**DENTAL AND ORAL HEALTH**

**NRS 439.271  Definitions.**As used in [NRS 439.271](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec271) to [439.2794](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec2794), inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in [NRS 439.2711](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec2711), [439.2712](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec2712) and [439.2713](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec2713) have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

      (Added to NRS by [2009, 26](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/75th2009/Stats200901.html#Stats200901page26))

**NRS 439.2711  “Advisory Committee” defined.**“Advisory Committee” means the Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health created by [NRS 439.2792](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec2792).

      (Added to NRS by [2009, 26](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/75th2009/Stats200901.html#Stats200901page26))

**NRS 439.2712  “Program” defined.**“Program” means the State Program for Oral Health established by [NRS 439.2791](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec2791).

      (Added to NRS by [2009, 26](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/75th2009/Stats200901.html#Stats200901page26))

**NRS 439.2713  “Provider of oral health care” defined.**“Provider of oral health care” means a dentist or dental hygienist licensed pursuant to the provisions of [chapter 631](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-631.html#NRS631) of NRS.

      (Added to NRS by [2009, 26](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/75th2009/Stats200901.html#Stats200901page26))

**NRS 439.272  State Dental Health Officer: Appointment by Division; classification; qualifications; duties; outside pursuits; solicitation and acceptance of gifts and grants.**

      1.  The Division shall appoint, with the consent of the Director, a State Dental Health Officer, who is in the unclassified service of the State. The State Dental Health Officer must:

      (a) Be a resident of this State;

      (b) Hold a current license to practice dentistry issued pursuant to [chapter 631](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-631.html#NRS631) of NRS; and

      (c) Be appointed on the basis of his or her education, training and experience and his or her interest in public dental health and related programs.

      2.  The State Dental Health Officer shall:

      (a) Determine the needs of the residents of this State for public dental health;

      (b) Provide the Advisory Committee and the Division with advice regarding public dental health;

      (c) Make recommendations to the Advisory Committee, the Division and the Legislature regarding programs in this State for public dental health;

      (d) Supervise the activities of the State Public Health Dental Hygienist; and

      (e) Seek such information and advice from the Advisory Committee or a dental school of the Nevada System of Higher Education as necessary to carry out his or her duties.

      3.  The State Dental Health Officer shall devote all of his or her time to the business of his or her office and shall not pursue any other business or vocation or hold any other office of profit.

      4.  Pursuant to [NRS 439.2794](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec2794), the Division may solicit and accept gifts and grants to pay the costs associated with oral health programs.

      (Added to NRS by [2001, 2690](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/71st/Stats200118.html#Stats200118page2690); A [2005, 1569](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/73rd/Stats200516.html#Stats200516page1569); [2005, 22nd Special Session, 54](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/22ndSS/Stats2005SS2201.html#Stats2005SS2201page54); [2009, 28](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/75th2009/Stats200901.html#Stats200901page28))

**NRS 439.279  State Public Health Dental Hygienist: Appointment; classification; qualifications; duties; outside pursuits; solicitation and acceptance of gifts and grants.**

      1.  The Division shall appoint, with the consent of the Director, a State Public Health Dental Hygienist, who is in the unclassified service of the State. The State Public Health Dental Hygienist must:

      (a) Be a resident of this State;

      (b) Hold a current license to practice dental hygiene issued pursuant to [chapter 631](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-631.html#NRS631) of NRS with a special endorsement issued pursuant to [NRS 631.287](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-631.html#NRS631Sec287); and

      (c) Be appointed on the basis of his or her education, training and experience and his or her interest in public health dental hygiene and related programs.

      2.  The State Public Health Dental Hygienist:

      (a) Shall assist the State Dental Health Officer in carrying out his or her duties; and

      (b) May:

             (1) Provide advice and make recommendations to the Advisory Committee and the Division regarding programs in this State for public health dental hygiene; and

             (2) Perform any acts authorized pursuant to [NRS 631.287](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-631.html#NRS631Sec287).

      3.  The State Public Health Dental Hygienist shall devote all of his or her time to the business of his or her office and shall not pursue any other business or vocation or hold any other office of profit.

      4.  The Division may solicit and accept gifts and grants to pay the costs associated with the position of State Public Health Dental Hygienist.

      (Added to NRS by [2001, 2690](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/71st/Stats200118.html#Stats200118page2690); A [2005, 1569](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/73rd/Stats200516.html#Stats200516page1569); [2005, 22nd Special Session, 55](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/22ndSS/Stats2005SS2201.html#Stats2005SS2201page55); [2009, 29](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/75th2009/Stats200901.html#Stats200901page29))

**NRS 439.2791  State Program for Oral Health: Establishment; purpose.**There is hereby established within the Division the State Program for Oral Health to increase public knowledge and raise public awareness of the importance of oral health and to educate the residents of this State on matters relating to oral health, including, without limitation:

      1.  Proper oral hygiene;

      2.  The factors that increase the risk of a person developing oral diseases; and

      3.  The prevention and treatment of oral diseases.

      (Added to NRS by [2009, 26](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/75th2009/Stats200901.html#Stats200901page26))

**NRS 439.2792  Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health: Creation; duties; appointment and terms of members; quorum; Chair; meetings.**

      1.  There is hereby created within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health the Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health to advise and make recommendations to the Division concerning the Program.

      2.  The Administrator shall appoint to the Advisory Committee 13 members, including, without limitation, one or more persons who are representatives of:

      (a) Public health care professionals and educators;

      (b) Providers of oral health care;

      (c) Persons knowledgeable in promoting and educating the public on oral health issues; and

      (d) National dental and other oral health organizations and their local or state chapters.

      3.  After the initial terms, the members of the Advisory Committee serve terms of 2 years commencing on July 1. A member may be reappointed.

      4.  Members of the Advisory Committee serve without compensation, except that each member is entitled, while engaged in the business of the Advisory Committee, to the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.

      5.  Any member of the Advisory Committee who is a public employee must be granted administrative leave from his or her duties to engage in the business of the Advisory Committee without loss of his or her regular compensation. Such leave does not reduce the amount of the member’s other accrued leave.

      6.  A majority of the members of the Advisory Committee constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of a quorum present at any meeting is sufficient for any official action taken by the Advisory Committee.

      7.  The Advisory Committee shall:

      (a) At its first meeting and annually thereafter, elect a Chair from among its members;

      (b) Meet at the call of the Director, the Chair or a majority of its members as necessary and within the budget of the Advisory Committee; and

      (c) On or before July 1 of each year, submit a written report to the Administrator summarizing the activities of the Advisory Committee and any recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

      (Added to NRS by [2009, 27](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/75th2009/Stats200901.html#Stats200901page27))

**NRS 439.2793  Duties of Division.**To carry out the provisions of [NRS 439.271](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec271) to [439.2794](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec2794), inclusive, the Division shall, with advice and recommendations of the Advisory Committee:

      1.  Establish a solid scientific database of the most current information on the importance of oral health, using information obtained through surveillance, epidemiology and research related to oral health;

      2.  Provide educational materials and information on research concerning matters relating to oral health to health care professionals, providers of oral health care and the public, including, without limitation, materials and information concerning programs and services available to the public and strategies for the prevention of oral diseases;

      3.  Coordinate the establishment of regional coalitions to support the efforts of the Program;

      4.  Increase public awareness about the prevention, detection and treatment of oral diseases among state and local governmental officials who are responsible for matters relating to oral health, health care professionals, providers of oral health care and policymakers;

      5.  Coordinate state and local programs and services to ensure that the public has adequate access to dental services;

      6.  Work with other governmental agencies, national health organizations and their local and state chapters, community and business leaders, community organizations and providers of oral health care to:

      (a) Coordinate the work of the Program with the work of those agencies, organizations and persons; and

      (b) Maximize the resources of state and local governments in the efforts to educate the public about the importance of oral health, including, without limitation, the prevention and detection of oral diseases and proper oral hygiene;

      7.  Develop and carry out public awareness and media campaigns in each county, targeting groups of persons who are considered at risk for developing oral diseases;

      8.  Evaluate the need to improve the quality and accessibility of dental services that exist in communities in this State; and

      9.  Develop and coordinate, in cooperation with the Department of Education, recommendations for dental programs to encourage proper oral hygiene by children.

      (Added to NRS by [2009, 27](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/75th2009/Stats200901.html#Stats200901page27))

**NRS 439.2794  Powers of Division to enter into contracts to apply for and accept gifts, donations, bequests and grants and to apply for federal waivers; disposition of money; administration of account.**

      1.  The Division may:

      (a) Enter into contracts for any services necessary to carry out or assist the Division in carrying out the provisions of [NRS 439.271](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec271) to [439.2794](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec2794), inclusive, with public or private entities that have the appropriate expertise to provide such services;

      (b) Apply for and accept any gift, donation, bequest, grant or other source of money to carry out the provisions of [NRS 439.271](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec271) to [439.2794](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec2794), inclusive;

      (c) Apply for any waiver from the Federal Government that may be necessary to maximize the amount of money this State may obtain from the Federal Government to carry out the provisions of [NRS 439.271](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec271) to [439.2794](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec2794), inclusive; and

      (d) Adopt regulations as necessary to carry out and administer the Program.

      2.  Any money that is accepted by the Division pursuant to subsection 1 must be deposited in the State Treasury and accounted for separately in the State General Fund.

      3.  The Administrator shall administer the account created pursuant to subsection 2. Money in the account does not lapse to the State General Fund at the end of the fiscal year. The interest and income earned on the money in the account must be credited to the account. Any claims against the account must be paid as other claims against the State are paid.

      (Added to NRS by [2009, 28](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/75th2009/Stats200901.html#Stats200901page28); A [2013, 3038](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/77th2013/Stats201318.html#Stats201318page3038))