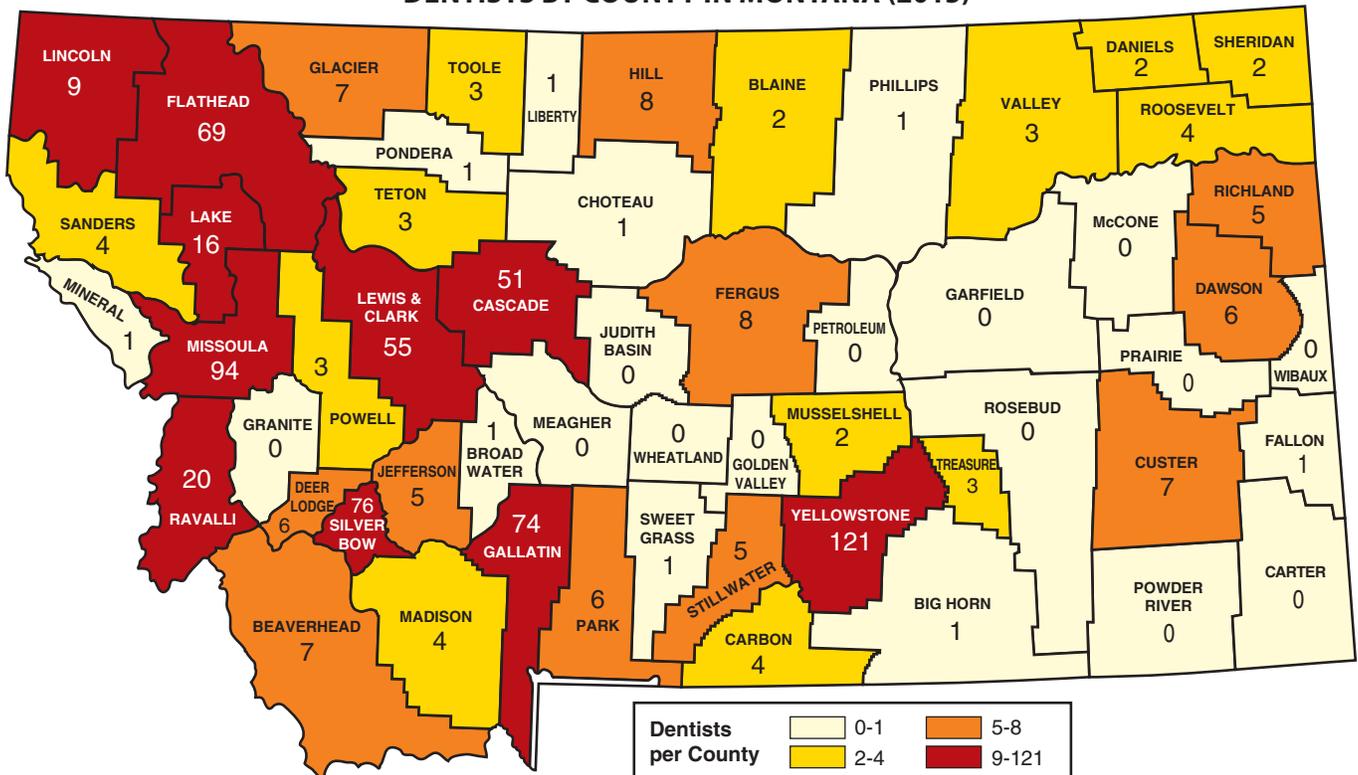
“I’m very encouraged,” said Kathy Jutila, head of the Division of Health Sciences at MSU. “There’s so much interest. It’s so needed.”

Rural dentists have to be “super generalists,” Mokwa said, who can handle everyday dental care as well as have the advanced skills to handle more complicated emergencies in rural communities, where they don’t have the same kind of backup that city dentists have.

Dental students also have to be ready to practice on their own by the time they finish their four years of dental school because unlike medical doctors, they usually don’t go on to get additional training through residencies.

Today, 80% of Montana dentists practice in just nine communities, all urban. Thirteen Montana counties have zero dentists. Another nine have just one.

DENTISTS BY COUNTY IN MONTANA (2015)



Montana dentists are concentrated in urban areas. Twenty-two counties have zero or one dentist for the entire county.

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MDA Component Meetings 2020

District 1 - Kalispell

April 21, 6:30 pm, Jagz Rest.

May 19, 6:30 pm, Jagz Rest.

Weekly meetings by Zoom.

District 2 - Missoula

April 21, 6 pm, Rumour Rest.

May 19, 6 pm, Depot Rest.

District 3 - Butte

April 2, 6 pm, Zoom Meeting

May 7, 6 pm, Rib & Chop House

District 4 - Great Falls

April 14, 6:30 pm, Montana Club

May 12, 6:30 pm, Montana Club

District 5 - Helena

April 14, 6 pm, 38 S Last Chance Gulch

May 12, 6 pm, 38 S Last Chance Gulch

District 6 - Bozeman

April 14, 6:30 pm, 14 N Restaurant

May 12, 6:30 pm, 14 N Restaurant

District 7 - Havre

April 6, 7:30 pm, 35 3rd St.

May 4, 7:30 pm, 35 3rd St.

District 8 - Lewistown

April, No Meeting

May, No Meeting

District 9 - Billings

April 14, 5:30 pm, TBA

May, No Meeting

Montana Board of Dentistry Meetings 2020

June 5, 10:00 am

September 11, 10:00 am

December 4, 10:00 am

Note: Until further notice, Board meetings are by phone conference only.

MDA/ADA Meetings 2020

April 17, MDA Board of Directors, Helena

July 19-24, ADA Conference Week, Chicago

July 31 - Aug 1, Western States Presidents

Conference, Monterey, CA

September MDA Board of Directors Meeting,

TBA

September 18-19, Eleventh District Pre-

Caucus, Seattle

October 15-19, ADA Annual Session/House

of Delegates, Orlando

MDA/ADA Meetings 2021

January MDA Board of Directors, Helena, TBA

January MDA Legislative Day, Helena, TBA

May 5, MDA Board of Directors, Missoula

May 6-7, MDA Annual Meeting, Missoula

September 17-18, Eleventh District Caucus,

Seattle

October 12-15 ADA Annual Session/House

of Delegates, Las Vegas