



# Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health (AC4OH)

March 2, 2020

Office of the Governor  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Re: Letter of Support – Dental Benefit Administrator

Governor Steven Sisolak,

The Advisory Committee for Oral Health (AC4OH) appointed by Governor Steven Sisolak was formed to support the State of Nevada’s Department of Health and Human Services Oral Health Program with a mission to advocate for optimum oral health for all Nevadans. The Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for protecting, maintaining, and improving the health of all Nevadans, which includes oral health. With a focus on the needs of underserved, vulnerable populations.

As the AC4OH leaders in Nevada, we want to express our support of the Nevada Medicaid and Nevada Check Up Dental Program. We strongly urge you, as Governor of Nevada, to join us in actively supporting this important Program for Nevadans who are Medicaid recipients in Clark and Washoe Counties. Furthermore, we strongly urge Administrators to consider expanding the contract area to include rural Nevada as well as Clark and Washoe Counties.

As dental professionals and public health advocates, AC4OH Committee members can attest to the difference a dental benefits administrator has made to expand access to affordable dental services since dentistry was separated from the medical plan administrations in 2018. **A dental benefits administrator focuses solely on dental health care needs - the treatment of oral disease.** Oral diseases are considered chronic disease just like diabetes, hypertension (high blood pressure), asthma, and breast and other cancers. Oral diseases affect almost everyone who lives in Nevada and cause many of our citizens to lose time from work and school, use the emergency department for relief of pain, and may affect an individual’s ability to find a job or enlist in the military.

The Nevada specific focus of a contracted dental benefits administrator is critical, particularly concerning care coordination and case management, which is essential for special needs and disabled recipients. Additionally, timely access, specialty referrals, and continuity of care are guaranteed for ALL Medicaid enrollees in Clark and Washoe Counties. Furthermore, there are educational opportunities, screenings, and other outreach programs provided as a value-added benefit—free of charge to the state or to community members.

## **Board Members**

*Barclay, Gillian, DDS,  
PhD, MPH*

*Bollu, Prashanti, DMD*

*Brandon  
Abbatangelo, Tina,  
DMD*

*Cappelli, David, DMD,  
PhD*

*Chandler, Terri, RDH*

*Collier, Lisa, DDS*

*Coppes, Max J., MD,  
PhD, MBA, FAAP*

*Davenport, Cathie*

*Liveratti, Mary*

*Lutes-Kiby, Cara, RDH,  
BSDH, MPH*

*Prohaska, Benjamin,  
PA-C, BC-ADM*

*Putnam, Bryce, DMD*

*Talley, Robert, DDS*

*Taylor, Kelly, RDH*



## Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health (AC4OH)

**Any proposal to eliminate the Dental Benefits Administrator or incorporate dental benefits into the medical health plan currently administered through Anthem, HPN, and Silver Summit will take away benefits for our most vulnerable recipients and the patients that we serve. Please do not let this happen to our community.**

The AC4OH respectfully asks for your kind consideration of this request. Feel free to contact me, the AC4OH Chairperson, at your convenience at (702) 595-9486.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Cathie Davenport'. The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Cathie Davenport  
AC4OH Chairperson