



## September 2024 Newsletter

*Our mission is to promote and protect public health and safety; and ensure that every licensed dental professional practicing in the state meets the requirements for safe, competent and ethical practice.*

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**BRIDGETT ANDERSON,**  
MBA

Greetings,

I hope that all of you are enjoying the last days of summer! I always enjoy the summers here and love being outdoors. Camping, kayaking, swimming at the lake... some of my favorite things.

We are so proud of our achievements this year, both legislatively and via our administrative rulemaking process. Minnesota Board of Dentistry has been applauded for “firsts” in the past, for instance with dental therapy and pathways for internationally trained dentists. Now, fast forward, and we are the first state in the nation to allow dental assistants to pursue local anesthesia certification, after appropriate training, examination, and application. If you are a dental assistant interested in pursuing this, please reach out with any questions. We continue to see a drastic increase in limited radiology registrants throughout the state as well, exhibiting success with policy changes in this area.

I am pleased to announce that I will be serving as the Commissioner for Minnesota on the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Commission. This is also another first, as the compact has been legislatively enacted in ten states already, Minnesota being one of them. The dentist and dental hygiene interstate license compact is in the early stages of being established now that legislation has been enacted in over seven states. The next steps are working on bylaws and rules of the Commission, establishing data infrastructure, budget, and fee structure for participating states. I have been part of the project from the first discussions years ago and I am humbled to serve in this role. [DDH Compact](#)

Throughout the year, I have also had the pleasure of working with the Dental Assisting National Board as a member of the Dental Assisting Professional Model Workgroup. This is a group charged to make recommendations on maintaining integrity of the profession, address the delicate balance of public safety, consider patient access to care, and identify undue barriers to entry into the dental assisting profession.

It is an exciting time for dentistry and the allied dental professions.

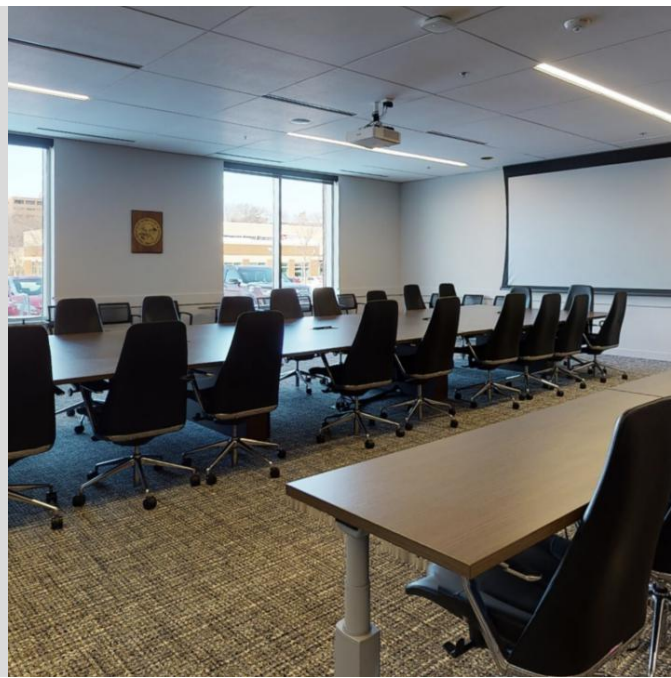
As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to me at [bridgett.anderson@state.mn.us](mailto:bridgett.anderson@state.mn.us)

In the service of health,  
Bridgett Anderson  
Executive Director

### APPLICATIONS TO SERVE ON THE Board of Dentistry

After almost eight years, and after two consecutive terms, Dr. Angie Rake and Dr. Hassan Ismail will have their positions open for applications to serve on the Board starting in November 2024. The appointment date will generally fall in January or February 2025. If you have interest in serving on the Board as a **DENTIST** member, please contact [bridgett.anderson@state.mn.us](mailto:bridgett.anderson@state.mn.us) for more information. Terms on the Board are four years and members can serve up to 8 years if they are chosen for reappointment. To apply, visit <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/boards-commissions/>

**Dr. Rake and Dr. Ismail, the Board is better for you two having served on it and both taking the responsibility and role of serving as Board President. THANK YOU!**



## STAFF INTRODUCTION

My name is Kara Kraemer, and I am the newest member of the team at the Minnesota Board of Dentistry. I am new to the role of Board Investigator for the Practitioner Review Division. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Forensic Science. I also have years of previous experience in being an Investigator. My last role was as a Death Investigator for the Medical Examiner's Office.

One of the major roles in my investigator history has been Case Management, where I completed 5,078 cases in 5 years. I continue to have a strong passion for helping people. Part of this passion has extended into learning effective communication skills and using those tools in everyday communication with others.

On a more personal note, I enjoy anything to do with true crime and Psychology.



## License Certificate Printing Update



The Minnesota Board of Dentistry continues to experience random print malfunctions and some cards have been delayed. If you do not receive your license certificate by September 20th (for certificates requested in prior months), please email the Board to request assistance.

- At this time, licensees who do not display a current renewal certificate (3.5 inch X 4.5 inch card) are not in violation of Statute 150A.06 Subd.6 (Display of Name and Certificate) The Board will announce a date when the display requirement will resume after the print issue has been resolved.
- Individuals may contact the Board of Dentistry by emailing [dental.board@state.mn.us](mailto:dental.board@state.mn.us) for assistance and please reference a license number. You are requested to email as opposed to calling to document the request.

## Specialty Referrals

The Board does not have specific recordkeeping rules that regulate specialty referrals; how they are done, details to include, follow through, etc. However, we rely on the standard of care in the dental profession when considering the appropriateness, details, and relationships that go along with referrals and the preservation of continuity of care. Click the link below for a helpful resource for providers on specialty referrals.

[Referrals: What You Need to Know](#)





# Navigating Sobriety in the Dental Profession

## Building a Supportive Community

Sobriety is a challenging journey for anyone, regardless of their profession. In the dental industry, where the pressures of patient care, precision, and maintaining professional standards are high, the battle with addiction can be particularly daunting. Dental professionals, including dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, and others, often face unique stressors that can lead to substance abuse. Unfortunately, the support systems available to these professionals are often limited, leaving many feeling isolated in their struggle. This is where initiatives like Sober Life Rocks play a crucial role, offering a much-needed lifeline to those in the dental field seeking sobriety.

## The Unique Challenges Faced by Dental Professionals

Dental professionals are entrusted with the health and well-being of their patients, a responsibility that can be both rewarding and overwhelming. The demands of running a practice, meeting patient expectations, and staying up to date with evolving techniques and technologies create a high-stress environment. For some, the pressure to perform flawlessly day after day can lead to burnout, anxiety, and ultimately, substance abuse as a coping mechanism.

Consider a dentist who juggles a full schedule of patients, manages a team, and ensures that their practice meets all regulatory requirements. The constant need to deliver results can be mentally and physically exhausting, pushing some to seek relief through alcohol or drugs. Similarly, a dental hygienist who spends long hours focused on patient care may turn to substances to unwind after a demanding day. These scenarios are not uncommon, yet the challenges faced by dental professionals in maintaining sobriety are often underrecognized.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



## On the Go

Minnesota Board of Dentistry President [Dr. Angie Rake](#) and Dr. Bobby McNeill share an important message on "Breaking the Stigma: A Candid Conversation on Substance Use Disorders" in this recent AAOMS On the Go Podcast.

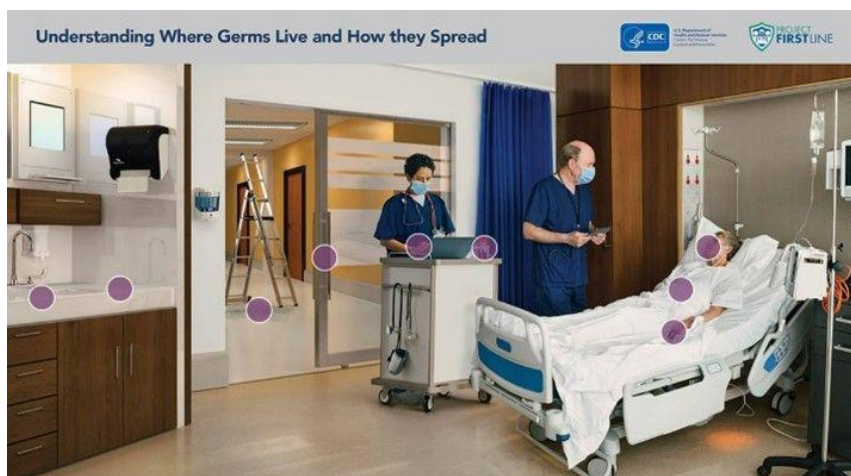


[Play Episode](#)

# Register for MDH Project Firstline Trainings



Check your infection prevention and control knowledge and gain valuable feedback in real time with our interactive educational resources. When you know how to recognize infection control risks and understand how to apply solutions, you can save patient's lives. Project Firstline has interactive resources to help you increase and test your infection control knowledge no matter your healthcare setting. Explore [CDC Where Germs Live in Healthcare Interactive Infographic](#).



## View Now: Where Germs Live in Health Care

Complete the registration form to view the 35-minute recorded training now. After viewing, submit the feedback form to receive proof of attendance. [Register here for Project Firstline Table Talk: Where Germs Live in Health Care](#)

## Project Firstline Printable Resource

[Germs live in water and wet surfaces \(PDF\)](#)

Stay up-to-date with Project Firstline by [subscribing to our mailing list](#).

Website: Project Firstline ([health.mn.gov/projectfirstline](http://health.mn.gov/projectfirstline))

Email: [Project.Firstline.MDH@state.mn.us](mailto:Project.Firstline.MDH@state.mn.us)

Social Media: [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)



## Provider Identification

Providers are required to identify themselves to patients by displaying their name on their uniform or a badge/ nametag that indicates by words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia the profession or occupation of the individual.

Providers are also required to identify themselves on clinic websites, even if they are utilizing a Business name, Dental Service Organization, or Professional Firm name for the clinic as a whole.





# Ten Minutes to Save a Life



The goal of the Ten Minutes Saves a Life ADSA Anesthesia Research Foundation initiative is to optimize patient safety and outcomes in office medical emergencies. This program supports crisis resource management team training in the use of emergency drugs and equipment during the critical ten-minute interval between recognition of a patient’s medical emergency and arrival of EMS (emergency medical services) personnel. Practitioners should be familiar with the suggested emergency drugs/equipment and have them immediately available.

[Download the no cost app here](#)

[Click here](#) to view disciplinary actions.



## Contact Us



[www.mn.gov/boards/dentistry](http://www.mn.gov/boards/dentistry)



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