



## **ATTACHMENT #2: MEGA ISSUE DISCUSSION RESULTS**

*Facilitated by Peter Gangi, RDH, BSED, ADHA District I Trustee*

### **QUESTION #1: What are our greatest barriers to oral health care in Vermont?**

- Lack of financial resources
- Access to care
- Lack of information/contacts
- Lack of education
- VSDS
- Restricted Practice for RDH
- Owning our education (not self-regulated)
- Offices not accepting Medicaid
- Transportation
- Dental Phobia
- Priority – some patients do not see dental as a priority

### **QUESTION #2: What are the current work models for dental hygienists in Vermont?**

- Education
- Public Health RDH/Tooth Tutor
- Forensic Aid
- Clinician
- Research/Non-profit for target group to reach people for screenings/research
- Sales Representative
- Eldercare (working with families)

### **QUESTION #3: How can you as an individual dental hygienist in Vermont support your profession – currently and in the future?**

- Supporting and being a member of ADHA/VDHA
- Connecting in different ways (face to face, personal touch, digitally)
- Talking to legislation about DT bill & supporting it
- Future goal to be more integrated with medical health professionals
- Having conversations with dentists and other opposing views about DT bill
- Research and expanding knowledge of field and organization

- Networking with other RDH's
- Using social media to increase awareness of RDH's and DT bill
- Encourage people not in the dental field to support VDHA and DT bill

**QUESTION #4: What is the feeling regarding expanded the scope of dental hygiene practice in Vermont through increasing the responsibilities and autonomy of our profession?**

- Overall, we believe this is an exciting time for the dental hygienist. We are ready to move up the career ladder in our profession.
  - This is a great idea as it would benefit many people that do not have access to care.
  - We would prefer completely autonomous practice which would allow the hygienist to do restorative work.
- We are anxious about the opposition to this provider, specifically, dentists that are so highly opposed to this.
  - We want to be collaborative with the dentists but are afraid this may not happen.
  - We are concerned/uninformed about what the program will look like and how it will be implemented.
  - There is a lot of misunderstanding by the other modalities about what the dental therapist will look like and how it will not take away from the dentist but how its purpose to the help the underserved.
  - We are hopeful that overtime the dental therapist will be able to be truly autonomous.

**QUESTION #5: How can the VDHA support the future growth of our profession in Vermont?**

- Providing multiple networking opportunities
  - Non-business meetings/soirees
- Having meetings throughout the state
- Job Security and post-grad employment help
- Buildup our website to allow it to be more user friendly
- More social media presence
- Review and go over standard care guidelines
  - Possibly a CE course?
- Offer a CE credit to attend the business meeting/discussion to encourage more involvement.
- Call non-members and try to get them to join
- Small local/social events to make personal connection with other RDHs (nonmembers too)
- Advertising benefits of being a member
- Increasing membership
- Linking dental and other health professionals together
- Continuing to support DT bill
- Volunteering within the VDHA (in any capacity)
- Encourage attendance to monthly meetings
- Ideas to make RDH's feel more unified
  - Volunteer activities (dental days, etc.)

