



news bites

the FDA's official e-newsletter



NORTHEAST
DISTRICT DENTAL ASSOCIATION
A COMPONENT OF THE
AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

JULY 2025

► NORTHEAST DISTRICT DENTAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Sarah Hagerty

Greetings, Northeast Dental Colleagues!

It's hard to believe summer is already here! While many of us enjoy the sunshine, I know some are already looking forward to the cooler air that football season brings.

Over the past year, the Florida Dental Association (FDA) has worked diligently to support legislation aimed at preserving community water fluoridation — an essential tool in caries prevention. It's been a challenging road, and now, more than ever, we must continue educating our patients on the importance of oral hygiene and other methods of cavity prevention.

A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated members of our community who participated in **Dentists' Day on the Hill**. Your advocacy matters! Please consider joining us next year on **Jan. 27, 2026**. Your voice can make a difference.

The **Florida Dental Convention (FDC)** in Orlando (June 19–22) was a tremendous success! Many hands-on workshops and continuing education (CE) courses sold out quickly. From “Dueling Pianos” to “The Big Easy Bash,” this year's event reminded us why we “Come for the CE and stay for the fun.”™

Please note: The Florida Department of Health now requires fingerprinting and background screening for all dentists and hygienists. This must be completed by your license renewal deadline of **Feb. 28, 2026**. Going forward, this process will be required every five years.

To help meet this requirement, **digital fingerprinting will be available at our upcoming Northeast District Dental Association (NEDDA) CE Fall Event on Sept. 12, in Jacksonville.** This event will include CE courses required for biennium renewal, including prescribing controlled substances and medical errors (a total of four CE credits). Stay tuned for more details.

If you're not already involved with your local affiliate dental society, I encourage you to join the **Clay County Dental Society** or the **Jacksonville Dental Society (JDS)**— a great way to connect and stay engaged.

Looking ahead, I hope everyone can mark their calendars for the 2026 **Florida Mission of Mercy (FLA-MOM)**, which we're excited to host at the Prime Osborn Convention Center **May 15–16, 2026**. A big thank you in advance to our chairs Drs. **Bethany Douglas** and **Tom Brown**.

Wishing you all a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Warm regards,
NEDDA President Sarah Hagerty, DMD

N O R T H E A S T

DISTRICT DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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Presents the Fall Continuing Education Course 2025

SECURE YOUR LICENSE RENEWAL!

- ☀ *Enjoy complimentary breakfast and beverages.*
- ☀ *Network with colleagues.*
- ☀ Also available for registrants only:
*On-site Digital Fingerprinting
(Discounted for attendees at \$95)*

Date: Friday, September 12,
2025

Time: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
(Registration opens at 7:30 AM)

NEDDA Business Meeting

Location: Marriott Jacksonville
4670 Salisbury Road, 32256

Cost (per person):

NEDDA Members: \$50

Non-Members: \$150

Don't miss this opportunity
to complete two required
CE courses in one morning.

4 CE

Topics include:

- ☀ ***Prescribing Controlled Substances*** ~ Presented by
Dr. Jason Portnof
- ☀ ***Medical Errors*** ~ Presented
by **Ms. Nichole Pieters,**
The Doctors Company

*This event is exclusively for dentists.
Space is limited and expected to fill
quickly.*

*Reserve your spot today! Scan the QR
code below or click on the link to register.*



REGISTER

► JACKSONVILLE DENTAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Laura Weaver

Dear Colleagues,

As a Jacksonville native, it's a true privilege to serve as President of JDS. Having grown up in this community, it's incredibly meaningful to now give back and represent the local dental professionals who make this area so strong.

I recently attended the FDC and was proud to see such great representation from our region. It was a wonderful reminder of how engaged and supportive our NEDDA truly is.

As we look ahead, I'm excited about the CE opportunities we have planned. If you live or practice in the Jacksonville area and haven't yet connected with our local society, I encourage you to get involved. It's a great way to stay engaged, grow professionally and build relationships with your colleagues right here at home.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to a great year together.

Warm regards,
JDS President Laura Weaver, DDS

► NEDDA TRUSTEE REPORT



Dr. Tom Brown

Friends and colleagues,

Judging by the thermometer and lack of school buses during the commute to and from work, summer is here! I hope everyone is well and that your air conditioners are working well.

One of the biggest highlights every summer is FDC at the Gaylord Palms, which was held this year from June 19 to 21. Attendance was once again up compared to the previous year, and our exhibit hall was completely sold out thanks to our amazing conventions team at the FDA and the volunteers who helped out as well. Mark your calendars for next year's meeting: June 25-27, 2026.

At our May meeting in Tallahassee, the Board reviewed and passed the 2025-2026 budget. The previous year, the Board approved a \$30 dues decrease for members and this year approved no increase in dues. We are able to do this for the membership, despite a rising cost environment, without sacrificing the tremendous value provided by the FDA, thanks to our strong non-dues revenue provided by FDA Services (FDAS). If you don't already use FDAS for your mal-practice and office insurance needs, please contact them to help support organized dentistry.

The Board also heard a presentation from the leadership of the Larkin School of Dental Medicine, a new school working to earn accreditation. The school will be located in the Orlando area and is expected to enroll approximately 90 dental students. They do not plan to enroll students until accreditation is achieved.

Fluoride was a hot topic during the legislative session, and if you are not aware, **SB 700** was signed by the governor and will prohibit local governments from adding fluoride to their water supply effective July 1. Many hours were spent advocating for a decades-long, safe, scientifically supported prevention measure. Sometimes there are fights you can't win, unfortunately. We will continue to advocate for community water fluoridation and will now also need to focus on advocating for support to address the consequences that are yet to come from this decision.

I am happy to announce that the 2026 *FLA-MOM* will be hosted in Jacksonville, May 15-16, at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. This marks the third time *FLA-MOM* will be held in Jacksonville. Dr. **Bethany Douglas** (who was just awarded Dentist

(Continued on page 4)

► NEDDA TRUSTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)

of the Year at FDC!) and I will be the co-chairs. Pre-registration is open at flamom.org. Sign up early to increase the chances of getting your preferred volunteer shift. You can also make a donation to show your support!

The NEDDA is well-represented on the Board of Trustees. In addition to myself, Dr. Douglas serves as a trustee, and Dr. **Dan Gesek** serves as President-elect. We are available to listen to any concerns you may have; reach out to us. Please contact me if you are interested in serving in leadership at the local or state level. My email address is tbrown@bot.floridadental.org.

The Board will meet next Aug. 14-16 in Atlantic Beach for our annual strategic planning retreat and meeting.

Respectfully,
FDA Trustee Tom Brown, DMD, MS

► NEDDA 2025 FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION AWARD WINNERS



Dr. Bethany Douglas celebrates her Dentist of the Year award with family and team members.

Dr. Bethany Douglas Named Dentist of the Year

Dr. Douglas is a dedicated advocate for organized dentistry and has served in numerous leadership roles that have helped amplify the message of dental professionals at the local, state and national levels.

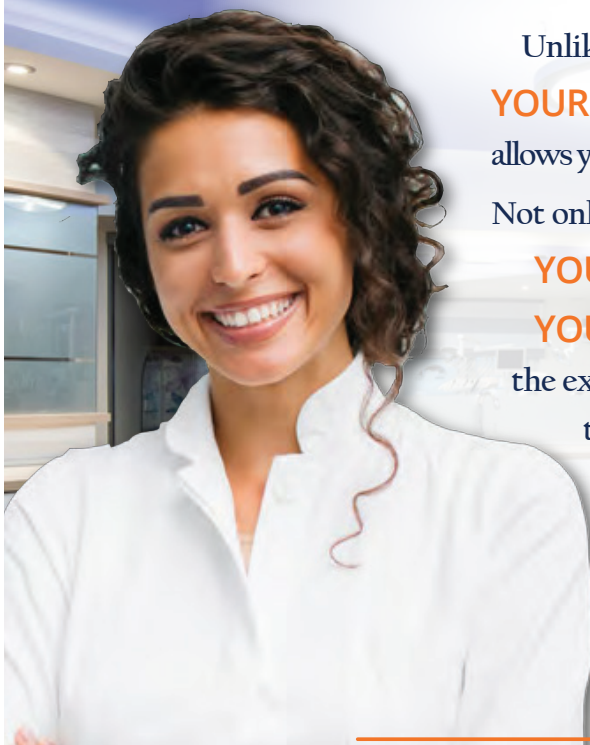
During her time as NEDDA President, Dr. Douglas stepped up, extending her term for another year when unexpected circumstances arose. Now, as Immediate Past President, she continues her leadership journey as NEDDA's representative on the FDA Board of Trustees and in serving on the 17th Delegation to the American Dental Association (ADA).

She is an associate endodontist in St. Augustine and somehow finds time to raise four young children with her husband, balancing family, career and community with impressive poise.

Dr. Douglas will co-chair the 2026 *FLA-MOM* in Jacksonville, joining Dr. Brown to deliver essential dental care to underserved communities May 15–16, 2026.

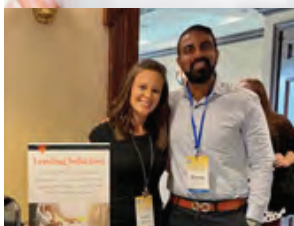
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~ Dr. Darshan Patel, Florida ”



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Dr. Tom Brown Honored with Special Recognition Award

The FDA named Dr. Tom Brown as the recipient of its Special Recognition Award, honoring his impactful contributions to organized dentistry and patient care. Dr. Brown serves as a Trustee of the FDA, a Delegate to the American Dental Association (ADA) and Chair of the Reference Committee on Dental Education. His leadership on the ADA Task Force, which evaluated the Association's business model, led to the creation of the Strategic Forecasting Committee — an initiative now central to enhancing organizational efficiency and long-range planning.

Dr. Brown has been appointed co-chair of the 2026 *FLA-MOM*, joining fellow award recipient Dr. Douglas to bring the event to Jacksonville, where they will assist in delivering vital dental care to those in need May 15–16, 2026.

Outside of his leadership roles and private endodontic practice in Orange Park, Dr. Brown enjoys spending time with his wife, Taylor, and their two young daughters.



Dr. Tom Brown celebrates his FDA award with his family.



Then-FDA President Dr. Jeff Ottley (now immediate past president) with Dr. Tom Brown.

Leadership is the bridge between vision and impact — thank you to those who help shape the future of dentistry.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the **NEDDA Executive Council, FDA Delegation and our Committee and Council representatives**. Their commitment ensures NEDDA's voice is heard in Tallahassee and Washington, and their efforts help protect and advance the dental profession.

Thank You

NEDDA draws its strength from members who step forward to lead and serve with purpose. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Council, ADA/FDA Delegation, or one of the many FDA Committees and Councils we participate in, please contact NEDDA Executive Director Debbie DeVille at ddeville@nedda.org.

2025 – 2026 NEDDA Executive Council

- **President:** Dr. Sarah Hagerty
- **President-elect:** Dr. Samira Meymand
- **Secretary:** Dr. Jason Lewis
- **Treasurer:** Dr. Kris Harth
- **Immediate Past President:** Dr. Bethany Douglas
FDA Trustee
- **FDA At-large Trustee:** Dr. Tom Brown
- **Executive Council Consultant:** Dr. Dan Gesek
- **FDA President-elect:** Dr. Dan Gesek
- **ADA 17th District Trustee:** Dr. Andy Brown
- **Executive Director:** Debbie DeVille

NEDDA Delegates for the FDA

- **Delegation Chair:** Dr. Steve Cochran
- Dr. Kris Harth
- Dr. Vaughn Holland
- Dr. Ryan Johnson –
Reference Committee A Representative
- Dr. Samira Meymand –
Credentials Committee Representative
- Dr. Jason Rice
- Dr. Rick Stevenson
- Dr. Laura Sullivan

Alternate Delegates:

- Dr. Swati Gupta
- Dr. Merlin Ohmer
- Dr. Flavio Soares
- Dr. Tournier Wright

NEDDA's Representatives on the Florida Dental Association's Councils / Committees:

Council Representatives:

- Dr. Steve Cochran
Ethics, Bylaws & Judicial Affairs
- Dr. Kris Harth
Financial Affairs

Committee Representatives:

- Dr. Steve Cochran
Search
- Dr. Bethany Douglas
Governmental Action
- Dr. Dan Gesek
Governmental & FDA Political Action Consultant
- Dr. Sarah Hagerty
Conventions & Continuing Education
- Dr. Ryan Johnson
FDA Political Action
- Dr. Merlin Ohmer
Wellness
- Dr. Millie Tannen
Awards
- Dr. Tournier Wright
Leadership Development



Dental students (l to r) Abigail Hernandez, FDA Dental Student Award winner Carter Bedinghaus and Alternate Delegate Maddy Spain attend FDC2025.



FDA President Dr. **John Paul**, Abigail Hernandez, Alternate Delegate Maddy Spain and FDA Immediate Past President Dr. **Jeff Ottley** attend FDC2025.



FDA Past President Dr. **Rudy Liddell**, Abigail Hernandez and ADA President Dr. **Brett Kessler** attend FDC2025.

My name is Abigail Hernandez, and I am currently a third-year dental student at LECOM. I have the privilege of serving as president of our school's ASDA chapter and recently had the incredible opportunity to attend the Florida Dental Convention (FDC), hosted by the Florida Dental Association (FDA) in Orlando.

From the moment I arrived, I was captivated by the energy and welcoming atmosphere. Every interaction with dentists, hygienists, staff and fellow students was genuine and encouraging. One of the first places I explored was the exhibit hall, and I was amazed by the number of vendors present. While many of the products aren't directly applicable to me yet as a student, the breadth of innovation and support within the dental industry was inspiring and eye-opening.

A particular highlight was attending the FDA Legislative Reception. It was an honor to be included in such a meaningful event, and it provided an incredible networking opportunity. I've never found it easier to engage with and learn from colleagues and leaders in the profession. Later that evening, we joined what was described as a "big party" — the Big Bash — and it exceeded every expectation. From holding a baby alligator and riding carnival attractions to making a leather bracelet and dancing the night away, it was hands down the most fun I've had at a conference social event.

In addition to the general conference experience, I was honored to represent LECOM as our school's House of Delegates (HOD) representative, where I was partnered with the Northeast District. I'm especially grateful to Drs. Kris Harth, Vaughn Holland and Ryan Johnson for their mentorship and for making the HOD experience so positive and approachable from a student perspective. Attending those sessions gave me valuable insight into the current issues and priorities being discussed at the organizational level.

I also participated in the Saturday morning caucus breakfast. I'll be candid: I found parts of the conversation difficult to follow due to my limited background knowledge on some topics. This highlighted the importance of improved pre-meeting communication and orientation for students. With even a brief overview beforehand, I believe students could contribute more meaningfully to these discussions.

The convention concluded with the exciting transition of leadership as Dr. John Paul was officially welcomed as the new president of the FDA. It was an inspiring and celebratory way to end the weekend.

Attending FDC has become a core memory in my dental school journey — one that will continue to motivate me throughout my career. Speaking directly with practicing dentists from across the state and seeing their passion and commitment first-hand has left me inspired and eager to step into my future role as a dental professional.

▶ NEDDA AFFILIATE WEBSITES



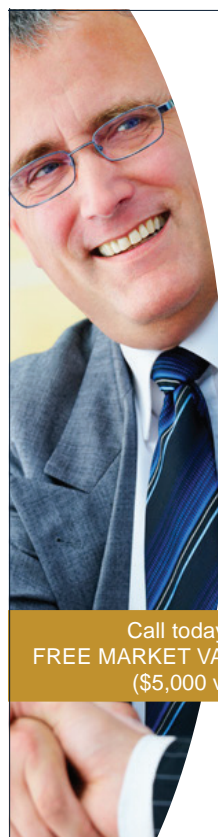
• claycountydental.org •



• jaxdentalsociety.net •

▶ NEDDA CLASSIFIEDS

Make sure to check out the [NEDDA classifieds](#) for your next opportunity!



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► CONGRATULATIONS TO FDA MEMBERS ON THEIR NEWLY-ELECTED POSITIONS

The Florida Dental Association (FDA) has spent several years updating its governance structure, which was showcased during the June House of Delegates (HOD) elections. HOD members voted for a secretary, treasurer and two at-large trustee positions. The FDA congratulates the following members on their newly-elected positions.

At-Large Trustees:

- Dr. Tom Brown ● Dr. Joe Richardson

Officers:

- President: Dr. John Paul
- President-elect: Dr. Dan Gesek
- Secretary: Dr. Bertram Hughes
- Immediate Past President: Dr. Jeff Ottley
- Treasurer: Dr. Fred Grassin

In addition, the FDA gained two new component trustees who were selected by their components to represent the FDA and serve on the Board of Trustees — Dr. **Katie Miller** from the Central Florida District Dental Association and Dr. **Lance Karp** from the West Coast District Dental Association.



► FRAUD ALERT: PROTECT YOUR LICENSE



We have seen a recent surge in fraudulent emails and phone calls targeting Florida health care practitioners by impersonating the Department of Health or Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA). These scams leverage information about the licensure and enforcement processes to attempt to steal your personal or financial information.

If you have accidentally entered your credentials into any prompt or website that seems suspicious, or if you have been contacted by a suspicious caller or email, change your password immediately, gather the following information listed below regarding the incident, and report it by calling the MQA Customer Contact Call Center at 850.488.0595 or emailing MedicalQualityAssurance@flhealth.gov.

- A description of the scam and how you were contacted.
- Screenshots of the phone call (with the timestamp and number).
- Photos of any documents or emails received (including the sender's email or fax number).
- A copy of the envelope or bank charges, if applicable.

Thank you for helping us protect the integrity of Florida's health care workforce.

FLORIDA DENTAL CONVENTION COURSE RECORDINGS



Catch up on expert-led sessions from Florida Dental Conventions course recordings today! Gain valuable insights from top speakers on essential topics to stay successful in your practice.

COURSE RECORDING TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Practice Transitions
- Oral Pathology
- Implant Therapy
- Aesthetic Dentistry
- Patient Communication
- & much more!

EARN CE ON YOUR SCHEDULE AND
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FILLING THE GAPS: SIMPLIFYING THE BUSINESS OF DENTISTRY EVENT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 • 9 AM-4 PM

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\$189 FDA MEMBERS • \$229 NON-MEMBERS

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▶ THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE 2025 FLORIDA DENTAL CONVENTION!



On behalf of the FDA Committee on Conventions & Continuing Education (CE) and staff, we hope you and your team had an inspiring experience at the 2025 Florida Dental Convention (FDC), “Polish Your Perspective.” Click [here](#) and use your Registration ID to access your FDC2025 CE certificate. According to the Florida Board of Dentistry, CE credits were awarded to attendees who participated for at least 50 out of the 60 minutes of each course. Please note that partial credits will be reflected in CE certificates by July 21. All full and partial credits will be reported to CE Broker by July 21.

If you have any concerns about your credits, please contact Brooke Martin at bmartin@floridadental.org or call 850.350.7103.

We hope you enjoyed exceptional CE, a vibrant Exhibit Hall and fun social events. Help us make future conventions even better — click [here](#) to complete the attendee survey.

▶ ELEVATE YOUR PRACTICE WITH THE FDA'S FREE WEBINAR JULY 9

Make plans to attend the FDA-hosted webinar “Peri-Implant Disease: Diagnosis, Treatments, Prevention,” presented by Dr. Kevin Suzuki July 9 at 12 p.m. EST. Click [here](#) to save your spot in this free webinar.

In this one-hour webinar, Dr. Suzuki will address peri-implant diseases, diagnoses, etiology and risk factors, treatment modalities and maintenance strategies. The format of this webinar will be comprised of lectures and case presentations. This webinar is eligible for one hour CE for Florida license renewal.

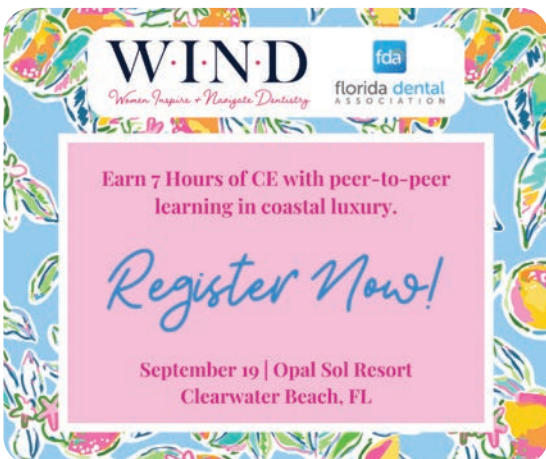
ONLINE WEBINAR

PERI-IMPLANT DISEASE: DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENTS, PREVENTION

DR. KEVIN SUZUKI

EARN 1 HOUR OF CE!
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9
12-1 PM EST

▶ REGISTER NOW FOR WOMEN INSPIRE & NAVIGATE DENTISTRY



Women Inspire & Navigate Dentistry (WIND) is back Sept. 19 at the new Opal Sol Resort in Clearwater Beach! Make plans to join your fellow female dentists for a refreshing day of peer-to-peer learning, connection and inspiration at the stunning new Opal Sol Resort, where coastal luxury meets professional growth. You will earn seven CE credits from a lineup of seasoned female speakers sharing real-world insights and practical dental knowledge, including topics such as AI in dentistry, office efficiency, esthetic dentistry, oral surgery, periodontics, unleashing professional potential and more! **The discounted FDA member registration rate of \$399 ends July 26.** After this date, registration pricing will increase. Click [here](#) to register now and lock in your discounts.

Beyond the CE, you will have the chance to build meaningful relationships, exchange ideas and recharge your mindset in a space that celebrates your journey in dentistry. Learn more about WIND and make your hotel reservation at Opal Sol at fdawind.com.

Life comes with challenges. The FDA's Member Assistance Program is here to help.

Starting Jan. 1, 2025, FDA members have free, confidential access to AllOne Health's counseling and work/life services.

The Florida Dental Association's (FDA) Member Assistance Program (MAP) can help you reduce stress, improve mental health and make life easier by connecting you to the right information, resources and referrals.

All services are confidential and available to you and your household as an FDA member benefit. This includes access to short-term counseling and the wide range of services listed below:

Mental Health Sessions

Manage stress, anxiety and depression; resolve conflict, improve relationships and address personal issues. Choose from in-person sessions, video counseling or phone counseling.

Life Coaching

Reach personal and professional goals, manage life transitions, overcome obstacles, strengthen relationships and achieve greater balance.

Financial Consultation

Build financial wellness related to budgeting, buying a home, paying off debt, resolving general tax questions, preventing identity theft and saving for retirement or tuition.

Legal Referrals

Receive referrals for personal legal matters including estate planning, wills, real estate, bankruptcy, divorce, custody and more.

Work-Life Resources and Referrals

Obtain information and referrals when seeking childcare, adoption, special needs support, eldercare, housing, transportation, education and pet care.

Personal Assistant

Save time with referrals for travel and entertainment, professional services, cleaning services, home food delivery and managing everyday tasks.

Medical Advocacy

Get help navigating insurance, obtaining doctor referrals, securing medical equipment and planning for transitional care and discharge.

Member Portal

Access your benefits 24/7/365 through the member portal with online requests and chat options. Explore thousands of self-help tools and resources including articles, assessments, podcasts and resource locators.



No matter what the concern might be ... connect with AllOne Health. It is a great starting point to find appropriate resources, referrals, information and support. Simply pick up the phone and call: 800.788.8630 or login to www.encompass.us.com to access your services.

Contact AllOne Health

800.788.8630

www.encompass.us.com

Code: fdamap



floridadental.org/healthy

NEW BACKGROUND SCREENING REQUIREMENT FOR LICENSURE RENEWAL

All health care practitioners, including dentists and hygienists, will be **required** to have a **background screening** and **fingerprinting** in order to renew their licenses for **February 28, 2026**.



As required by the Florida Legislature.

Fingerprinting & Background Screening Requirement

Florida Dental License Renewal:

Per 2024 legislation, all Florida-licensed dentists and dental hygienists must complete a Level 2 background screening every five years. This includes electronic fingerprinting through a state-approved provider

Deadline:

Must be completed by **February 28, 2026**. Recommend completing at least 21 days in advance to avoid delays.

Who Must Comply:

All licensed health professionals in Florida, including dentists and hygienists. Dentists must complete this every other biennium.

Approved Vendors Only:

Fingerprinting must be done through a Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)-approved Livescan provider that is photo-capable and participates in the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse.

Medicaid Providers:

May be required to complete fingerprinting; depends upon past screenings. Prior screenings must be within five

years and through an FDLE/Clearinghouse-compliant provider. You must have your Transaction Control Number (TCN) during licensure renewal. Only the fingerprint provider you used can issue that information.

Concealed Weapon Permits Do Not Qualify:

Fingerprints submitted for concealed weapon permits cannot be used for licensure screening.

Privacy Statement Required:

The privacy statement on your renewal application must be signed. Without it, results cannot be shared with the Florida Department of Health.

How to Complete Your Screening:

- Register in the CHAI system.
- Create or update your profile.
- Schedule an appointment with an FDLE- approved Livescan provider.
- Bring your ORI number (EDOH4560Z) to the appointment
- Keep your TCN which is required when renewing your license.



For full details and helpful links, visit
floridadental.org/fingerprinting



► IGNITEDDS CASE STUDY: HOW ONE COACHING CLIENT REDUCED A/R BY \$110K IN 60 DAYS

At IgniteDDS, we help dental teams turn financial stress into financial strength with our 12-month program. One thriving practice came to us with more than \$200,000 in outstanding accounts receivable (AR). In just 60 days, our coaching program helped them recover \$110,000 — without compromising patient relationships or care. Here's how we did it.

The Five Fastest Ways to Reduce AR:

- 1. Run an A/R weekly:** Stop reacting monthly and monitor AR weekly, assigning responsibility by age bucket.
- 2. Segment & prioritize:** We focused first on the 30–90-day column — that's where recovery is most likely to occur. Overdue doesn't always mean lost.
- 3. Create a same-day follow-up standard operating procedure:** Every insurance rejection or patient balance triggers a 24-hour response. Stop waiting.
- 4. Develop your team:** Scripts matter. We taught them how to communicate balance without sounding confrontational.
- 5. Make it easy to pay:** We helped implement text-to-pay, QR code links and in-chair card capture.

Result: \$110,000 recovered, team confidence restored and the practice cash flow back on track.

Know the difference between lag and lead measures. Focus on AR lead measures that deliver.

Learn more about the special IgniteDDS package available to FDA members by scheduling a no-obligation chat [here](#).

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david.rice@ignitedds.com

Dentists'
Day
on the
Hill

**Tuesday,
January 27, 2026**



florida dental
ASSOCIATION

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Dentists' Day on The Hill

January 27, 2026

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For more information:

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*Florida
Mission of Mercy*

JACKSONVILLE

Save the Date

May 15-16, 2026

FLAMOM.ORG

► INPUT NEEDED: FEDERAL PUBLIC MEETING ON FLUORIDE SUPPLEMENTS



Earlier this year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced taking steps to possibly remove concentrated ingestible fluoride prescription drops and tablets for infants and toddlers following a safety review and public comment.

A public meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. The in-person meeting will take place at the FDA White Oaks Campus, 10903 New Hampshire Ave, Building 31 Conference Center, Great Room (Room #1503), Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002.

You can participate virtually by registering [here](#).

Prior to this meeting, you can provide comments to the Federal Register to share your position on the importance of continuing to allow the use of fluoride supplements by clicking [here](#) (see green box to click to submit public comment).

It's important to review the entire page before submitting a comment and be aware that by providing a comment, your remarks will be made public, so please refrain from any inappropriate language. Comments provided should be directed specifically to the efficacy, safety and benefits of fluoride supplements.

The deadline to submit public comments is Wednesday, July 16.

Your input is needed! It is important that factual information on the use of fluoride supplements is included in this discussion.

► UTILIZE THE FDA'S JUMPSTART PROGRAM IN SOLVING WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

The FDA's Jumpstart program is an initiative to connect member dentists with pre-dental students who are interested in volunteering or working with dental offices. It's a creative solution to assist in solving workforce challenges faced by Florida dentists. Jumpstart is a fast pass for students to gain real-world experience, connect with dentists and master skills that will help them stand out in the dental school application process and in the competitive field of dentistry. All of this while providing staffing for offices that may have difficulty hiring the right people. A true win-win!



As a result of the FDA's efforts, members can access a student directory at floridadental.org/jumpstart. It notes students' geographic location, interests and roles they could fill. If you have an interest in engaging any of these students, please contact them directly and make suitable arrangements. If you know pre-dental students who may be interested registering, encourage them to visit floridadental.org/jumpstart to sign up and learn more about transforming their enthusiasm into expertise.

SAVE THE DATE!

PLUG IN. AMPLIFY. ROCK YOUR PRACTICE!

JUNE 25-27, 2026
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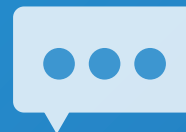
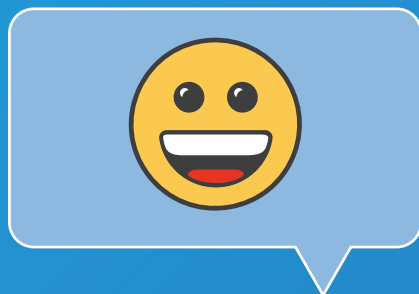
NEED HELP WITH PATIENT COMPLAINTS?

The Peer Review program is designed to help Florida Dental Association member dentists.

Avoid costly legal fees, malpractice suits and Board of Dentistry complaints by using this free service exclusively for members.



Learn more online at FloridaDental.org/PeerReview or by contacting FDA Peer Review Coordinator Lywanda Tucker at 850.350.7143 or ltucker@floridadental.org








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The Florida Dental Association (FDA) is a state constituent of the American Dental Association (ADA), which represents dentists throughout the country.

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Stay informed with updates on the education and event offerings for the Florida Dental Convention. You'll also find details about other continuing education events hosted by the FDA, including webinars, Women Inspire and Navigate Dentistry (WIND) and more.

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Florida Dental Chatter is a private Facebook group designed for dentists to interact with other members, receive the latest updates and information and engage with FDA leaders and staff.

 @floridadentalchatter **PRIVATE**




The FDA Foundation is the philanthropic and charitable organization for dentistry. Bringing together volunteer dentists, donors and community partners to serve the underserved and uninsured in Florida.

 @FloridaDentalAssociationFoundation
 @florida_dental_foundation



GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

The FDA Governmental Affairs Office (GAO) Instagram account is for FDA members only and is used to promote legislative and political advocacy throughout the year.

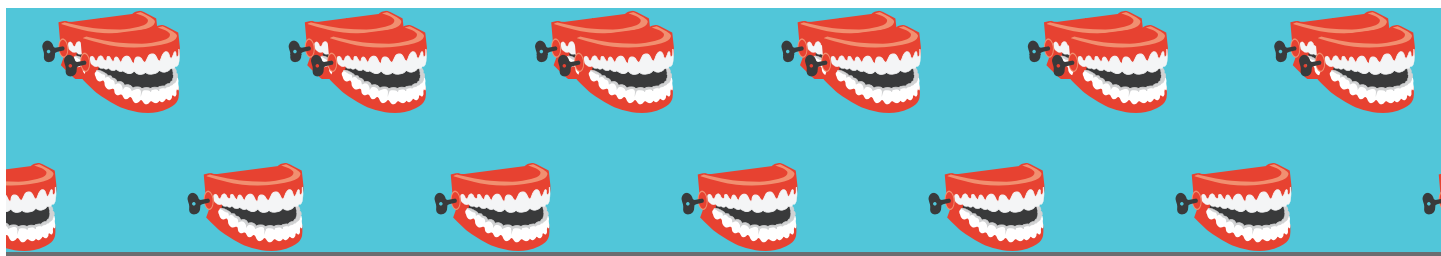
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FLORIDA DENTAL CHATTER

This Facebook group is designed for dentists to interact with other members, receive the latest updates and information, and engage with FDA leaders and staff. This is the place to be in the know!

Join us at facebook.com/groups/floridadentalchatter.

