Montana Dental Association

May 2016; Volume 36, No. 3

# Dr. Jane Gillette first woman to lead MDA



MDA President Dr. Jane Gillette is joined by Dr. David Keim (L), immediate past president and Dr. Gary Roberts, ADA President-Elect at the MDA's 2016 Annual Meeting in Helena.

MDA has elected Dr. Jane Gillette as its first woman President and will lead the Association for 2016 – 2017. Joining Dr. Gillette as new officers are Dr. Kevin L. Rencher, President-elect, and Dr. Andrew Althauser, Vice President. Dr. Doug Hadnot and Dr. Roger Newman were reelected as delegates-at-large by the MDA General Assembly in Helena.

In looking ahead for the year, Dr. Gillette says "My goal is to help all members succeed by working collaboratively with other MDA leaders, to build a healthy and resilient Association, which is prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future."

Dr. Gillette, a Bozeman general dentist, is a nationally recognized leader in oral disease prevention, health disparities, and evidence-based dentistry. She has served the ADA as chair of the Council on Access, Prevention, and Interprofessional Relations and spokesperson on Evidence-based Dentistry. She has also served as a leader with the National Network for Oral Health Access, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research funded practice-based research networks.

Dr. Gillette serves as a member of the MDA Government Affairs Committee, immediate past chair of the Council on Public Health and Planning, and alternate delegate to the ADA House of Delegates. She holds a faculty appointment at the University of Washington and is the recipient of the 2015 ADA/American Association of Dental Research Evidence-based Practice Award. She is the key developer of both AbCd Montana and Montana's school-based sealant program, Sealants for Smiles!.

Dr. Rencher is a pediatric dentist in Helena. He has served two terms as the Fifth District director on the

Continued on Page 7

# Montana oral health improvements reported

Children's access to dental care and dental visits by children in Montana have shown significant improvement, according to a report released by the American Dental Association Health Policy Institute.

The ADA report provides a state-by-state analysis of key oral health factors, including dental care utilization among children and adults with private dental benefits and among Medicaid children, sealant rates among Medicaid children, water fluoridation rates, self-reported oral health status, reimbursement rates for dental care services, and the dental workforce.

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# MMALEADERSHIP

Nationally, the healthcare landscape has experienced dramatic changes. To a certain extent, the profession of dentistry in Montana has been sheltered from these

changes; however, the environment is now changing more quickly than predicated. The source of these changes fit into two broad categories.

First, Health Care Reform has initiated system-wide changes in how healthcare is both delivered and paid for. As an example, health organizations are restructuring their care delivery systems into Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH's) and Accountable Care Organizations (ACO's), both of which include healthcare system redesign with the goal of reducing disease and controlling costs. In these models of care, PCMH's and ACO's are rated as to their quality and receive enhanced

payments accordingly. Montana dentists are beginning to participate in these initiatives through participation in programs such as Medicaid "Meaningful Use", a statewide electronic health record incentive program.

The second category of changes are related to the dental economy and workforce. Recovery from the Great Recession has been slower than expected which is exacerbated by a decade long trend in decreased consumer spending on dental services. Nationally, there has been a steady decrease in insurance reimbursements, while at the same time there has been an increase in the number of payments made by Medicaid. With the opening

of 15 new dental schools, there are now more dentists on the market. However, because of the weak dental economy, fewer practices are expanding associateship positions. The total average debt of new graduates is immense and will reach a predicted \$350,000 this year. Increasingly, new graduates are seeking employment in Dental Services Organizations or large group practices resulting in only 1 new graduate aiming to buy a solo practice for every 4 retiring solo dentists. Due to these complex factors, on average dentists are now practicing 8-10 years longer.

lent Exactly what these changes mean for dentistry in Montana is uncertain. As individuals we have little impact or effectiveness in monitoring and managing these changes. Our strength

monitoring and managing these changes. Our strength comes from our bond as dentists committed to our profession, and advocating and acting through our Association. There is no other association which will advocate for the interests of dentists. As such, I encourage all members to engage and advocate, even if the activity is small, because the actions that we take today will determine the opportunities of our future.



DR. JANE GILLETTE President

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# Medicaid update with Jan Paulsen

#### Dr. John Smith

I recently had the opportunity to sit down and visit with Jan Paulsen, the Dental Program Officer for Medicaid services in Montana and ask her a few questions about the new expanded Medicaid program. Jan has served as the Program officer for nine years and is highly regarded by dentists for her patience and considerable efforts to help improve the program.

#### Expanded Dental Medicaid has now been in effect for five months. How are things going? How many have signed up? Are financial resources holding up?



Dr. Jan Paulsen

"It is going well, but there are some issues. The expanded program began quickly, so the new benefits could serve the people who qualified. Not all of the system updates were completed, so those Medicaid members eligible under previous qualifications were added during a second phase. Xerox is still working to provide verification of eligibility when patients arrive in your office via the web portal.

This work is not yet complete so you still have to call Xerox (1-800-624-3958) to verify benefits. The claims system is also 35 years old and is being upgraded. We at the state empathize with you and know that it is frustrating, but we ask for your patience and want to let you know the work will be completed and the system will be better.

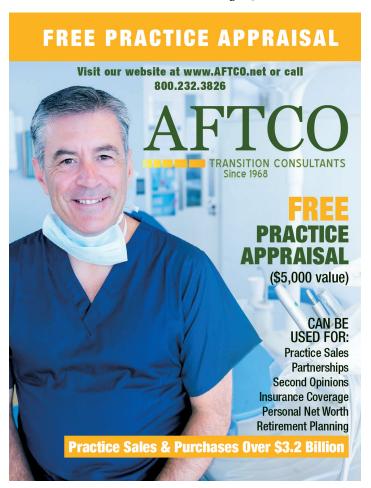
Patients do not always understand their benefits and we appreciate any help your offices can provide to help explain the benefits if there are questions.

There are 42,800 Montanans signed up as of May 2016. Financial resources look good at the present time. The Federal government is obligated to pay for most of the program."

### Who makes up the Medicaid advisory group and what is its role?

"The group is selected to represent different areas of dentistry as well as different regions around the state. The current group meets quarterly and includes: Dr. Mark Rosebush (dentist), Billings; Remi Berube (denturist), Missoula; Dr. Reed Thompson (pediatric dentist), Kalispell; Dr. Tim Ballweber (orthodontist), Helena; Dr. Bernadette Wilson (oral surgeon), Whitefish; Kim Dunlap

Continued on Page 5



# Free new dentist continuing education

MDA's New Dentist Committee, ADABEI (ADA's for-profit subsidiry) and Wells Fargo ADA's endorsed practice financing company, are sponsoring a free continuing education class for new dentists on Friday, June 17 at Fairmont Hot Springs.

A new dentist is a dentist who graduated from dental school fewer than 10 years ago. This event is open to member and non-member dentists.

#### June 17, 2016

Free Continuing Dental Education and
Free Swimming! 5 CDE Hours
Meet your colleagues.
Fairmont Hot Springs Resort
8 am - 6 pm
Breakfast, lunch and BBQ
dinner included—families
welcome!

This event is made possible by a grant from Wells Fargo Practice Finance. Members of the Wells Fargo Practice Finance team will present the lecture.

### Practice ownership essentials: what they didn't teach you in dental school!

If you're a new or aspiring practice owner, you probably know that making your business thrive takes more knowledge and skill than you got in dental school. But what you might not know is that with the right information and professional team, you will be well-positioned for ongoing success. Practice Ownership Essentials equips

(Continued on Page 7)

#### Montana oral health improvements...

(Continued from page 1)

"The improvements in oral health indicators for our children represent the commitment of dentists, dental hygienists and others to ensure the best oral health possible for Montana's children," said MDA President Dr. Jane Gillette.

"Innovative Montana oral health programs, such as Montana's Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (AbCd) and Sealants for Smiles! have increased prevention and needed dental care for infants, toddlers and schoolaged children, said Dr. Gillette. "These programs are the result of strong partnerships between state government and non-profit organizations, and local community child advocates."

The ADA report shows that more Montana kids are getting dental care. The percentage of children with a dental visit in the past 12 months increased by 108 percent from 2000 to 2013 for children with Medicaid coverage and by 84 percent for children covered by private dental insurance from 2005 to 2011.

One of Montana's most significant oral health

performance measures is the percentage of dentists participating in Medicaid for Child Dental Services in 2014. Seventy-two percent of Montana dentists provide Medicaid services for children's oral health compared to only 42 percent in the nation as a whole.

The Montana Dental Association launched Healthy Smiles from the Start in 2015 to increase oral health awareness among expectant mothers and the parents of young children. Community programs and dental offices across Montana are participating in the public education campaign, which educates pregnant women on the importance of oral healthcare during pregnancy and urges caregivers to keep their children cavity-free by scheduling their child's first dental visit as soon as the first tooth emerges. For information about Healthy Smiles from the Start, visit www.MontanaDental.org.

Please see pages 9-11 for the report on Montana's Oral Health Care System. The national report and analysis is available at www.ada.org/statefacts.

#### Medicaid update with Jan Paulsen...

(Continued from page 4)

(dental hygienist), Great Falls; Dr. Jane Gillette (MDA), Bozeman.

It's strictly advisory, but they make recommendations to improve quality, cost, and utilization in the program. They also serve as a forum to discuss current and future issues in Medicaid. If you have constructive suggestions or ideas for the program you can contact one of these people or you can e-mail Jan Paulsen (jpaulsen@mt.gov).

For more detailed information about Medicaid, including the new expanded Medicaid (HELP), program, go to the MDA website: http://montanadental.org/what-wedo/advocacy/access-to-oral-health/current-medicaid-issues/288-medicaid-expansion



# MDA members lobby on federal student debt, Medicare opt-out

#### Dr. Doug Hadnot and Dr. Mike Bowman

Once again this year MDA was well represented at the annual ADA Washington Leadership Conference by MDA President Jane Gillette, MoDePAC Chair Kevin Miltko, New Dentist representative Mike Bowman, Doug Hadnot, and Roger Kiesling also joined us for our meetings on Tuesday. Unfortunately, Congress was not in session during the week of our meeting, and our Senators and Congressman were back home in Montana. We did have the opportunity to meet with their staff members

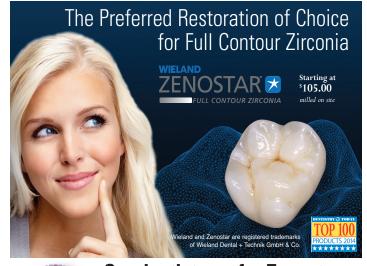
We talked about student loan debt (two bills pending in the House), a non-covered services bill that applies Continued on Page 7



The MDA Lobbying Team - Drs. Jane Gillette, Kevin Miltko, Mike Bowman, and Doug Hadnot.







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#### MDA members lobby...

(Continued from page 6)

to federal insurance plans, and the pending regulation requiring Medicare opt-in or opt-out for your senior patients to receive their prescription drug benefits (a bill is pending to permanently remove the requirement). All were well accepted, but the general comment from staff is that not much is going to happen with legislation during the balance of this session except the budget. We also took the opportunity to visit briefly about the recent regulations regarding restrictions on opiate prescriptions and how they can adversely affect those of us in rural areas.

"The MDA lobbying team does a great job. We have developed relationships with our members of Congress and their staff, and they remember us. MDA advocacy extends to in-state activities as well. We are active on both sides of the aisle, and all of the folks who were in Washington DC also participate in various political activities in their local communities, both Democrat and Republican. I encourage all MDA members to get involved. "If you don't attend the dinner, you may find yourself on the plate." – *Doug Hadnot* 

"Some of the best conversations occurred while networking with individual dentists from around the country and making connections with these folks. It is so important to have consistency in communication with Washington leadership so that when the time comes for our senators and representatives to reach out for help and guidance, they know who the experts are and where to find them." – *Mike Bowman* 

#### Dr. Gillette leads MDA...

(Continued from page 1)

MDA Board, as a member of the MoDePAC board, and as a member of the Government Affairs Committee. While at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Dr. Rencher served as the President of the American Student Dental Association. He completed specialty training in pediatric dentistry at Schneider's Children's Hospital in New York City and is an active member of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

Dr. Althauser has been in private practice since 2007 and is currently the owner of Smile Missoula. He was formerly dental director and a staff dentist at Partnership Health Center. Dr. Althauser has served as president

#### New dentist continuing education...

(Continued from page 5)

you with practical education and guidance on important topics ranging from business and financial planning to practice management strategies and skills-training. Join experienced practice specialists to learn how to make informed business decisions that help you achieve your practice and career objectives.

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of the Second District, New Dentist representative and Second District member on the MDA Board. He has been a member of the Missoula Medical Aid Board of Directors, Partnership Health Center Board of Directors, and Missoula Early Head Start Board of Directors.



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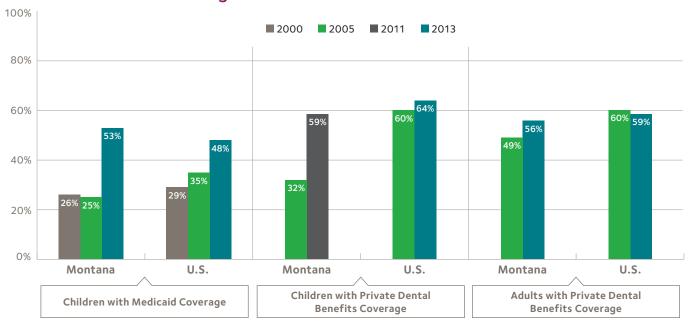


This fact sheet summarizes select data on the oral health care system as of 2015. Topics include dental care utilization; oral health status; attitudes and knowledge of oral health; fluoridation rates; reimbursement rates to providers and the supply of dentists.

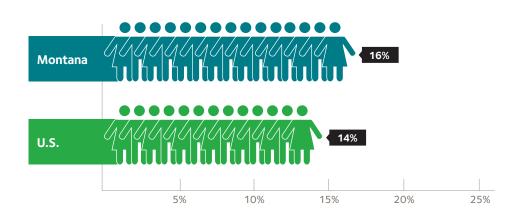
For methods and data sources, please visit ADA.org/statefacts.

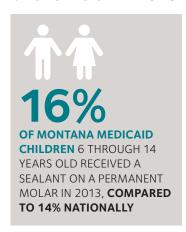
For more information on the ADA Health Policy Institute, please visit ADA.org/HPI.

#### Percentage with a Dental Visit in the Past 12 Months



#### Percentage of Medicaid Children Who Received a Sealant on a Permanent Molar in 2013



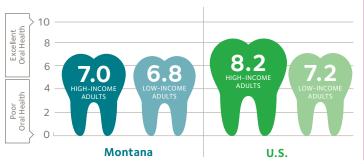




### Oral Health Care System:

### Montana

#### Oral Health Status Index Among Adults in 2015



#### Oral Health Knowledge Index Among Adults in 2015

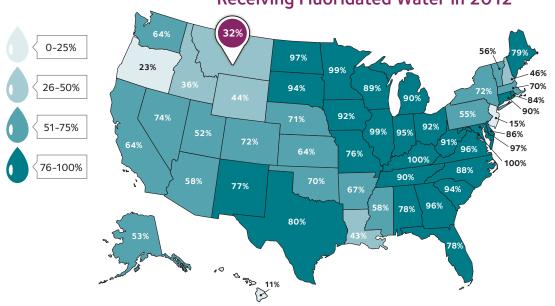


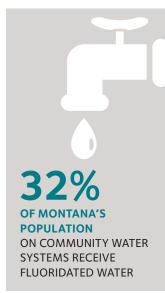
ANSWERED ALL OF HPI'S ORAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE SURVEY QUESTIONS CORRECTLY COMPARED TO 52% OF HIGH-INCOME AND 44% OF LOW-INCOME U.S. ADULTS

#### Oral Health Attitude Index Among Adults in 2015



#### Percentage of Population on Community Water Systems Receiving Fluoridated Water in 2012





#### HPI

#### **Health Policy Institute**

#### Oral Health Care System:

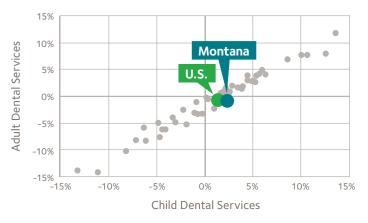
### Montana

#### Change in Private Dental Benefit Plan Charges Between 2003 and 2013

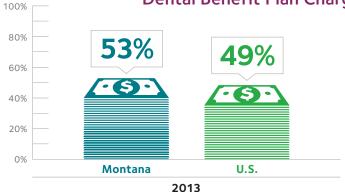
CHANGE IN PRIVATE DENTAL BENEFIT PLAN CHARGES
BETWEEN 2003 AND 2013

CHILD ADULT

MONTANA 2.3% -0.7%
U.S. 1.2% -0.6%



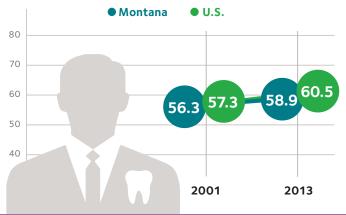
Medicaid Fee-for-Service Reimbursement as a Percentage of Private Dental Benefit Plan Charges for Child Dental Services



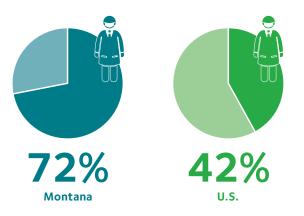
BETWEEN

2003 AND 2013
REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR
CHILD DENTAL SERVICES
IN MEDICAID
decreased 14.7%
in Montana





# Percentage of Dentists Participating in Medicaid for Child Dental Services in 2014





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Dr. Brandon Sheahan General Dentist East Helena UNLV Dr. Nathan D. Stevenson Pediatric Dentistry Great Falls Marquette University

Dr. Daniel J. Wharton General Dentist Hamilton Creighton University

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Kodak & Carestream Intraoral X-Ray Sensor Repair. We specialize in repairing Kodak & Carestream RVG 5100 & 6100 dental X-Ray sensors. Repair & save thousands over replacement cost. www. KodakDentalSensorRepair.com (919) 924-8559

#### For Sale

**2012 Biolase waterlase iplus for sale**. 25K. Please email mfpaul@hotmail.com for more information.

Cranex 3+ with a digital upgrade
Model PT-11 P. Manufactured July 2000. Serial
No. K07768. \$6,000 O.B.O. Contact Kerena or
Dr. Christopher Hall at 406-586-2117 for more
information and/or questions.

No Cost Dental Equipment Available for Dental Outreach Events. Looking to host a dental mission or community-based event, such as programs in nursing homes, for veterans, or the homeless? We have ALL the equipment you would ned including bweautiful new portable ADEC delivery units, a Nomad x-ray unit, and sterilizers. Equipment is available to dentists at NO COST, just return the items in good condition. Contact Dr. Jane Gillette at drgillette@SproutOral Health.org or 406-868-1549.





Photo submitted by Dr. Rob Neill, Butte

# 2016

June 17 • Free New Dentist CE Event, Fairmont Hot Springs, Learn & Swim, Family Invited. See page 5.

July 7-9 • Montana Fly Fishing Dental Conference, Dillon. Contact Dr. John B. McCollum, (406) 683-5125

Sept 16 • MDA Sponsored CE, Dental Implants, Dr. Robert Vogel, page 16

Sept 23 • Montana Board of Dentistry, Helena

Oct 7 • MDA Board of Directors, Helena

Oct 20-25 • ADA Annual Session, Denver

Dec 9 • Montana Board of Dentistry, Helena

# 2017

Jan 27 • Dental Day at the Legislature, Helena, Great Northern Hotel

Jan 28 • MDA Board of Directors, Helena

May 3 • MDA Board of Directors, Missoula Annual Meeting

May 4-5 • MDA Annual Meeting, Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula

Oct 19-24 • ADA Annual Session, Atlanta

# 2018

May 2 • MDA Board of Directors, Missoula Annual Meeting

May 3-4 • MDA Annual Meeting, Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula

Sept 27 • ADA Annual Session, Honolulu – Oct 2