

**KENTUCKY DENTAL ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

May 30, 2026
9:00 A.M.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** **Dr. Samantha Shaver** called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following members of the KDA Board were present:

Dr. Thomas Carroll
Dr. Ansley Depp
Dr. Paul Lavelle
Dr. Stetson Earl
Dr. Andy Elliott
Dr. Rachel Gold
Dr. Laura Hancock Jones
Dean Margaret Hill
Dean Jill Keaton
Dr. Julie McKee

Dr. Matt Milliner
Dr. BJ Millay
Dr. Mark Moats (for Dr Matt Johnson)
Dr. Jeff Okeson
Dr. Kaitlyn Patel
Dean Jeff Okeson
Dr. Samantha Shaver
Dr. Zak Taylor
Ms. Miranda Elliott (UK Student)

- 2.** Guests included **Dr. Gina Davis and Dr. Fred Howard**. Staff members present were **Dr. Stephen Robertson and Mr. Todd Edwards**.
- 3. INVOCATION.** **Dr. Matt Milliner** gave the invocation.
- 4. CONFLICT OF INTERESTS.** **Dr. Andy Elliott** disclosed he is an employee of SkyGen. **Dr. Kate von Lackum** disclosed she is member of the Kentucky Board of Dentistry.
- 5. MINUTES.** The minutes of the March 7, 2026 meeting of the Executive Board were approved.

NOTE: All reports are presented in the minutes as they were submitted by their authors. No editing in the form of spelling or grammar has been attempted.

6. PRESIDENT REPORT. Dr. Samantha Shaver gave a verbal report.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT. The following report was presented.

KENTUCKY DENTAL ASSOCIATION
GENERAL FUND REVENUE & EXPENSE
BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT
For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2026

	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
REVENUES		
Budgeted Revenues		
KDA dues	339,891.46	451,000.00
KDA Assessment	53,100.00	60,000.00
KDA One Time Assessment	52,400.00	72,000.00
Annual Session net revenue	8,788.48	60,000.00
Interest Income	2,991.00	5,000.00
Rental Income-	21,624.00	63,600.00
Rental Income-LDS	0.00	5,410.00
KDA Insurance Services	4,500.00	18,000.00
ADA Dues Rebates	0.00	500.00
ADABEI (ADA)	2,575.62	11,000.00
Other Revenue	763.71	12,500.00
Total Budgeted Revenue	486,634.27	759,010.00
Non-Budgeted Revenues		
Journal Fund Expenses	0.00	12,871.00
Total Non-Budgeted Revenue	0.00	12,871.00
	\$	\$
TOTAL REVENUE	486,634.27	771,881.00

	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
EXPENSES		
Budgeted Expenses		
A. Fixed disbursements over which the HOD has no control but must have approval		
Utilities & Maintenance:		
	\$	\$
Telephone	3,031.31	9,600.00
Gas, Electric & Water	889.76	26,000.00
RENT	21,607.68	86,431.00
Maintenance Expense	4,497.63	20,000.00
Janitorial Expenses	1,867.72	11,000.00
Total Utilities & Maintenance	31,894.10	153,031.00
Audit & Accounting Services	0.00	20,000.00
Attorney Fees	8,229.50	1,000.00
Insurance	0.00	13,000.00
Printing and Postage	1,181.61	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	187.50	500.00
Personal Property taxes	0.00	1,000.00
	\$	\$
A. TOTAL	41,492.71	190,531.00

B. Items Controlled by the House Of Delegates

General Administrative Expenses:

	\$	\$
Equipment Maint & Rent	591.48	25,000.00
Technological Support	5,213.32	10,000.00
Membership Dues & Subs	0.00	750.00
Support Staff Expense	158.05	1,500.00
Office Supplies	169.98	3,000.00
KOHC Membership	0.00	300.00
Presidents Expense	0.00	1,500.00
1st Vice President's Expenses	0.00	500.00
Fall Meeting Leadership Conf.	0.00	500.00
Executive Board Expense	0.00	1,500.00
ADA Delegates Expense	0.00	36,500.00
Ex. Dir. Discretionary Expense	0.00	750.00
Secty-Treas. Expense	0.00	3,650.00
Total Administrative Exp.	6,132.83	85,450.00

	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
Council/Work Group Expenses:		
Council on Ethics, Bylaws		
Council on Governmental Affairs		
Budget & Finance Committee		
Long Range Planning Committee		
New Dentists Committee	0.00	2,000.00
General Council Expense	0.00	250.00
UK-UL-KSDS Support	3,400.00	6,000.00
Total Council/Committee/Work Group Steer	3,400.00	8,250.00
	\$	\$
B. TOTAL	9,532.83	93,700.00

	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
--	------------------------	------------------

C. Disbursements Annually Approved and Controlled by the House of Delegates

	\$	\$
Executive Directors Expense	2,235.27	15,000.00
Salaries-Executive Staff	75,923.92	390,000.00
Retirement Plan Contributions	1,845.00	15,800.00
Executive Staff Benefits	8,709.34	36,000.00
Personal Payroll Taxes	6,216.25	30,000.00

	\$	\$
C. TOTAL	94,929.78	486,800.00

	\$	\$
Total Budgeted Expenses	145,955.32	771,031.00

D. Fund Contributions

	\$	\$
D. TOTAL	0.00	0.00

E. Non-budgeted Expenses

	\$	\$
Investment Fees	891.00	850.00

	\$	\$
E. TOTAL	891.00	850.00

	\$	\$
TOTAL EXPENSES	146,846.32	771,881.00

KENTUCKY DENTAL ASSOCIATION
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT BALANCES
March 31, 2025

GENERAL FUND

	\$	
General Cash Operations	128,939.13	
Stifel Nicolaus Money Market	4,761.00	
Stifel Managed Funds	<u>406,693.64</u>	
Total General Fund		540,393.77

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Stifel Managed Funds	<u>47,696.00</u>	
Total Capital Projects Fund		47,696.00

JOURNAL FUND

Stifel Managed Funds	<u>(1,988.53)</u>	
Total Journal Fund		(1,988.53)

LEGISLATIVE FUND

Stifel Managed Funds	<u>140,777.66</u>	
Total Legislative Fund		140,777.66

RELIEF FUND

Stifel Managed Funds	<u>25,949.00</u>	
Total Relief Fund		25,949.00

RESERVE FUND

Stifel Managed Funds	<u>6,986.23</u>	
Total Reserve Fund		6,986.23

WILLIAM MARCUS RANDALL MEMORIAL FUND

Stifel Managed Funds	<u>73,300.00</u>	
Total William Marcus Randall Memorial Fund		<u>73,300.00</u>

Total Investments		\$ <u><u>833,114.13</u></u>
-------------------	--	--------------------------------

8. KDA 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET.

KDA BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES.

KENTUCKY DENTAL ASSOCIATION BUDGET AND FINANCE MEETING

ZOOM Meeting
Louisville, Kentucky
March 25, 2026
7:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER. Dr. Matt Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. The following members of the committee were present: **Dr. Matt Johnson, Dr. Kevin Wall, Dr. Zak Taylor,** and **Dr. BJ Millay.** **Drs. Rachel Gold** and **Samantha Shaver** were also present as ex-officio members.

Staff member present was: **Mr. Todd Edwards,** KDA Assistant Executive Director.

THE PROPOSED 2027 KDA BUDGET. There were discussions about the revenues and expenses for the proposed 2027 KDA Budget.

A preliminary budget will be forwarded to the KDA Board of Directors.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kevin Wall
Treasurer

KDA 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET.

	Adopted Budget 2026	Year to Date 12-31-2025	Proposed Budget 2027	Foundation pays
REVENUES				
KDA Dues	451,000.00	400,650.00	451,000.00	
KDA Assessment	60,000.00	61,900.00	60,000.00	
One time Assessment	72,000.00		-	
Annual Session	60,000.00	56,431.00	60,000.00	
Interest Income	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	
Rental Income-Lou Dental Soc	5,410.00	5,410.00	5,410.00	
ADABEI (ADA)	11,000.00	22,677.00	15,000.00	
Insurance for Members	18,000.00	23,875.00	18,000.00	
ADA Dues Rebates	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Non-Budgeted Revenue	12,500.00	2,691.00	12,500.00	
Rental Income	63,600.00	58,936.00	63,600.00	
TOTAL REVENUES	759,010.00	632,570.00	691,010.00	
Gain on Investment	-	40,261.00		
Contribution to the ADA Dues Repayment			(70,000.00)	
Journal Fund Contribution	12,871.00	45,000.00	(10,879.00)	
Reserve Fun Contribution		115,535.00		
	771,881.00	\$ 833,366.00	610,131.00	

Adopted Budget	Year to Date	Proposed Budget
-------------------	--------------	--------------------

	2026	12-31-2025	2027	
EXPENSES				
A. Fixed disbursements over which the House has no control but must have approval				
Utilities & Maintenance:				
		\$		
Telephone	9,600.00	10,843.00	9,600.00	
Gas, Electric & Water	26,000.00	28,516.00	-	26,000.00
Rent	86,431.00	86,432.00	86,431.00	
Maintenance Expenses	20,000.00	26,372.00	-	20,000.00
Janitorial Expenses	11,000.00	12,140.00	-	12,000.00
Total Utilities & Maintenance	<u>153,031.00</u>	<u>164,303.00</u>	<u>96,031.00</u>	
Accounting & Audit Services	20,000.00	11,440.00	20,000.00	
Attorney Fees	1,000.00	5,170.00	4,000.00	
Insurance	13,000.00	12,942.00	13,000.00	
Printing and Postage	2,000.00	2,284.00	2,000.00	
Personal Property tax	1,000.00	249.00	500.00	
Miscellaneous	500.00	758.00	500.00	
A. TOTAL	<u>190,531.00</u>	<u>197,146.00</u>	<u>136,031.00</u>	

Miscellaneous Needs moved from Category A to Category E.

B. Items Controlled by the House Of Delegates

General Administrative Expenses:

		\$		
Equipment Maint & Rent	25,000.00	22,043.00	13,000.00	12,000.00
Technological Support	10,000.00	16,825.00	15,000.00	
Membership Dues & Subs	750.00	645.00	750.00	
Support Staff Expenses	1,500.00	96.00	1,500.00	
Office Supplies	3,000.00	2,432.00	3,000.00	
Executive Board Expenses	1,500.00	1,096.00	1,500.00	
President's Expenses	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	
1st Vice President Expenses	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Secretary-Treasurer Travel Exp.	3,650.00	3,000.00	3,650.00	
ADA Delegates Expenses	36,500.00	28,078.00	36,500.00	
Leadership Conference	500.00	0.00	500.00	
KOHC Membership	300.00	0.00	300.00	
Ex. Dir. Discretionary Expenses	750.00	0.00	750.00	
Auto Expenses	-	0.00	-	
Total General Administrative Exp.	<u>85,450.00</u>	<u>74,215.00</u>	<u>78,450.00</u>	

	Adopted Budget 2026	Year to Date 12-31-2025	Proposed Budget 2027
Council/Committee/Work Group Exp.:			
Council on Annual Session	-		-
Council on Govt Affaris	-		-
Long Range Planning Committee	-		-
New Dentist/Membership Steering Committee	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
General Council Expenses	250.00	0.00	250.00
UK-UL KSDS Student Support	6,000.00	6,780.00	6,000.00
Womens Forum		1,272.00	
Total Council/Committee/Work Group Expenses:	8,250.00	<u>8,052.00</u>	8,250.00
B. TOTAL	93,700.00	<u><u>82,267.00</u></u>	86,700.00

Adopted Budget	Year to Date	Proposed Budget
-------------------	--------------	--------------------

	2026	12-31-2025	2027	
C. Staff Compensation				
		\$		
Executive Directors Expenses	15,000.00	15,544.00	15,000.00	
Salaries-Staff	390,000.00	414,272.00	310,000.00	
Staff Benefits	36,000.00	35,934.00	30,000.00	
Retirement Plan Contributions	15,800.00	16,502.00	12,400.00	
Payroll Taxes	30,000.00	34,571.00	20,000.00	
		\$		
C. TOTAL	486,800.00	516,823.00	387,400.00	
Total Expenses				
D. Fund Contributions				
Legislative Fund Contribution	-	-	-	
D. TOTAL	0.00		0.00	
E. Non-Budgeted Expenses				
		\$		
Loss on disposal of assets	-	37,130.00	-	
E. TOTAL	-	37,130.00	-	
TOTAL EXPENSES	771,031.00	833,366.00	610,131.00	70,000.00

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT. Dr. Stephen Robertson gave the following report.

**Kentucky Dental Association
Executive Director Report, Dr. Stephen W Robertson
May 30, 2026**

The KDA has just completed what must be the most successful legislative session we have enjoyed, possibly ever. This was due to the culmination of efforts from many of our members over the past 3 years, spearheaded by our contract lobbyist, Libby Miligan, of McCarthy Strategic Solutions. We are truly lucky to be able to retain such a respected group that has truly “bought in” on our goals and message.

Through the support of numerous legislators in both the House and Senate, we were able to usher through sweeping changes to the Kentucky Dental Medicaid program. The Medicaid carve-out is scheduled for January 1, 2029, and we also were able to secure the first ever direct appropriation for reimbursement enhancement in the history of the program. Just as importantly, the legislature assigned a vital role in both processes to the Dental Technical Advisory Committee, ensuring provider input in the program moving forward. The law also dictates

This process is just the beginning; we have completed the first step. The increase received will hopefully be enough to allow those currently accepting Medicaid to be able to continue in the program, however, numerous challenges still exist. We need to show that we can grow and nurture this program and continue our push for increased funding heading into the Carve-out. The 20% increase is not enough to allow for a direct across the board increase of fees, so the TAC is committed to directing the funds to where they will allow the biggest effect on the program and utilization. They will also be tasked with establishing the guardrails and guidelines for the ASO to be hired to function within the Carve-out.

The TAC has been able to strike a renewed partnership with the Medicaid Department that will hopefully lead to positive changes for all; patients and providers. Our TAC is to be commended for the dedication and efforts, as they have certainly risen to the task.

Additionally, we were able to keep many bills detrimental to oral health and the practice of dentistry from passing. Notably, the anti-fluoridation bill and intrusions from other licensing entities into dental offices. We were able to make positive changes within a proposed school nurse bill, that ultimately was not heard in the Senate but will hopefully come back next year.

The KDA helped shepherd the updated Dental Practice Act bill from the Board of Dentistry to passage, and I will allow Mr. Jeff Allen to fill the Board in on the contents of this new law. I will add that it was accepted as an emergency action, so it went into effect immediately upon passage. One notable component was a section greatly restricting the ability of an entity that sets reimbursement rates to own dental practices (i.e.; insurers,) and guarantees clinical autonomy for all dentists regardless of practice ownership.

We were able to pass our Non-Covered Services clean-up bill by attaching it as an amendment to the Dental Practice Act. This bill was constructed in cooperation with the Department of Insurance to mitigate as many issues as possible. The effective date of the bill is July 15, 2026. After that date, and the renewal of the provider contract held with the individual insurers, over the maximum is a non-covered service by law. This renewal date could be a random anniversary date, January 1, or the fiscal date of July 1. All must ask renewal dates to know the effective date for each plan.

The Assignment of Benefits law passed in 2025 is active and the regulations have been accepted. Use of the form is optional and only necessary if it is desired that payment be delivered to the office rather than the patient. Also, the joint Well-Being program between the KDA and the Board of Dentistry is live and functioning! I will allow Jeff Allen and Dr Kate Von Lakum to address this in greater detail.

The 2026 Kentucky Meeting is planned and the Journal with all the registration information will be in your mailbox soon. We are switching to a new electronic registration system, and all CE will be delivered through

this entity. Todd Edwards has worked tirelessly to get this application up and running and deserves your thanks and appreciation. All information with the registration links will be posted on the website soon.

On Thursday, May 21, after the Journal was already off to the printer, we received notice that Colgate, the Governor's Office, and the ADA will be holding a joint event at the Kentucky meeting on Thursday afternoon August 20. This will necessitate the cancellation of the scheduled Executive Board meeting for that day. This event is still in the preliminary planning stages, and more information will be shared with all as it becomes available. We have been told the Governor himself selected our meeting at the site for this oral health focused event.

I had the opportunity to meet with the representatives from the Rural Transformation Grant program at the KDA office on Thursday, May 28. This process is moving quickly and a more specific update will be provided verbally as they are envisioning extensive KDA involvement moving forward. The focus of the Board will need to be on identification and recruitment of members willing to represent and participate in the work group process. Their identified area of focus are Dental Hygiene Training, Public Health Dental Hygienist utilization, mobile dental units, continuing education, Dental Assistant training, advanced surgical extraction training for general dentists, and Teledentistry hubbed through the Universities. There are potential avenues for direct KDS utilization of funds we will discuss.

Lastly, in your information there was a flyer related to the Operation AED program, requesting KDA support. Similarly, we need to reach an agreement on a reciprocal non-dues revenue program that the committee can present to interested entities.

Our agenda remains full! Together We Thrive!

10. SIXTH DISTRICT TRUSTEE REPORT. Dr Fred Howard gave a verbal report.

11. KENTUCKY BOARD OF DENTISTRY. Dr Kate von Lackum gave a verbal report on behalf Mr. Jeff Allen and provided the written comments below.

Analysis of House Bill 776

The following report describes the contents and location of the changes to KRS 313 contained within HB776, which was signed into law on April 13, 2026. The bill can be viewed in its final form [here](#).

Section 1(6) changes the definition of “dental hygienist” to mean anyone with an active Kentucky dental hygiene license. This change is merely meant to simplify the definition and indicate who is specifically being referred to when the Practice Act or its associated regulations use that title. This definition does not—and has never been—intended to define the parameters of dental hygiene licensure. Those requirements are thoroughly established elsewhere, specifically, 201 KAR 8:563. As such, removing the reference to the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) in this definition does not, by itself, eliminate CODA requirements for licensure. The Board has submitted a proposed revision to 201 KAR 8.533 that provides internationally trained dentists with a pathway to become licensed dental hygienists. In this instance, a foreign dental school degree can be accepted in place of a CODA-accredited dental hygiene degree. Otherwise, the existing CODA requirements for hygiene licensure will not change.

Section 1(9) simplifies the definition of “dental specialist” to mean anyone with a Kentucky dental specialty license. Removing the reference to ADA-recognized specialties here does not change the requirements for specialty licensure, as those are provided for in KRS 313.035 as well as Section 8 of 201 KAR 8.533.

Section 1(10) changes the definition of “dentist” to simply mean anyone with an active Kentucky dentist license. Again, this change is intended to streamline the definition and create uniformity with other, similar definitions within KRS 313. Just like with “dental hygienist” or “dental specialist” above, the statutory definition of “dentist” is not intended to address license eligibility. As per Sections 1 and 4 of 201 KAR 8.533, a CODA-accredited dental degree or postgraduate program is still—and will continue to be—required for licensure. The Board has submitted a proposed revision to 201 KAR 8.533 that will allow internationally trained dentists to be licensed as dental specialists. However, this still requires the completion of a CODA-accredited specialty program, just like what is already in place for foreign dentists who complete a general dentistry program.

Section 1(11) revises the definition of “dentistry” but in style, not substance. These are housekeeping changes designed to conform KRS 313 to current practices in organizing statutory language.

Section 2(1) makes several revisions to the makeup of the Board, including requiring at least three of the voting dentists on the Board to be general dentists. This is intended to make the Board more representative of the state’s dentist population. It also removes reference to specific dental schools and simply provides for an ex officio board seat to all CODA-accredited dental schools in Kentucky. The purpose of this language is to establish a seat for the new Tanner College of Dental Medicine at the University of Pikeville. In anticipation of Kentucky adding at least one new dental hygiene degree program, a second ex officio board seat was created to more appropriately represent the hygiene programs. In addition, each program will have a two-year term in the rotation, instead of the previous one year. **Section 3(1)(i)** provides for the Board to affiliate with testing organizations that administer qualifying licensure examinations. This is simply intended to formalize the Board’s commitment to licensure examinations and codify what is already current practice. **Section 3(4)** requires the Board to purchase liability insurance. Maintaining a liability policy is common practice among professional licensing boards.

Section 4(4) allows the Board to establish a student loan repayment assistance fund to address dental workforce shortage areas. This is only authorizing language, and does not, on its own, establish the fund. The Board still needs to formally create the fund and define its rules, which it will do through the administrative regulation process.

Section 5(11) removes obsolete language that no longer applies.

Section 6(3) removes the reference to the American Dental Association recognizing dental specialties and replaces it with the more specific and accurate National Commission on the Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards. It also allows qualified dental specialists to practice outside of their specialty for limited purposes when referred by a general dentist.

Section 7(7)(a)1 eliminates the redundant two years of experience prerequisite for registration in general supervision but keeps the 3,000 work hours requirement. **Section 7(7)(a)4** extends the time since the patient's last examination that a dental hygienist can practice under general supervision from seven months to eleven months.

Section 7(9) allows dental hygienists to make radiographs with a written order if the dentist is not physically present.

Section 8(7)(a) eliminates the removal of calcareous deposits or accretions on the crowns and roots of teeth from the list of duties prohibited by dental assistants. However, the scope of practice for dental hygienists and assistants is also addressed in other parts of KRS 313 and its associated regulations. The removal of this language alone does not allow dental assistants to perform scaling.

Section 8(7)(c) allows dental assistants to make final impressions.

Section 8(6) allows qualifying dental assistants to use a dental hygiene cordless polisher.

Sections 8(8) and 9(2) clarify that the Board-approved training in radiography technique and safety does not have to be through a formal course.

Section 12(1)(a)–(c) was taken from existing language in Section 13(1)(a)–(c) to start a new section.

Section 12(2) clarifies that clinical decisions affecting patient care remain with the dentist and that no other person or entity may exercise control over such decisions.

Section 12(3) prevents any person or entity that establishes reimbursement rates for dental services from directly or indirectly controlling the clinical operations of a dental practice.

Section 12(4) is a grandfather clause that exempts pre-existing arrangements from the provisions of this section.

Section 13(1)(a)–(c) was moved to become Section 12(1)(a)–(c).

Section 13(2)(c) establishes that a violation of “moral or ethical standards” is sufficient grounds for disciplinary action.

Section 14(10) clarifies that the Law Enforcement Committee can offer settlement agreements as part of its disciplinary authority.

Section 15(4) allows the Board to enter into contractual agreements with any entity to administer or support the Well-being Committee, not just nonprofit organizations.

Section 15(8) clarifies that the confidentiality of Well-being Committee records does not extend to formal disciplinary actions issued by the Law Enforcement Committee or the Board.

Section 16(1) clarifies that the Board's regulatory authority over dental laboratories includes any lab that is either “operating or doing business” in Kentucky.

Section 17 formally names KRS 313 as the Kentucky Dental Practice Act.

Sections 18–19 were part of a floor amendment on limited health services benefits plans that was added to HB776 at the last minute. It is unrelated to the rest of the bill and does not amend KRS 313. **Section 20** is an emergency clause, meaning that the bill takes effect immediately once it is signed by the Governor, rather than the standard 90 days after the end of the legislative session. _____

12. UK COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY.

University of Kentucky College of Dentistry
Kentucky Dental Association Executive Report

May 2026

College Updates

- The UKCD Class of 2026 performed exceptionally well on the ADEX Clinical Board Examination this year. The overall first-time pass rate was 96%, with individual section results of 90% in Restorative, 92% in Endodontics, and 100% in Prosthodontics.
- The Division of Dental Public Health's SEAL KY program is celebrating a major milestone with the completion of its first year providing restorative care through its mobile dental clinic in Greenup County. Building on its foundation of preventive services, the addition of restorative treatment has expanded access to care and improved oral health outcomes for students in this rural community.
- This year also marked the successful completion of SEAL KY's pilot program to include high school students, expanding services beyond elementary schools. Together, these efforts highlight how a mobile, community-focused approach is improving access to care and supporting long-term oral health across Kentucky.
- The University of Kentucky College of Dentistry will play a key role in the upcoming 2026 Land-grant Engagement Bus Tour (May 11-14), a university-wide initiative designed to strengthen partnerships and better understand community needs across Western Kentucky. The college's Pathways to Dentistry program will specifically be highlighted.

Faculty & Staff Updates

- We would like to congratulate Dr. Craig Miller on receiving a 2026 Textbook Excellence Award from the Textbook & Academic Authors Association (TAA) for *Little and Falace's Dental Management of the Medically Compromised Patient, 10th edition*. This prestigious recognition highlights excellence in current textbooks and learning materials and reflects the significant impact of Dr. Miller's scholarship on dental education and patient care. As a trusted resource for clinicians and students worldwide, this award underscores Dr. Miller's commitment to advancing knowledge, improving care for medically complex patients, and strengthening the educational mission of the College of Dentistry. Please join us in celebrating this outstanding achievement.
- Dr. Santamaria's article, "Guided coronally advanced flap to treat gingival recession: Digital workflow and case report publications," was the most cited article published in *Clinical Advances in Periodontics* in 2025.
- Dr. Mauro Santamaria was accepted as a fellow to the American College of Dentists.
- Dr. Boggero received the UK Research Professorship Award

- Dr. Shaddox received the UK CCTS Research Mentor award during the CCTS Research Day on March 31, 2026.
- Dr Boggero received UK Psychology's Recent Alumni Achievement Award.
- Dr Howard Roberts was named Associate Editor of *Operative Dentistry*.

Presentations

- Okeson JP. 50th Anniversary of the AAOP: The Journey from Gnathology to Orofacial Pain. Keynote presentation presented at: American Academy of Orofacial Pain Annual Meeting; May 1, 2026; Orlando, Florida.
- Jeffrey Okeson was recently featured as a distinguished speaker at the XII Edition of the GSID Congress in Italy, hosted by the Orofacial Pain Academy–GSID, Pisa, Italy.
- Dr. Shelby Oberst presented a poster on “Influence of choice in participation on Student Evaluation of Teaching” at the American Association for Dental Education meeting, March 2026.
- Dr. Mauro Santamaria was invited to speak at the University of California, Los Angeles. He lectured on "Surgical Management of Gingival Recession: Concepts, Innovations, and Clinical Considerations."
- Dr. Jennie Ison presented a poster at the recent American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (AAOMP) meeting in Denver, CO entitled: "EBV+ Plasmacytoma in an Immunocompetent Patient."
- Boggero IA. Feasibility and Satisfaction of a Telehealth Psychological Intervention for Chronic Temporomandibular Disorders. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Gonzalez O. Phospholipase A2-IIA is an Antimicrobial Host Factor Involved in Oral Dysbiosis. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Berger T, Morford L, Hartsfield J Jr. Association of Gelatinase Gene Variation with External-Apical-Root-Resorption Concurrent with Orthodontia. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Maurice S, Mishra N. Photobiomodulation Therapy for Non-painful Post-Traumatic Trigeminal Neuropathy. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Saltz A, Rojas M. Guideline Adherence to Dental Opioid Prescribing Recommendations in Kentucky. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.

- Vickery B, Brown L, Shaddox LM. Workforce and Social Vulnerability Impact Oral Health Services in Kentucky. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Shaddox LM. Pathways Forward – Academic Career and Research Career Viability. Panel presentation at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Bryant J, Brown L. Emergency Department Use for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions in Kentucky. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- das Gracias Y, Shaddox LM. Dentition-Dependent LPS Inflammatory Responses in Grade C Molar-Incisor Periodontitis. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Andriankaja O, Shaddox LM. Lipid-Lowering Agents and Periodontal Health in Hispanic Adults with Type 2 Diabetes: Clinical and Microbiome Insights. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Rojas M, Mishra N. Pain Intensity Following Orthodontic Separators in Healthy Volunteers and Correlation with Physical Activity. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Handel V, Gonzalez O. Early Gingival Transcriptome Responses in Experimentally Induced Periodontal Disease. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Boggero IA. Cutting-Edge Research on Sleep and Chronic Orofacial Pain. Symposium presentation presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Miguel MV, Santamaria M. Crosstalk between Inflammasome and Oral Mucosal Healing in Diabetes Mellitus. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Shaddox LM. Unusual C-MIP Cases and Barriers in Classifying this Disease in Clinical Studies. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Gonzales H, Brown L, Shaddox LM. Barriers Impacting Access and Utilization of Mobile Preventive Dental Services. Poster presented at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.
- Andriankaja O. Posters on Periodontal Disease – Characterization and Diagnosis. Poster session chair

presentation at: International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition; March 2026; San Diego, CA.

Publications

- Jeffrey Okeson recently released the 9th edition of *Clinical Management of Temporomandibular Disorders and Occlusion*. The updated edition features new evidence-based content, expanded discussions on the connection between sleep medicine and TMDs, updated clinical imagery, and enhanced learning tools designed to support today's dental students and practitioners. Further underscoring its impact on dental education, the textbook was selected for the 2026 Doody's Core Titles in Dentistry.
- Dr. Galal Omam. Imaging Anatomy of the Temporomandibular Joint and Masticatory System. *Oral Maxillofacial Surg Clin North Am*. 2026 Feb;38(1):57-69.
- Dr. Mauro Santamaria's article, "Guided coronally advanced flap to treat gingival recession: Digital workflow and case report publications," was the most cited article published in *Clinical Advances in Periodontics* in 2025.
- Graças YTD, Miguel MMV, Casarin RCV, Santamaria MP, Mishra P, Shaddox LM. Grade C molar-incisor pattern periodontitis classification and its challenges. *J Periodontol*. 2026;e70119. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jper.70119>
- The Impact of Periodontal Therapy in Type II Diabetics Clinical and Inflammatory Parameters". Tokatlían J, Al-Sabbagh M, Dawson DR, Pearce KA, Andriankaja MO, Adatorwovor R, Miguel MMV, Shaddox, LM. *J Periodontol*. 2026; 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jper.70035> .
- Molar–Incisor and Generalized Grade C Periodontitis: Distinct Microbiome–Immune Interactions Suggest Divergent Pathogenesis. Stolf C, Paz H, Paraluppi MC, Miguel MMV, Santamaria M, Monteiro MF, Amgarten DE, Franco RRA, Branco-de-Almeida L, Shaddox LM, Casarin RCV. *Journal of Periodontal Research* (2026): 1–14, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jre.70077>.
- Grade C Molar-Incisor Pattern Periodontitis classification and its challenges. Teixeira das Graças Y, Viana Miguel MM, Viana Casarin RC, Santamaria MP, Mishra P, Shaddox LM. **Journal of Periodontology**. April 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jper.70119>
- Salivary NLRP3 Inflammasome as a Promising Biomarker for Palatal Mucosa Healing in Diabetes Mellitus: a pilot study. Miguel MMV, Bonafé ACF, Mathias-Santamaria IF, Thomas DT, Shaddox LM, Santamaria MP. *Journal of Periodontology*. April 2026.”
- Lazzari TR, Lima VCDS, Nunes CMM, Dos Santos NC, Neves FLDS, Filho ABM, Santamaria MP, Jardini MAN. Single Implants in the Maxillary Esthetic Zone With or Without Connective Tissue Grafting: 4-Year Follow-up. *Int J Oral Maxillofac Implants*. 2026 Apr 2;41(2):218-226. doi: 10.11607/jomi.11269. PMID: 40080052.

- Sangalli L, Gilmore GR, Moreno-Hay I, Whitehurst LN, Alessandri-Bonetti A, Boggero IA. Feasibility of brief behavioral telehealth interventions for sleep and pain in adults with chronic musculoskeletal orofacial pain: An idiographic clinical trial. *Cranio*. 2026 Mar;44(2):196-215. doi: 10.1080/08869634.2025.2476606. Epub 2025 Mar 17. PMID: 40091658; PMCID: PMC12353432.
- Esposito R, Sangalli L, Boggero IA, Kapos FP. Geographic and rural health care resource gaps in orofacial pain provider distribution across the United States. *J Am Dent Assoc*. 2026 Mar;157(3):294-304. doi: 10.1016/j.adaj.2025.12.021. Epub 2026 Feb 6. PMID: 41653175; PMCID: PMC12912784.
- Omami, G., Ison, J., Yeoh, M. (2026). Mandibular destruction with a moth-eaten appearance (3rd ed., vol. 157, pp. 312-316). *Journal of the American Dental Association*.
<https://scholars.uky.edu/en/publications/5f597ee1-8c9b-4a44-8434-cf70d262af8f>
- Danaher, R. J., Handel, V. A., Wang, L., Gonzalez, O. A. (2026). Male Keratin 13-Cre Expression Causes Unanticipated Germline Deletion in Notch1 Floxed Mice. *Genesis (United States)*, 64(2), e70046. <https://scholars.uky.edu/en/publications/3ef0d658-7637-46a7-9114-bd894b6fde68>
- "Biological Plausibility Between Long-COVID and Periodontal Disease Development or Progression" by Dr Mattos and team has been featured on the Biomedicines Journal social media platforms:
https://x.com/Biomed_MDPI/status/2021502591759417761?s=20

Faculty Research Grants

- **Dr. Pam Stein** (Principal Investigator) and **Dr. Luciana Shaddox** (Co-Investigator)
 - o Merck Grant Total Award: \$233,000
 - o Project Title: Reducing Oral Cancer and Increasing HPV Vaccine Uptake: A Community Engaged Approach to Formative Data Insight and Strategic Campaign Design in Appalachian Kentucky
 - o Synopsis: This will be a prospective observational study aimed to develop focus groups and interviews with key stakeholders from dental facilities and community members from Appalachian Kentucky counties with low HPV vaccination rates to inform the investigative team of key barriers and communication strategies to formulate and test a campaign to increase HPV vaccine uptake in these regions of the state. Duration of Project: 10/24-09/26
- **Dr. Ian Boggero** (Principal Investigator)
 - o UKinSpire Grant Award: \$8,700
 - o Project Title: The Role of Pain, Parafunctional Habits, and Stress on Masticatory Muscle Activity
 - o Duration of Project: 07/25-06/26

- **Dr. Octavio Gonzalez (Co-Investigator)**

- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH-NIDCR) Grant Award: \$69,952
- Project Title: Periodontitis as a Comorbidity in SIV Infection and Antiretroviral Therapy
- Synopsis: The main goals of this Project are: (i) To delineate age effects on the oral microbiome and targeted salivary biomarkers in health, changes that occur with experimental periodontitis, and impact of a subsequent SIV Infection, (ii) To delineate the effect of experimental periodontitis and age on the efficacy of ART treatment for an SIV Infection, and (iii) To delineate the effect of severe periodontitis on the efficacy of existing ART treatment to control an SIV infection.
- Duration of Project: 09/01/2022–07/31/2026

- **Dr. Luciana Shaddox (Co-Investigator)**

- National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Grant Award: \$23,716,314
- Project Title: Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science
- Synopsis: The University of Kentucky (UK) Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) is strategically positioned in Central Appalachia to catalyze efforts to connect the populace of this medically underserved region, with significant health disparities, to the national CTSA network. The UK CCTS is recognized locally and regionally for affecting change and building robust partnerships across the CTSA network, in Central Appalachia and at UK, creating an efficient platform for clinical and translational research and training, all to improve quality of care, health, and well-being for the rural populations of this region.
- Duration of Project: 08/2016–06/2026

Past Research Events

- **S3 MEETINGS:**

- March 17: Student presentations for IADR/AADOCR, Himala Gonzales, Thomas Berger, Ben Vickery, Matthew Jacobson, Jessie Bryant
- April 28: Courtney Brown, MSW, Research Coordinator, Center for Oral Health Research, ED Data

- **IADR 2026 in San Diego, CA, March 25-28, 2026**

- Faculty and students from the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry participated in the most recent International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition,

showcasing research and scholarly activity across multiple disciplines in oral health. Collectively, UKCD faculty and students presented 17 poster presentations at the international meeting, highlighting the College's continued commitment to advancing dental, oral, and craniofacial research.

- UK Clinical Translational Science Research Day March 31, 2026
 - CCTS Research Day received ~1300 attendees (higher than last year)
 - The UK College of Dentistry welcomed 250 registrants to the Knapp Lecture featuring Dr. Frederico Martinho of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, who delivered the keynote presentation, "AI in Endodontics."
 - The Knapp family generously sponsored both the lecture and dinner with the speaker. It is a privilege and true honor for UKCD to continue celebrating Dr. Knapp's legacy through this longstanding lecture series.
 - The Center for Clinical and Translational Science Research Day featured approximately 400 posters this year, including 53 presentations from the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry

Upcoming Research Events

- S3 MEETINGS: Salads, Science & Support at UKCD: May 26, PDO, How to Write a Specific Aims Page and How to Communicate with PO's
- **AADOCR Kentucky Fall Symposium**
 - The Fall Symposium will take place on September 23, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Louisville Clinical Translational Research Building. This year's symposium will feature Dr. Nisha D'Silva as the keynote speaker. Dr. D'Silva is a nationally recognized expert in oral pathology and cancer research, currently serving as Professor and Associate Chair at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and Professor of Pathology at the University of Michigan Medical School.

Notable Student Updates

- First-year dental students from the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry made an early impact beyond the classroom, bringing oral health education to students at Roundstone Elementary in Rockcastle County. Through hands-on activities, interactive lessons, and meaningful conversations, the outreach event aimed to promote healthy habits while inspiring the next generation to think about careers in health care.
- Two first-year students at the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry have been selected for the U.S. Air Force Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP), a prestigious national program that supports the education of future military healthcare professionals while preparing them to serve as

commissioned officers.

- Alyssa Saltz, a third-year dental student, received a 3rd place SCADA competition award at the IADR 2026 meeting in San Diego for her poster presentation, “Guideline adherence to dental opioid prescribing recommendations in KY.” This is a competition among students from all dental schools around the US

Award winners for UKCD CCTS 2026 Research Day

- **Graduate Students/Resident/Postdoctoral Scholars**

- **1st Place:** Yasmin das Gracias, “Dentition-Dependent TLR-4 Cytokine Responses in Grade C Molar-Incisor Periodontitis” - Mentor: Dr. Luciana Shaddox
- **2nd Place:** Manuela Viana Miguel, “The Impact of Diabetes Mellitus on Salivary Metabolites During Early Oral Mucosal Healing: A Pilot Study” - Mentor: Dr. Mauro Santamaria
- **3rd Place:** Salma Habib, “Occlusal Changes with Mandibular Advancement Devices: Longitudinal Clinical, Patient-Reported, and Intervention Outcomes” - Mentors: Dr. Isabel Moreno-Hay and Ian Boggero
- **Special Mention:** Dr Habib also received the **3rd place** for the **1 min pitch competition** among all UK presenters!

- **Dental Students**

- **1st Place:** Omar Salem and Alyssa Moreland, “Qualitative Analysis of Learning Outcomes Using Traditional and AI Methods of Cultural Sensitivity Training in Dentistry” - Mentors: Dr. Lina Sharab and Ahmad Kutkut
- **2nd Place:** Alyssa Saltz, “Guideline Adherence to Dental Opioid Prescribing Recommendations in Kentucky - Mentor: Dr. Rojas-Ramirez
- **3rd Place:** Mina Sami, “3D Digital Analysis of Gingival Thickness Gain After Surgery for Recession with or without Non-Carious Cervical Lesions” - Mentor: Dr. Mauro Santamaria

- **Undergraduate Students**

- **1st Place:** Madalyn Baker and Will Danzer, “Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Depression Relationship in Treatment Seeking Patients at a Tertiary Pain Clinic” - Mentor: Dr. Ian Boggero
- **2nd Place:** Evan Lopez, “Early Detection of Grade C Molar–Incisor Pattern Periodontitis Through AI-Assisted Radiographic Analysis” - Mentors: Dr. Yasmin das Gracias and Luciana Shaddox
- **3rd Place:** Thomas Berger, “Association Study of MMP2 and MMP9 Polymorphisms with

External Apical Root Resorption and Orthodontic Treatment” - Mentors: Drs. Lorri Morford and James Hartsfield

- **Clinical Impact Award**

- Taylor Grundy, “Early Effects of Phospholipase A2 Group IIA (PLA2-IIA) Deficiency in Alveolar Bone Loss and Gingival Inflammation”- Mentor: Dr Octavio Gonzalez

- **Best Science Communication Award**

- Devon Roese, “Fluoride Content and Intake from Children’s Beverages” - Mentor: Drs. Christina Perez and Debora Scheffel

- **Best Poster Award**

- Lilian Adair and Taylor Jones, “Association Between Depression and Pain Among Patients with Chronic Orofacial Pain With and Without Childhood Trauma” - Mentors: (Arts and Sciences) and Ian Boggero.

Philanthropy/Alumni Relations

Philanthropy

- Drs. Steven Zeh and Casey Wiggins have made a gift to the Orthodontic Graduate Clinic renovation. Dr. Zeh and his son, Evan, have named the digital lab and Dr. Wiggins has named a dental chair.
- The UKCD Perio Alumni Council held a meeting to discuss holding a Homecoming at the Fall Symposium in October.
- Envista, the umbrella company for Nobel Biocare and others, has agreed to underwrite a speaker for the Perio Homecoming and provide in-house training for Restorative, GPR and Oral Surgery.
- A committee of alumni has convened to raise additional funds to renovate the UKCD Orthodontic Graduate Clinic. A plan was developed to reach out to all Ortho alumni.
- The Director of Philanthropy made visits to alumni and friends of the College in Bowling Green, Lexington and Frankfort to share a college update and discuss a possible gift.
- Drs. Okeson, Fuentealba and Linda Epling gave a tour of the UK College of Dentistry to Katherine Steinbock, the new CEO of Whip-Mix.
- The sister of Dr. Sharon Butler met with the Director of Philanthropy to discuss the status of her sister’s endowed scholarship and future support.
- Dean Okeson, Dr. Luciana Shaddox, Linda Epling and Ryan Vicini hosted Dr. Keith Knapp and seven

members of the Knapp Family the night before Donald E. Knapp, D.D.S., Ph.D., Memorial Lecture.

UKCD Alumni Association Board Update:

- On March 17, 2026, the UKCD Alumni Association held its first quarterly Alumni Board Meeting. Alumni board members are able to participate both in-person and via Zoom from across the country. Dean Okeson provided an update to the board on the status of the college, and our event committee chairs updated the group on plans for all of our 2026 signature events. A moment of silence was held for alumni who had passed away since our last quarterly meeting. If you are interested in joining the alumni board, please contact Ryan Vicini [at rlvici2@uky.edu](mailto:rlvici2@uky.edu)

Alumni Dinner for 2026 UKCD Graduates

- A graduation celebration for the UK College of Dentistry Class of 2026 was held at the Mane on Main on March 18, 2026. This celebration, hosted by the UKCD Alumni Association, honored not only the graduating DMD class, but also all those completing one of the college's graduate programs. The alumni board recognized Hallea Imel for serving as the Class of 2025 student representative to the alumni board during her time in dental school. Additionally, each year the UKCD Alumni Board invites back several young alumni to be guest speakers and talk to the group about life after dental school. The 2026 guest speakers were Dr. Alisha Patel ('12) and Dr. Nashwin Laungani ('19).

UKCD Holds Annual Donor Appreciation Dinner

- On April 18, 2026, the college hosted its annual Donor Appreciation Dinner at the Hyatt Regency to celebrate philanthropy and achievement. This event provides a unique opportunity for donors to hear firsthand how their generosity has made a life-changing difference for UKCD students. Dean Jeff Okeson served as emcee for this year's program.

Alumni Visits to Campus

- On April 18, 2026, the college welcomed Dr. Tyler Albrecht ('05) back to campus. He and family were given a tour of the school that highlighted facility renovations, advances in digital dentistry education, and current admission practices.

OneDayForUK

- Each year, alumni, faculty and staff are invited to support the University of Kentucky, their respective College or their favorite fund during OneDayForUK. The 2026 giving day was April 23. The College of Dentistry used this opportunity to highlight the newly established Rural Kentucky Dentistry Scholarship to encourage more students from rural areas to pursue dental school and return home to serve their communities. We are still waiting for final numbers to come in but thank you to alumni and friends of the college for donating.

Save the dates for UKCD Alumni:

- The UKCD Alumni Association would like to invite alumni and friends of the college to save the dates for these upcoming alumni events/activities:
 - Golf Tournament - August 15
 - Alumni Reception at the KDA Annual Meeting - August 21
 - Fall Symposium Alumni Weekend - October 8-10
 - Barrels & Kegs Tasting and Silent Auction - February 5, 2027

13. UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE.

**University of Louisville School of Dentistry (ULSD)
Kentucky Dental Association Executive Board Report
Meeting Date: May 30, 2026
Submitted: May 15, 2026**

UofL Breaks Ground on \$280-Million Facility for Health Education and Collaboration

On April 21, 2026, the University of Louisville formally broke ground today on a transformative new building that will serve as a cornerstone for education, engagement, and research at the UofL Health Sciences Center and as a resource for the broader university and health care communities.

The new Health Sciences Building, located along Preston Street from Chestnut to Gray, will be a connecting point for the UofL Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health and Information Sciences. The six-story, 257,000-square-foot structure will enable UofL to increase enrollment in health professions programs to meet existing and future health care workforce demands.

The structure is infused with an emphasis on collaboration, engagement, and wellbeing for those who use each space. Extensive simulation facilities will incorporate the latest technology where health professions students, residents, and clinical professionals can gain practical skills training.

With an estimated cost of \$280 million, the building represents the largest single-project funding package in UofL's history. The State of Kentucky has allocated \$260 million toward the project, with the university providing the remaining \$20 million.

The building design is a product of architects Champlin | EOP with Perkins&Will, and Messer construction is the general contractor. Construction is expected to be completed in 2029.

Student Activities

Members of the DMD and dental hygiene classes of 2026 were honored at our 139th annual convocation ceremony on Saturday, May 9 at the Louisville Palace. Speakers included Dr. Samantha Shaver (on behalf of the Kentucky Dental Association), Ms. Chelsea Ernst (on behalf of the Kentucky Dental Hygienists' Association), Dr. Krista Manche (DMD Class President), and Ms. Dilaram Temirova (Dental Hygiene Class President).

Several ULSD dental hygiene students competed in Podium Presentations at the Kentucky Dental Hygienists' Association (KYDHA) conference on February 27, 2026. Two ULSD groups placed in the top five, with a tie for first place:

- Fluoride in Our Water: Small Dose, Big Impact (Tied for 1st place) - Sarah Bratcher, Chelsea Cravens, Harleigh Hatfield
- The Oral-Brain Connection: Understanding the Relationship Between Periodontitis and Alzheimer's Disease (placed in top 5) - Kylie Johnson, Greta Laffin, Kaylee Webster, Makinzee White

Dental hygiene student Hannah Whitmore won KYDHA Outstanding Student for ULSD at the KYDHA conference.

Periodontics resident Dr. Aaron Herschberg won 2nd Place in the 2026 Southern Academy of Periodontology Billy Pennel Competition in the Clinical Science Category for his research.

Faculty & Staff News

Dr. Prem Premaraj joined ULSD in March 2026 as an orthodontics faculty member and program director for postdoctoral orthodontics. Dr. Premaraj was previously Chair of the Department of Orthodontics at Nova Southeastern. He has extensive experience treating patients with cleft lip/palate and other craniofacial anomalies and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics.

In addition to Dr. Premaraj, ULSD welcomed these full-time faculty members this spring:

- Dr. Adriana Bezerra – Prosthodontics
- Dr. Gabriela Gavilan Hadid - Endodontics (formerly part-time)
- Dr. Christopher Williams - Comprehensive Dentistry (formerly part-time)

ULSD's Assistant Director of Student Affairs, Audra French, has been selected as the university's Cardinal Principles Champion in the category of Community of Care. Her award nomination highlights why she was selected: "Audra is an empathetic and steady presence that makes a profound difference in the lives of our students. They trust her, confide in her, and consistently express how much her support helps them stay grounded, focused, and resilient."

Alumni Affairs & Continuing Education

The 2026 School of Dentistry Reunion on June 12-13, 2026, will celebrate graduates of the Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry and Dental Hygiene programs from classes ending in 1 and 6. We are especially proud to honor this year's Golden Reunion class – the Class of 1976 – as they celebrate 50 years.

The 43rd Annual William J. Mansfield Alumni Day continuing education program will take place on Saturday, June 13, 2026. Dr. Thomas Viola will present "Weed Will...Weed Will...Rock You! The Fall and Rise of Cannabis, Cannabinoids and Terpenes and their Dental Considerations." Attendance is complimentary for reunion celebrants.

Other upcoming CE courses at the UofL School of Dentistry include:

- July 17/18: Dental Hygiene Soft Tissue Laser Training
- August 14/15/16 and August 28/29, 2026: Local Anesthesia and Nitrous Oxide Analgesia for Dental Hygienists
- August 15/16 and August 29, 2026: Local Anesthesia and Nitrous Oxide Analgesia Refresher
- August 15 and August 29, 2026: Nitrous Oxide Analgesia Refresher
- September 19, 2026: Coronal Polishing for the Dental Auxiliary

In addition, we continue to offer live CE webinars in conjunction with the Association for Continuing Dental Education (ACDE), of which ULSD CE is a member.

Selected Faculty Publications

- Chan A, Cohen MD, Papathanasiou E, Rhines CE, Zirnheld JR, van derHoeven D. Perception of Attendance: A Comprehensive Survey of Students, Faculty, and Administrators in US Dental Schools. *Journal of Dental Education* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1002/jdd.70206>
- Chouhan D, Grossman AS, Kerns KA, Stocke KS, Kim M, Dong P, Kumar A, Lei L, Lamont RJ, McLean JS, He X, Bor B. Ultrasmall oral Saccharibacteria modulate gingival immunoactivation through type IV pili and TLR2-dependent endocytosis. *Nat Commun* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-026-70546-5>
- da Silva EVF, Ortiz CLe, Gomes MS, Condor WJAB, Santos KF, Bezerra SJC, Cesar PF, Bastos-Bitencourt NA, Bitencourt SB, Léon BLT. Comparative Analysis of Physical and Mechanical Properties of Acrylic Resins for Interim Fixed Prostheses Under Thermocycling Aging. *Bioengineering*. 2026; 13(5):510. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bioengineering13050510>
- Dukka HB, Alhachache S, Imbrogno M, Mallela D, AlAsaad N, Hill M, Sekula M. Impact of over-contoured restorations on the marginal bone around tissue-level implants: A retrospective radiographic analysis. *J Periodontol*. 2026;1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jper.70111>
- Hasegawa Y, Persson K, Lamont RJ. Diversity and assembly mechanisms of *Porphyromonas gingivalis* fimbriae: Conservation and structural heterogeneity of type V fimbriae. *J Oral Biosci*. 2026;68(3):100782. doi:10.1016/j.job.2026. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1349007926000502>
- Hiruta Y, Jin Z, Adachi M, Amer L, Tjokro NO, Trujillo DF, Potempa J, O'Donoghue A, Chen C, Jokerst JV. Protease-Triggered Chromogenic Release from Peptide-Modified Calcium Carbonate Microspheres Enables Colorimetric Detection of *Porphyromonas Gingivalis* Activity. *ChemRxiv*. <https://doi.org/10.26434/chemrxiv.15002239.v1>
- Li W, Raul M, Zhang K, Potempa J, Gao Y, Raz D. Abstract 7031: Intra-tumoral *Porphyromonas gingivalis* mediates osimertinib resistance in EGFR-mutant lung adenocarcinoma through gingipain-mediated IGF1R activation.. *Cancer Res* 1 April 2026; 86 (7_Supplement): 7031. <https://doi.org/10.1158/1538-7445.AM2026-7031>

- Rodriguez Hernandez CJ, Cruz Cruz A, Shrestha CL, Terekhova M, Chen P, Perpich J, Potempa B, Carey K, Rohlfing M, Peeples ME, Grayson MH, **Potempa J**, Artyomov M, **Lamont RJ**, Bagaitkar J. Gingipain proteases from the bacterium *Porphyromonas gingivalis* confer protection against airway viral infection. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2026;123(18):e2503100123. [doi:10.1073/pnas.2503100123](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2503100123)
- Ryan LK, Duran-Pinedo AE, Irelan DW, Mulcahy B, Galeas-Pena M, Glover SC, Frias-Lopez J, Diamond G. Vitamin D Deficiency in Mice Modulates Oral Microbiome Stability Over Time and Leads to Changes in Host Inflammatory Gene Expression Pathways. *Front. Cell. Infect. Microbiol. Sec. Oral Microbes and Host*. <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/cellular-and-infection-microbiology/articles/10.3389/fcimb.2026.1775097>
- Wielento A, Drapała DM, Terekhova M, Jacuła A, Artyomov MN, Kochan J, Hasegawa Y, Mizgalska D, Bagaitkar J, Grabiec AM, Potempa J. Macrophage activation and invasion by *P. gingivalis* is modulated by PPAD and accessory fimbriae subunits, *Journal of Oral Microbiology*, 18:1 (2026). <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/20002297.2026.2638646>

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

None

14. UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE.

**University of Pikeville
Tanner College of Dental Medicine
Report to Kentucky Dental Association Executive Board
May 30, 2026**

College Updates:

- The University of Pikeville Tanner College of Dental Medicine continues steady institutional advancement as a core academic, clinical, and workforce development initiative for Eastern Kentucky and Central Appalachia, with ongoing progress in construction, recruitment, and program implementation.
- Facilities development remains on schedule, with Phase I completion (June 16, 2027) and Phase II completion (February 14, 2028), supported by interim instructional infrastructure including a 54-station Pre-Clinical Simulation Laboratory.
- The TCDM will utilize interim locations to support delivery of the first-year curriculum while permanent facilities are completed. The expansive project to construct a **Preclinical Simulation Clinic** at 129 Caroline Avenue was carried out under the direction of the UPIKE construction team, resulting in the establishment of a state-of-the-art center equipped with 54 A-dec student workstations, a faculty workstation, two SIMtoCARE haptic units, an anatomy laboratory, a digital laboratory, a support laboratory, student lounge, locker rooms, dispensary, and mechanical room. These spaces ensure a comprehensive, technology-enhanced learning environment aligned with the University's commitment to excellence in dental education. An Open House for the Board of Trustees was completed on May 1, 2026.
- An alternate location for **Clinical Instruction** has been identified at the East Kentucky Oral Health Training Center in Paintsville. This 20-operator space is owned by Big Sandy Community and Technical College, and a lease agreement has been signed to utilize the space during the 2026-2027 academic year.

Faculty and Staff Updates:

Faculty recruitment has strengthened academic capacity with new leadership across clinical, biomedical, and administrative domains, enhancing program delivery and institutional growth. The following faculty members have joined the Tanner College of Dental Medicine

- **Dr. Ben Bartlett (Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology):**
Dr. Bartlett is a trained Oral and Maxillofacial Radiologist who completed a rigorous three-year residency program at UT Health San Antonio, where he also earned a Master of Science degree and served as Chief Resident during his final year. He earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, where he received the Junior Clinic Award for Excellence in Clinical Dentistry, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Texas. Prior to his academic appointment, he practiced as an associate dentist in Texas, gaining experience in comprehensive patient care, diagnostic imaging, and restorative procedures. His combined background in clinical dentistry, advanced radiologic training, and education positions him to contribute meaningfully to both student learning and patient care in an academic environment.
- **Dr. Emily Bowen (Associate Professor of Dental Public Health):**

Dr. Emily Bowen is a dental educator and public health leader who joined the University of Pikeville Tanner College of Dental Medicine in May 2026. She earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, a Master of Public Health from East Tennessee State University, and a Master of Arts in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education from Michigan State University. Dr. Bowen has contributed to research and statewide initiatives focused on oral health equity, workforce development, and public health, and has been selected for competitive leadership programs, including the National Rural Health Association Rural Health Fellowship and the Dental Public Health Leadership Academy. Her work reflects a strong commitment to expanding access to care and strengthening the healthcare workforce in underserved communities.

- **Dr. Sheila Brear (Associate Dean of Academic Affairs):**

Dr. Brear is a distinguished dental educator and academic leader with more than 35 years of experience in curriculum development, accreditation, and educational innovation. After earning a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (B.D.S.) from the London Hospital Medical College and completing advanced prosthodontics training at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), Dr. Brear went on to serve in senior leadership roles including Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at UCSF and California Northstate University, where she led CODA accreditation efforts, oversaw faculty development and budgets, and designed a comprehensive four-year DMD program from its inception. At the national level, Dr. Brear served as Chief Learning Officer and Senior Advisor with the American Dental Education Association, spearheading digital transformation initiatives and advancing educational technologies across dental institutions. A pioneer in digital dentistry and a proponent of data-driven and AI-enhanced learning, Dr. Brear has integrated CAD/CAM systems and innovative curricula into dental education while maintaining a strong commitment to interprofessional collaboration and improving access to care for underserved populations.

- **Dr. Ayesha Fahim (Associate Dean of Research)**

Dr. Ayesha Fahim is an accomplished oral biologist and dental educator with advanced training in Oral Biology and Medical Education. She brings nearly a decade of experience in research, teaching, academic leadership, and healthcare communication. Dr. Fahim holds a PhD in Oral Biology from the University of Malaya, a Master of Medical Education from the University of Lahore, an MPhil in Oral Biology, and a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the University of Health Sciences, Lahore. Her expertise spans oral microbiology, polymicrobial biofilm interactions, dental education assessment, curriculum development, and faculty training. Recognized through national awards and international presentations, she is also an experienced healthcare writer and policy reviewer who has contributed to the development and evaluation of scientific documents and institutional policies across multiple healthcare and academic organizations.

- **Dr. Anita Hale (Adjunct Clinical Faculty)**

Dr. Anita Hale joined the University of Pikeville Tanner College of Dental Medicine as an Adjunct Clinical Faculty Member, where she provides comprehensive dental care at the Pike County Health Department. In this role, she is dedicated to serving children who rely on Medicaid or who lack private insurance, addressing a critical need within the region and advancing access to care for underserved populations. Dr. Hale earned her undergraduate degree from Transylvania University and her Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) from the University of Louisville School of Dentistry. Prior to her academic appointment, she owned and operated a private dental practice in Floyd County, Kentucky, for more than four decades. Her extensive clinical experience and deep commitment to community-based care bring invaluable perspective and expertise to the Tanner College of Dental Medicine and its mission to improve oral health across Central Appalachia.

- **Dr. Karen Pruett (Director of Student Affairs of Academic Excellence):**

Dr. Karen Pruett is an accomplished higher education administrator and student affairs leader with more than two decades of experience across multiple institutions. She previously served as the Vice President for Student Development at Young Harris College, where she oversaw a comprehensive portfolio including counseling services, career and professional development, housing and residence life, student conduct, disability services, and campus safety. Dr. Pruett holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education Administration and a Master of Education in Community Agency Counseling from Auburn University, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Berry College. Her career reflects a sustained commitment to fostering student development, advancing institutional effectiveness, and supporting holistic student success within higher education.

- **Dr. Vickie Jones (Professor of Dental Hygiene):**

The University of Pikeville was pleased to welcome Dr. Vickie Jones, who joined the Tanner College of Dental Medicine in March 2026. This accomplished dental educator holds a Doctor of Health Science (DHSc) from Pacific University (2024), a Master of Science in Dental Hygiene from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (highest honors), a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from the University of Tennessee–Memphis (highest honors), and an Associate of Applied Science from Northeast Mississippi Community College. With more than 30 years of leadership experience across institutions, including the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Lincoln Memorial University College of Dental Medicine, and Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, she brings expertise in student affairs, faculty development, interprofessional education, curriculum and assessment, and accreditation. Dr. Jones has led multi-program academic and clinical operations. Her work includes developing quality assurance systems, advancing faculty development, and expanding interprofessional education and student support initiatives.

- **Dr. Brian Novy (Adjunct Faculty):**

Dr. Brian Novy, an internationally recognized expert in the field of cariology, has been appointed as an adjunct faculty member at the Tanner College of Dental Medicine, where he will contribute to the first-year curriculum by teaching a foundational course in cariology. In addition to this role, he holds an academic appointment at Harvard School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Novy previously served on the American Dental Association's Council on Scientific Affairs from 2010 to 2014 and, in 2016, was appointed as the consumer representative to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Dental Products Panel. He has authored numerous publications on cariology and dental materials in leading journals, including the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, *Journal of Dental Research*, and *Journal of Evidence-Based Dental Practice*, among others. His professional honors include the ADA Evidence-Based Practice Award, the ADA Adult Preventive Care Practice of the Year Award, the Dugoni Award, the Academy of General Dentistry Weclaw Award, and recognition as the 2024 Yankee Dental Congress Clinician of the Year. Dr. Novy maintains a clinical practice in Salem, Massachusetts.

- **Dr. Shree Singaravelu (Professor of Pharmacology):**

The University of Pikeville is pleased to welcome Dr. Shree Singaravelu to the Tanner College of Dental Medicine. Dr. Singaravelu is an experienced pharmacologist and medical educator with extensive academic training and international experience. She earned her MBBS from The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University (India), followed by an MD in Pharmacology at Annamalai University (India). She subsequently completed a PhD in Pharmacology at Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research (India), an MPhil in Health Professions Education at Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth (India), and a Master of Medical Education at the University of Dundee (United Kingdom). Dr. Singaravelu has joined the University of Pikeville Tanner College of Dental Medicine following her role as Professor and Chair of Pharmacology at Windsor University School of Medicine (West Indies), where she led curriculum development, assessment, and accreditation efforts while teaching a diverse international student body. Across these roles, she has contributed to curriculum innovation, simulation-based education,

pharmacovigilance initiatives, and research mentorship, demonstrating sustained leadership in pharmacology and health professions education.

- **Additional Hiring Updates:**

Many part-time pre-clinical faculty have joined the TCDM bringing a wealth of knowledge to the pre-clinical and clinical settings.

Student Updates:

- Student recruitment efforts for the cohort entering the TCDM in 2026 yielded 1,499 applications for 54 positions. Orientation begins on June 1, 2026, with classes beginning on June 8, 2026.

Research:

- The University of Pikeville Tanner College of Dental Medicine was named the recipient of a \$30,000 grant from the National Association of Dental Plans (NADP). This award supports the pilot project titled *“Bridging the Gap in Central Appalachia: Understanding and Addressing Barriers to Pediatric Dental Care Access Through Innovative Teledentistry Solutions.”* First-year TCDM students will participate in the project beginning in the Fall 2026 semester, with each student contributing fourteen hours of activity as part of their course *DEN 617B Introduction to Public Health and Research*. This integration provides students with practical experience in dental public health research and community engagement. The comprehensive findings from this mixed-methods study will be submitted for publication in the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*.

Scholarships:

- To date, \$427,000.00 in scholarship funding has been received for the dental students enrolled at the Tanner College of Dental Medicine, from a variety of charitable individuals and philanthropic organizations.

15. ANNUAL SESSIONS. Dr. Gina Davis gave a verbal report.

16. WORK GROUP REPORTS. Dr Rachel Gold gave the following report.

Workgroup Report to the Kentucky Dental Association Board

Recommendation for Comprehensive Evaluation of Professional Service Agreements and Documentation Practices

Purpose of Report

This report is submitted to recommend a comprehensive evaluation of third-party professional services utilized by the Association, including but not limited to landscaping, accounting, legal counsel, and other contracted vendors. The purpose of this evaluation is to strengthen accountability, improve transparency, ensure contractual clarity, and enhance organizational governance through updated agreements and improved documentation standards.

Executive Summary

The workgroup recommends that the Association undertake a formal review of all recurring vendor and professional service relationships to determine whether:

- Current contracts accurately reflect the scope of services being provided;
- Service expectations and deliverables are clearly documented;
- Existing agreements remain current and legally sufficient;
- Billing and invoicing practices align with contractual obligations; and
- Appropriate oversight and performance documentation are maintained.

The workgroup further recommends the implementation of standardized procedures for documenting vendor services, contract renewals, and performance evaluations.

Background

Professional service providers play an essential role in supporting the operations and long-term success of the Association. Over time, however, service arrangements may evolve informally without corresponding updates to written agreements or documentation practices.

Inconsistent documentation or outdated contracts can create:

- Unclear expectations regarding services;
- Potential duplication or gaps in responsibilities;
- Financial inefficiencies;
- Challenges in accountability and oversight; and
- Increased legal and operational risk.

As part of sound governance practices, periodic review of vendor relationships and service agreements is advisable to ensure alignment with the Association's operational and fiduciary responsibilities.

Areas Recommended for Evaluation

The workgroup recommends reviewing all ongoing vendor and professional service arrangements, including:

1. Landscaping and Property Maintenance Services

The current contract/agreement with our landscape provider was executed and signed in 2006. There has been a change in pricing since the execution of that contract, but there is no current documentation on file to reflect those changes.

Evaluation should include:

- Current scope of work;
- Seasonal and recurring maintenance obligations;
- Pricing structures and renewal terms;
- Documentation of completed services; and
- Verification of insurance and licensing requirements.

2. Accounting and Financial Services

The current budget for accounting services is \$20,000 for 2026. In 2025 we spent \$11,440. This appears consistent for the past few years. The invoice/statements received from the CPA do not provide clarity for what level of service we are receiving.

Evaluation should include:

- Scope of accounting, bookkeeping, audit, or consulting services;
- Clarity regarding reporting responsibilities and timelines;
- Internal controls and financial oversight procedures;
- Contract renewal and fee structures; and
- Documentation supporting work performed.

3. Legal Services and Attorney Engagements

In the first quarter of 2026, our engagement with legal counsel resulted in an expenditure that exceeded the adopted, annual budgeted amount by 700%. We have consistently under budgeted for legal fees in the past 3 years.

Evaluation should include:

- Engagement letter terms;
- Billing practices and authorization procedures;
- Defined legal responsibilities and limitations;
- Documentation of services rendered;
- Consideration of real legal costs in budget development; and
- Periodic review of ongoing legal needs and costs.

4. Additional Contracted Services

The same review principles should apply to:

- IT and technology vendors;
- Cleaning and maintenance providers;
- Marketing or communications contractors;
- Human resources consultants; and
- Any recurring professional service arrangements.

Recommendations

The workgroup respectfully recommends the following actions:

A. Conduct a Comprehensive Contract Review

The Association should inventory all current vendor and professional service agreements and determine:

- Whether written contracts exist;
- Whether agreements are current and signed;
- Whether terms remain appropriate for present operational needs; and
- Whether measurable deliverables are adequately defined.

B. Update and Standardize Service Agreements

Where appropriate, contracts should be revised to include:

- Clear scopes of work;
- Defined deliverables and timelines;
- Fee schedules and billing expectations;
- Renewal and termination provisions;
- Insurance and compliance requirements; and
- Documentation and reporting expectations.

C. Improve Documentation Standards

The Association should establish standardized procedures for documenting:

- Services provided;
- Dates of service completion;
- Vendor communications;
- Approval processes;
- Contract amendments; and
- Periodic performance evaluations.

D. Establish Periodic Review Procedures

The workgroup recommends scheduled reviews of all recurring service relationships on an annual or biennial basis to ensure continued effectiveness, competitiveness, and accountability.

Benefits of Implementation

Implementation of these recommendations may provide several organizational benefits, including:

- Increased transparency and accountability;
- Improved financial oversight;
- Better continuity of operations;
- Reduced legal and operational risk;
- More efficient vendor management; and
- Stronger governance practices consistent with nonprofit and professional association standards.

Conclusion

The workgroup believes that a structured evaluation of professional services and associated documentation practices would strengthen the operational integrity and governance framework of the Association. Updated

contracts, clearly defined expectations, and improved documentation procedures will support responsible stewardship of Association resources and promote long-term organizational effectiveness.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel E Gold, DMD

Minutes from Governance Work Group (Amended 5/4/2026)

Date: April 20th, 2026, 7:00 pm

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Ansley Depp. In attendance were Governance Work Group members, Ansley Depp, Darren Greenwell, and Jonathon Rich. Ex-officio members present were, Sam Shaver, Rachel Gold, Kate Von Lackum, Fred Howard and ED Steve Robertson.

Background was given by Dr. Depp regarding the purpose behind the General Assembly (here after referred to as GA); Election of Officers, Receives the President's report, hosts our Randall Marcus reception AND open to all KDA members. The KDA General Assembly has become mostly symbolic and not useful with very low attendance.

Background was given by Dr. Depp regarding the purpose of the House of Delegates (here after referred to as HOD); All other official reports given, all legislative processes for the KDA, and open to KDA delegates only. Dr. Greenwell gave his reasoning for bringing the resolution to the floor to dissolve the HOD.

1. We must coerce members to attend
2. The same people speak up and debate on the floor each year
3. The expense of the rooms for two days and microphones
4. Delegates must miss CE to attend
5. Delegates have to show up for two days.
6. The delegates we have need better education to be a functioning HOD

Dr. Depp mentioned our difficulty in meeting quorum and suggested that at the very least a resolution to address quorum needed to come out of this meeting.

Dr. Howard mentioned that the ADA is 25% of delegates and 25% of constituents represented. He also mentioned that the KDA is one of the only states, if not the only one that allows all members to elect officers. There was some discussion regarding other forms of governance including; Executive board with full decision making power, town halls, no HOD at all, and CA governance of a heavy-handed Executive Board with a minimal functioning HOD that has created a fragmented CDA.

We discussed the virtues of election of the officers taking place in HOD rather than GA. Members agreed on this.

We discussed electronic voting already in our bylaws. However, at this point, we elect officers in our GA, and that needs to be addressed.

Dr. Depp then brought forth to the group the discussion she and Steve had with New Mexico ED. Their HOD flows as follows:

1. 1st session of HOD –Virtual. At least 1 week before their annual meeting. During their 1st HOD they have most reports, most presentations, election of officers. This is all done virtually. Elections are announced here unless there is multiple running for one office. Then they may move that election to the live HOD.
2. Reference committee meets virtually between the 1st Virtual HOD and their annual meeting. Discussion is had, comments made. From that the staff, reference committee and speaker draft the resolutions to be brought to the floor of the HOD

3. New Mexico hold virtual caucuses of their societies. (We do not have that)
4. 2nd HOD is held live at the annual meeting. 9-12:00 pm. This is when the President of the ADA speaks and all resolutions are brought forward. The delegates vote on resolutions. Live elections are held if needed. All officers inducted at this HOD.

A SHAREPOINT site is used for all documents. This way the reference committee can see the changes as they happen. Makes communicating virtually much easier.

Dr. Howard mentioned that Missouri in our district does their HOD very similarly.

A short discussion was had on a “Virtual Town Hall” that would happen in April that would substitute for the GA for all members.

Dr. Depp brought forth testimony from delegate Neil Rush included in agenda.

All discussion was positive towards moving forward with a HOD concept similar to New Mexico.

Submitted Testimony: Delegate Neil Rush:

I think that keeping the House of Delegates at the annual KDA meeting ensures that their most important decisions are made in full view of the membership, with maximum participation, accountability, and alignment with current clinical and economic realities.

The annual meeting is the one time when the broadest cross-section of dentists is present—general dentists, specialists, new graduates, and the KDA leadership.

Delegates are informed by conversations with constituents

Issues discussed reflect current concerns

The meeting reduces the risk of decisions being perceived as made by a small group of insiders.

Holding the House during the annual meeting reinforces open governance.

- Members can observe, question, and understand decisions
- Builds trust in leadership, when membership is declining
- Avoids perception of “closed-door” decision-making

Combining governance with the annual meeting:

- Reduces travel burden and cost for delegates
- Increases likelihood of full delegate attendance
- Allows for more debate due to broader input

Younger dentists and emerging leaders attend the annual meeting far more than they would at standalone sessions.

- Exposure to the House will encourage future leadership
- Also encourages mentorship and continuity

The House of Delegates is the voice of Dentistry within the state.

- Holding it at the central gathering reinforces its importance
- Sends a message that governance is not separate from membership—it is owned by it
- We usually have a legislator recognized during the House

Maintaining the House of Delegates at the annual meeting is not about preserving a format—it is about ensuring that decisions are made where the profession is most present, informed, and engaged.

Action items:

- Dr. Depp and Dr. Robertson will talk to Missouri's ED to see how they structure theirs and will reach out to New Mexico to see by-laws.
- Change quorum for HOD to 25% of delegates and at least 50% of components represented
- Change membership committee from 5 up to 11 members

Add option of Virtual Town Hall with format given to Executive Board to decide.

- Adding Tanner College of Dentistry to our bylaws in multiple areas
- Pursue bylaw changes to eliminate GA, move voting for officers to the delegates and add bylaw changes to allow for a virtual HOD and reference committee.

The date of May 11, Monday at 7:00 pm was set to reconvene.

Meeting was adjourned by Dr. Depp at 7:47 pm

Report from the 2025 HOD Governance Work Group

The Governance Work Group was established following the 2025 House of Delegates after a motion by Delegate Darren Greenwell to dissolve the House of Delegates was defeated. President Sam Shaver appointed Ansley Depp as Chair, with Delegates Darren Greenwell, Jonathon Rich, and Matt Johnson serving as members of the work group.

The work group met on two occasions, and the minutes from the April 20 and May 11 meetings are included for review.

Following extensive discussion and evaluation, the work group concluded that the duties of the General Assembly could be effectively assimilated into the House of Delegates. This transition would move the election of officers and other ceremonial functions into the House of Delegates while continuing to preserve member participation in KDA governance through the delegate structure.

A significant focus of the discussion centered on the concept of a one-day House of Delegates. After Dr. Robertson and Dr. Depp met with the Executive Director of the New Mexico Dental Association to better understand their governance model, a proposal for a virtual first House of Delegates session and virtual Reference Committee meetings was presented to the Governance Work Group. Under this proposal, the second House of Delegates session would continue to be held during the Kentucky Meeting. This structure would allow greater member participation by reducing the need for delegates to sacrifice two full days of their weekend commitments. Additionally, it would provide delegates the opportunity to participate in Sunday continuing education programs, which historically has not been possible due to House of Delegates obligations.

The removal of the General Assembly requires a constitutional amendment and therefore must receive a unanimous vote for passage in 2026. Should the resolution to dissolve the General Assembly fail this year, it may be reintroduced at the 2027 House of Delegates, where it would require a two-thirds vote for adoption. Please note that any subsequent resolutions transferring General Assembly responsibilities to the House of Delegates would become moot if the constitutional amendment does not pass, though those resolutions could likewise be reconsidered in 2027.

With this background and recommendation, the Governance Work Group respectfully presents the following resolutions to the 2026 House of Delegates.

RESOLUTION 2026-1 (This will require a unanimous vote to pass this year)
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ELIMINATE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ORIGINATOR: Governance Work Group

BACKGROUND: The Kentucky Dental Association has evaluated its current governance structure and determined that consolidating the duties of the General Assembly within the House of Delegates will streamline governance operations, eliminate duplicative processes, and provide continuity in the conduct of Association business. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that ARTICLE V, Section 2 of the Constitution be deleted in its entirety, which currently reads: “SECTION 2. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. The General Assembly shall be composed of all members of the Association and shall function as provided in the Bylaws.”

And further resolved, that all references to “General Assembly” throughout the Constitution be replaced with “House of Delegates” where applicable.

RESOLUTION 2026-2 (2/3 after passage of resolution 1)

BYLAWS AMENDMENT TO TRANSFER GENERAL ASSEMBLY DUTIES TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ORIGINATOR: Governance Work Group

BACKGROUND: The Kentucky Dental Association has determined that the duties currently assigned to the General Assembly can be more efficiently administered through the House of Delegates. This amendment aligns the Bylaws with the proposed constitutional changes and provides continuity in Association operations. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Chapter IV of the Bylaws entitled “General Assembly” be deleted in its entirety.

And further resolved, that all references to “General Assembly” throughout the Bylaws be replaced with “House of Delegates” where applicable.

And further resolved, that the House of Delegates shall assume and perform all duties formerly assigned to the General Assembly, including but not limited to the election of officers and delegates to the American Dental Association, the William Marcus Randall event, and any ceremonial reports.

And further resolved, that all duties formerly listed under Chapter IV shall be incorporated into Chapter III of the Bylaws.

RESOLUTION 2026-3

ORIGINATOR: Governance Work Group

BACKGROUND: Advances in technology and evolving governance practices support the use of virtual and hybrid meetings to improve accessibility, participation, and continuity of Association business. Therefore, be it **RESOLVED**, that Chapter III, Section 5 of the Bylaws be amended to read:

“Meetings of the House of Delegates may be conducted in-person, virtually, or in a format as determined by the Executive Board. Participation by electronic means shall constitute presence for purposes of quorum and voting.”

And further resolved, that Chapter III, Section 12 of the Bylaws be amended to add:

“Reference Committees may conduct meetings and hearings in-person, virtually, or any other format as determined by the Executive Board. Participation by electronic means shall constitute presence.”

RESOLUTION 2026- 4

ORIGINATOR: Governance Work Group

BACKGROUND: The Kentucky Dental Association has reviewed the current quorum requirements for the House of Delegates and determined that revising the requirements will allow the Association to conduct business more efficiently while maintaining broad representation among the Component Societies. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Chapter III, Section 7 of the Bylaws be amended to delete the following language:

“Forty percent (40%) of the voting members... representing at least seven (7) component societies”

And further resolved, that the following language be inserted in its place:

“Twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting members of the House of Delegates, representing at least fifty percent (50%) of the Component Societies.”

RESOLUTION 2026- 5

ORIGINATOR: Governance Work Group

BACKGROUND: The Kentucky Dental Association has determined that increasing flexibility in the size of the Membership Committee will better accommodate member participation and allow the committee structure to adapt to the operational needs of the Association. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the language in the Bylaws stating:

“The Membership Committee shall consist of five (5) members.”

be amended to read:

“The Membership Committee shall consist of up to eleven (11) members.”

RESOLUTION 2026- 6

ORIGINATOR: Governance Work Group

BACKGROUND: Since the adoption of the current Constitution and Bylaws, the University of Pikeville Tanner College of Dental Medicine has become an accredited dental institution within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Kentucky Dental Association recognizes the importance of ensuring that all Kentucky dental schools are appropriately represented throughout the Association’s governing documents. Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that all references within the Constitution and Bylaws to the University of Louisville School of Dentistry and the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry be amended, where applicable, to additionally include the University of Pikeville Tanner College of Dental Medicine.

And further resolved, that any section of the Constitution or Bylaws referencing the dental schools of the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall be interpreted to include the University of Louisville School of Dentistry, the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry, and the University of Pikeville Tanner College of Dental Medicine.

RESOLUTION 2026- 7 (resolution 2026-1 must be voted on first to delete General Assembly. This takes place of chapter IV)

ORIGINATOR: Governance Work Group

BACKGROUND: The Kentucky Dental Association recognizes the importance of encouraging open communication and member engagement in the governance process of the Association. Establishing a Membership Forum prior to the Annual Meeting will provide members with an opportunity to discuss matters affecting the Association and the profession before formal business is conducted by the House of Delegates. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a new Chapter IV entitled “Membership Forum” be added to the Bylaws.

And further resolved, that Chapter IV shall read as follows:

MEMBERSHIP FORUM

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

The Membership Forum shall serve as an opportunity for the general membership of the Association to discuss matters affecting the Association and the profession.

SECTION 2. FORMAT.

The Membership Forum may be conducted in-person, virtually, or in a format as determined by the Executive Board.

SECTION 3. TIME OF MEETING.

The Executive Board shall determine the date and time of the Membership Forum, provided that the Forum shall be conducted no fewer than four (4) months prior to the Annual Meeting of the Association.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS. Dr. Darren Greenwell sent in the following report.

Kentucky Dental Association Executive Board Meeting

Date: May 30, 2026

Purpose

Over the past year, the Council on Governmental Affairs met to identify the Kentucky Dental Association's 2026 legislative priorities—those most likely to improve the practice environment for Kentucky dentists.

Key Topics Discussed

- Dental Loss Ratio (DLR)
- Medicaid reimbursement
- Clarifying language related to non-covered services
- Oral Preventive Assistant (OPA)
- Corporate ownership of dental practices

Decisions and Next Steps

- **DLR:** Executive leadership chose not to pursue DLR legislation this session.
- **OPA and corporate ownership:** The Kentucky Board of Dentistry will advance legislation addressing the Oral Preventive Assistant role and corporate ownership issues.

Background Materials

I have prepared the attached report summarizing dental-relevant legislation enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly and signed by the Governor during the 2026 legislative session. Also, we will continue to discuss and propose possible legislation for the coming years.

Respectfully

Darren Greenwell, DMD, FACD, FICD, FPFA, MAGD

Chair, Kentucky Dental Association Council on Governmental Affairs

2026 Kentucky HB 2, HB 500, and HB 776 all touch dentistry, but in very different ways: HB 2 restructures how Medicaid dental is administered, HB 500 is the two-year state budget that indirectly affects oral health infrastructure, and HB 776 is a direct overhaul of the Dental Practice Act and day-to-day practice rules.

Below is a concise, practice-oriented report focused on dentistry.

HB 2 (Acts Ch. 179): Medicaid and Dental Services

HB 2 is an omnibus Medicaid reform bill; its most important dental piece is a mandated shift of Medicaid dental from MCO-run networks to a standalone administrative services organization (ASO) model.

Key dental provisions:

- **ASO for Medicaid dental.**
HB 2 requires Medicaid-covered dental services to be administered by an ASO rather than bundled inside managed care, with the ASO handling administration but not taking on insurance risk. Compensation to the ASO is capped in the original version at no more than 2% of annual paid dental claims, though later substitutes adjust some of the implementation mechanics and timeline. A Dental Program Advisory Panel and a state Medicaid dental director position under KRS Chapter 313 are created to guide the program.
- **Timeline and transition (as modified by House Committee Substitute).**
The House Committee Substitute delays transition: it prohibits procurement of the dental ASO before January 1, 2028, and delays the actual switch to January 1, 2029, while still requiring DMS to employ a Medicaid dental director (licensed under KRS 313) by July 1, 2028. These changes are aimed at giving more time to design the network, quality metrics, and reimbursement methodology before abandoning the current MCO model.
- **Reporting and oversight.**
HB 2 requires DMS to submit an annual report on the Medicaid dental program to the Legislative Research Commission, covering utilization, cost, and program performance. It also directs LRC to build a healthcare transparency dashboard, which must track dental-program metrics among other Medicaid indicators.

Practical implications for a Kentucky dentist:

- Expect a major payer-side structural change around 2029, moving dental out of MCOs and into a single ASO with uniform rules, prior auth standards, and appeals processes.
- Advisory structures (dental director, advisory panel) give organized dentistry a clearer statutory channel to influence fees, covered services, and policy.
- In the near term (before 2028–2029) you remain under the existing MCO-based Medicaid dental arrangements, but should plan for contract and workflow changes as the ASO RFP process advances.

HB 500: State Budget and Indirect Dental Impacts

HB 500 is the main executive-branch budget bill (“AN ACT relating to appropriations measures”) for FY 2027–2028; it is not a dental bill, but it shapes the fiscal environment around oral health.

Headline features with dental relevance:

- **Overall spending posture.**
As filed, HB 500 reduces overall General Fund spending by about 2% in FY 2028 relative to FY 2026, while adding roughly \$75 million to the Department of Education but cutting many other cabinets and agencies, including higher education.
Advocacy analyses describe significant cuts or freezes to many service areas, including transportation for K-12 and child care, which can affect broader social determinants of oral health (access to school-based programs, community clinics, etc.).
- **State employee and retiree health costs.**
The bill caps employer contributions to the Kentucky Employees Health Plan, with the Personnel Cabinet warning this could drive up to a 78% increase in employee premiums by 2028 for state and local education workers.
While not dental-specific, higher health costs can crowd out funding for optional dental benefits and can reduce disposable income for public employees seeking elective dental care.
- **Education and workforce pipeline.**
HB 500 includes substantial cuts to postsecondary education (about \$187 million compared to FY 2026 levels), which may constrain funding capacity for public dental hygiene programs and allied-health training in state institutions.
It does not create major new, targeted state dental-workforce initiatives, so the main statutory support for dental scholarships/loan repayment is coming instead through HB 776's Board-controlled trust and agency funds (see below).

For a private dental/med-spa practice, HB 500 mostly operates in the background: it influences patient disposable income, local government capacity, and the educational pipeline, but does not directly change your licensure or billing rules.

HB 776: Kentucky Dental Practice Act Modernization

HB 776 is the core dentistry bill in 2026: it is “AN ACT relating to the practice of dentistry” and substantially revises KRS Chapter 313, effectively re-citing the chapter as the Kentucky Dental Practice Act.

Board of Dentistry, liability, and exams

- The bill requires the Kentucky Board of Dentistry to affiliate with all qualifying licensure examination organizations, not just a single testing body, to broaden exam options.
- It mandates that the Board purchase liability insurance for board members and staff for good-faith acts, which should make regulatory participation more sustainable.
- The Board is authorized to use trust and agency account funds for scholarships or education loan-repayment assistance to support individuals entering the dental field.

Hygienists: licensure classification and scope/supervision

- HB 776 changes hygienist licensure from “permissive” to **required** minimum classification licensure, tightening formal recognition of hygienists.

- It clarifies how a dental hygienist shall operate in a dental practice, including updated conditions for providing services, supervision standards, and allowable procedures.

Specific scope and supervision shifts (from statutory and secondary summaries):

- The law lifts a prior prohibition on hygienists making final impressions for dental restorations, allowing them to perform this function within defined practice parameters.
- Hygienists may now treat a patient without the supervising dentist physically present if the patient has been examined by that dentist within the last 11 months, extended from the previous 7-month requirement.
- Hygienists are expressly allowed to make radiographs on written order of a supervising dentist without the dentist being on-site, which formalizes more flexible radiography protocols.

Dental assistants, radiography, and telehealth

- HB 776 revises which services may be delegated to registered dental assistants and clarifies that assistants cannot perform hygiene services involving instrumentation to remove calculus and accretions from crowns and roots.
- It updates provisions around radiography, aligning assistant and hygienist radiograph-taking authority with current standards and supervision levels.
- Telehealth sections allow consent by a patient's legal representative during telehealth sessions and require informed consent and confidentiality protections consistent with federal law.

Ownership, "corporate dentistry," and clinical control

- The original version would have created new controls over who may hold "controlling ownership" in dental practices and over clinical settings, but House Floor Amendment 1 deleted the most restrictive controlling-ownership language.
- The final bill still creates a new section of KRS 313 establishing that licensed dentists must retain control over clinical settings and key clinical responsibilities such as diagnosis, treatment planning, and patient records.
- It prohibits dental practice entities that establish reimbursement rates or are not licensed dentists from controlling clinical decision-making, effectively taking aim at corporate dentistry models that intruded into clinical judgment.

At the same time, HB 776 preserves existing lawful ownership and contract arrangements and allows entities already controlling a dental practice under contract to continue doing so, while barring new or expanded entities of this type going forward.

Dental laboratories and employment

- The bill adds "direct employment provisions" for dental laboratories working in Kentucky, specifying that labs operating or doing business in the state must comply with certain employment and control requirements by licensed dentists.
- This is meant to tighten oversight of lab-fabricated devices while recognizing the modern, multi-state structure of many labs.

Enforcement and wellness

- The Law Enforcement Committee of the Board of Dentistry is authorized to offer agreed orders during complaint investigations, which can streamline case resolution.
- The Well-being Committee may enter into contractual agreements, giving it clearer authority to manage dentist assistance and monitoring programs for impairment or mental-health issues.

Branding the chapter

- HB 776 creates a new section allowing KRS Chapter 313 to be formally cited as the **Kentucky Dental Practice Act**, underscoring that this is a comprehensive framework statute for the profession.

Side-by-side: Dental-Relevant Features

Bill	Core subject	Dental impact type	Key dental provisions
HB 2 (Ch. 179)	Medicaid reform, appropriation, emergency	Payment & program structure	Moves Medicaid dental to an ASO model; creates Dental Program Advisory Panel and Medicaid dental director; mandates annual dental program reporting and inclusion in transparency dashboard; delayed transition to 2029 by House Substitute.
HB 500	Biennial state budget	Indirect environment	Sets overall funding, including cuts/freezes in many services and higher ed, potentially affecting dental workforce and patient economic conditions; caps employer health contributions, raising health costs for public workers.
HB 776	Dental Practice Act modernization	Direct practice regulation	Revises KRS 313: broadens Board’s exam affiliations; mandates board liability insurance; expands hygienist scope and supervision flexibility; updates assistant delegable duties and radiography; codifies dentist control over clinical decisions; regulates existing vs new corporate entities; authorizes scholarships/loan repayment; modernizes telehealth and lab requirements.

TAC REPORT. Dr BJ Millay presented the following report.

(most recent meeting 5.8.26)

I was unable to attend the meeting due to family emergency. Dr. Petrey was gracious to take the lead for the meeting.

Continue to discuss issues with Foster Children and AETNA SKY program. At this time, the contract has been established. No matter what issues exist, the state informed that contractually would take a long time to see any changes. So, any existing problems such as network and adequacy have to be met by the MCO. Once again to leaving MCO to dictate rules for remainder of contract. Aetna representatives noted that network adequacy remains under active monitoring, that recruitment efforts are ongoing, and that direct communication with DMS on this issue is continuing.

State does desire specific examples regarding network inadequacy across the board. Especially for foster children. So anyone knowing foster kids, case managers, foster parents having issues, please let us know so we can get those to the Managed Care Organization Branch. It will probably be easiest to send those directly to state at dmsweb@ky.gov or via the Kentucky Ombudsman at kyombud@ky.gov. At this time, I don't have a specific individual.

I do feel compelled to say that while we have been quite brutal to SKYGEN. A lot of these issues are not directly fault of SKYGEN. They overall have been open and willing to work with the TAC for the time being. Several issues are due to MCO jumping subcontractors.

The issue of jumping subcontractors is finally being recognized by DMS. However, the contracts to my knowledge has minimal stipulations for DMS oversight at this time.

Big wins with HB500 and HB2 create new discussion and tight time frame issues for the TAC. However, we are working diligently on this matter. We have received some data regarding information being requested. Hopefully this will help the TAC manage to develop a new fee schedule with input from other stake holders. At this time, the TAC is working to compose data. Special thanks to Dr. Petrey for his work in that area thus far.

TAC is also performing informal meetings with DMS. Hopefully this permits to head off issues, get questions answered, and provide continued feedback in developing relationships between TAC members and DMS. We are planning monthly meetings at this time.

The unofficial TAC minutes have just been released for member review. I can forward to anyone who would like to read the 70 plus pages once minutes approved. You can also watch the meeting online via youtube. Please be advised that TAC meetings are open to anyone that wishes to attend. However, please be aware that you are on public record and being recorded.

Please feel free to reach out with Medicaid issues at anytime.

Respectfully submitted.

Robert Millay, DMD
TAC Chair

Component Reports.

Louisville Dental Society Representative Report to the Kentucky Dental Association

Prepared by: Dr. Paul T. Lavelle, LDS Representative to KDA

Louisville Dental Society Continuing Education Programs

March 16, 2026 – Captain's Quarters

Speaker: Dr. Mark Bernstein Topic: "Forensic Dental Identifications – What Practicing Dentists Need to Know"

Dr. Bernstein presented an informative program regarding the role of dentists in forensic identification and disaster response situations. The presentation highlighted practical applications for the practicing dentist and emphasized the importance of accurate dental records in forensic investigations.

April 23, 2026 – Audubon Country Club

Speaker: Kristina Johnson, Executive Coach with Fortune Topic: Leadership and Professional Development Ms. Johnson provided an engaging presentation focused on leadership development, communication skills, and strategies for enhancing effectiveness within dental practices and professional organizations.

Free Dental Clinic Dates

The Louisville Dental Society continues its commitment to community outreach through Free Dental Clinic days. The following dates were scheduled for Spring 2026:

March 7 and 21

April 4 and 11

May 16 and 30

These clinics provide essential dental care services to underserved populations in the Louisville area.

Additional Activities

LDS successfully hosted a Meet and Greet Hygienist Event on February 16, 2026.

A New Dentist Event was also held on February 26, 2026, aimed at engaging and supporting earlycareer professionals.

Louisville Dental Society Board Meeting – May 12, 2026

The Louisville Dental Society held its board meeting on May 12, 2026. Dr. Steve Robertson, Executive Director of the Kentucky Dental Association, addressed the board and discussed the legislative successes achieved by the KDA during the 2026 Kentucky legislative session.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul T Lavelle DMD

Southeastern Dental Society Component Report

The Southeastern component met on April 23, 2026 at 6:30 pm at Shiloh Steakhouse. We had Dr. Shea Cheuvront speaking to us about commonly asked endodontic questions. He has an endodontic clinic in Somerset called Lake Cumberland Endodontics. The meeting was moderately well attended and we had two future dental students in attendance as well. Those in attendance enjoyed the presentation enjoyed fellowship with colleagues. We hope to have another meeting in the summer/early fall.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaitlyn Patel, DMD

Also, in regards to the NKY update - we are into our summer and there are not any events planned for the next few months.

- The NKDS is planning some fall CE on Medical Emergencies, Insurance Coding, General HR on September 15th - Speaker Charlie Vance;
- T.I.P.S for successful insurance coding strategies - Oct. 20th - Speaker Kay Huff
- Medical Emergencies - Nov. 17th - Speaker Dr. Ted Raybould

9. NEW BUSINESS.

Dr. Kate vonLackum moved to extend the current KDA Executive Director's employment contract for another three years.

Dr. Laura Hancock Jones second the motion.

MOTION: ACCEPTED.

10. FUTURE KDA BOARD MEETINGS. The next KDA Board meeting will be August 20, 2026 3:00 PM.

11. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kevin Wall
Secretary/Treasurer