

After much thought, and to be brief and without listing a bunch of stuff, I have decided we could best address the mid-level provider issue, (should it come up first in the legislature), by endorsing a Community Dental Health Coordinator as defined by the ADA. They are in process of training the first group of individuals in 3 locations around the country. This dental "social worker" would be best to help educate people to their oral health needs, do some basic treatments, and would be the best resource to help people locate and stay in a "dental home". Beyond that, I am not hostile to the idea of dental assistants removing visible tartar deposits in children, as long as they are properly trained, and working in low-income, public health, military, or Medicaid environments.

I am not in favor of (ever) bringing this up, unless it comes up in the legislature first. I think we should be ready to roll out a proposal in case that ever happens. These are my thoughts!

Pasco Scarpella, DDS