Task Force on Auxiliary Utilization and Access to Care
2015 Annual Report

History of Task Force Activities
In 2012, the ODA House of Delegates approved a series of legislative recommendations from the Task Force on Auxiliary Utilization and Access to Care to improve access to care. Based off of those approved recommendations by the House of Delegates, the task force developed a document, “Access to Care: Blueprint for Success — Legislative Initiatives,” which was designed for and was distributed to state legislators that outlined the ODA’s proposed legislative initiatives to improve access to dental care through delivery system enhancements, workforce development, and educational outreach.

In January 2014, the task force met and oversaw the drafting of legislation for Representative Terry Johnson that included the ODA’s recommendations from the ODA’s document “Access to Care: Blueprint for Success — Legislative Initiatives.” Representative Johnson introduced the legislation, House Bill 463, to the Ohio House of Representatives in April 2014. In June of 2014, House Bill 463 unanimously passed the Ohio House of Representatives by a 95 – 0 vote.

Task Force Activities since 2014 ODA House of Delegates
Following the close of the 2014 ODA House of Delegates, ODA president Dr. Tom Paumier reappointed the ODA’s Task Force on Auxiliary Utilization and Access to Care for the 2014-15 term. On December 3, 2014, ODA executive director David Owsiany and past president and task force member Dr. Paul Casamassimo testified in favor of House Bill 463 at a hearing of the Senate Medicaid, Health and Human Services Committee. They explained the process the Task Force went through to develop the recommendations that became many of the provisions contained in House Bill 463 and how those provisions will enhance dentistry in Ohio and improve access to dental care. On December 10, 2014, the Ohio Senate passed House Bill 463 by a 32 – 0 vote, and on December 19, 2014, Governor John Kasich signed House Bill 463 into law. The provisions of the bill went into effect on March 23, 2015.

House Bill 463 makes several changes to Ohio’s dental laws, including the following:

- Allows up to 4 dental hygienists to work under the direct supervision (i.e., while the dentist is physically present in the office) of a single dentist
- Extends the time period in which a dental hygienist may provide services to a patient under general supervision (i.e., when the dentist is not physically present in the office) to one year from the last examination by the dentist, instead of 7 months
- Allows a dental hygienist to apply fluoride varnish, desensitizing agents and nutritional guidance in any location, without a prior examination by the supervising dentist
- Makes reforms to the oral health access supervision program to facilitate new outreach opportunities for dentists and their hygienists
- Under certain circumstances, allows EFDA(s) to perform the application of sealants, topical fluoride, fluoride varnish, disclosing solutions, desensitizing agents, caries susceptibility testing, oral hygiene home care and re-cementation of temporary crowns and re-cementation of permanent crowns with temporary cement on patients of record without a dentist being physically present in the facility
- Under certain circumstances, allows CDAs to perform the application of sealants, fluoride varnish, disclosing solutions, desensitizing agents, caries susceptibility testing, oral hygiene home care and re-cementation of temporary crowns and re-cementation of permanent crowns with temporary cement on patients of record without a dentist being physically present in the facility
- Allows school-based sealant programs to utilize EFDAs and CDAs
- Allows dental assistant radiographers to take X-rays without the dentist being physically present, provided certain parameters are met
- Doubles the capacity of the Ohio Dentist Loan Repayment Program
• Creates the Ohio Dental Hygienist Loan Repayment Program
• Creates an alternative pathway to dental licensure by allowing a candidate to complete an accredited dental residency program (PGY1) in lieu of taking a regional clinical exam
• Creates a temporary volunteer dentist and dental hygiene license
• Creates the Medicaid Payment Rates for Dental Services Study Workgroup
• Adds dental education to the Choose Ohio First STEMM Scholarship program

The Task Force met on June 26, 2015, to monitor implementation of the provisions of House Bill 463 and identify future issues to be considered. The Task Force identified the following issues for future consideration: expanded use of tele-dentistry, care coordination, EFDA utilization and Community Dental Health Coordinators.

2014-2015 Task Force on Auxiliary Utilization and Access to Care Roster
Dr. Henry Fields, chair
Dr. Mark Bronson
Dr. Paul Casamassimo
Dr. Kim Gardner
Dr. Michael Halasz
Dr. Thomas Paumier

Respectfully Submitted,

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Chair, Task Force on Auxiliary Utilization and Access to Care