

SOUTH DAKOTA

Kevin Horner, President

Scott Wenande, President-Elect

Keri Barrow, Secretary/Treasurer

My name is Dr. **Keri Barrow**, and I have accepted the South Dakota MSO director's position previously held by Dr. **John Kharouf**. Thanks to John for his service to the MSO. I have been in practice with my father, Dr. **Kevin Horner**, in Sioux Falls for eight years. I look forward to filling this position to the best of my abilities.

SDSO Business:

The South Dakota Society of Orthodontists (SDSO) will hold their 2019 annual meeting in conjunction with the North Dakota Society of Orthodontists CE course scheduled for March 29, 2019 in Fargo. The CE course titled, *Sagittal First: The New Movement in Orthodontics* will feature speaker Dr. **Mike Ragan** from Dallas, Texas. He will present on how using the Carriere Motion 3D appliances can correct the AP dimension, reposition the mandible and reduce over-all treatment time.

2019 South Dakota Dental Association (SDDA) Legislative Issues:

Senate Bill 37 – Association Health Plans

This bill amends existing state law regarding group health insurance in order to allow health insurers to offer a health benefit plan through an association. The bill also allows an association to sponsor a "multiple employer trust" to provide members with a health benefit plan. This bill presents an opportunity for the SDDA to offer a health benefit plan to its members and is supported by the SDDA. It is awaiting the Governor's signature.

Senate Bill 62 – Use certain general funds to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates

This bill requires that 80% of the funds available from savings resulting from "coordinated care agreements" be used to increase reimbursement to Medicaid providers or to fund innovations in Medicaid. This bill failed on the Senate floor.

Senate Bill 137 – Payment of claims for tele-health

This bill requires insurance payment parity for services provided via tele-health. It proposes to ensure that services provided via tele-health are reimbursed as if the services were provided in person. Currently, dental insurance is one of the several types of insurance exempted from the requirements. The SDDA amended the bill to remove dental from the list of insurances exempted in hopes to prohibit attempts by insurance companies to not pay for tele-dentistry services. The bill is awaiting hearing by the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Senate Bill 136 – Utilization of tele-health by health care professionals

This bill provides the parameters under which tele-health may be used. It was supported by the SDDA and is to be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee.

House Bill 1116 – Prohibit health examinations and screenings in schools without parental consent

This bill would prohibit examinations and screenings without written consent. Routine consent given at the start of the school year would not suffice. The SDDA's requests amendment to this bill to exclude dental exams. Without this amendment the bill would have impacted dental screenings conducted in schools by our volunteers as well as screenings by hygienist's work for the Delta Dental Foundation. The bill received a tied vote in the House of Education Committee and is up for reconsideration.

House Bill 1229 – Require the “optional services” through Medicaid to be authorized through special appropriation

This bill would require that all “optional” Medicaid programs be funded annually through a special appropriation rather than through the Governor's budget. There are many “optional” Medicaid services available. The SDDA amended the bill to limit the bill's effects on “optional” dental Medicaid programs. The bill will be heard in the House.

House Bill 1262 – Reimburse certain family dentists who have complied with the requirements of the tuition reimbursement program.

Through this bill the Department of Health requests funding for the dentists participating in the Tuition Reimbursement program. The SDDA supports this bill, and it has been assigned for review by the Joint Appropriations Committee

Budget – Medicaid Provider Reimbursements

Medicaid funding is included in the bill that funds the general operations of the State Government including the Department of Social Services and Medicaid. The Governor has included at 2.5% increase to the Medicaid provider reimbursements for FY 2020. Moreover, the Governor has included one-time money in the 2019 budget to increase provider reimbursements beginning in April 2019. This funding change will be discussed in the appropriations committee when the Department of Social Services present their budget proposal.

Keri Barrow
keri.barrow@gmail.com

605-376-8191