



DH -MINUTES
October 13, 2025, at 6:00 PM
Zoom

Members Present: Dr. Peter Lubisich (Committee Chair), Dentist, Vancouver Pediatric Dentistry; Kramer Ragan (Vice-Chair), RDH, Lewis Family and Implant Dentistry; Trisha Simcox, Dental Hygienist, Vancouver Pediatric Dentistry; Jana Sarkkinen, RDH, East Fork Dental; Karin LaValla, Business Services, WorkSource SW WA; Dr. Derek Michaud, Dentist, NW Affinity Dental; Kendra Gibb, RDH, Dental Hygienist

Guests:

Members Absent: Sean Moore, Senior Project Manager, Workforce SW WA; Richard Grabowsky, DDS, Retired, Former Assistant Professor/Pediatric Dentist; Kaili Rutkowski, RDH, Dr. Laws; Steven D Hokett, DDS, MCR, PS, Assistant Program Manager, Salmon Creek Periodontics; Ann Gilbert, Dental 3/Dental Program Coordinator, University of Washington

Clark College: Kristi Taylor, DH Department Chair, Clark College; Amy Ewing Johnson, Professor, Clark College; Becky Herman, Professor, Clark College; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College; Mike Ludwig, Professor, Clark College; Summer Gillas, Professor, Clark College; Marcy Gilchrist, Academic Advisor, Clark College

The meeting began at 6:04 PM, and a quorum was met.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on April 13, 2025.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting on April 14, 2025, were approved.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Kristi acknowledged and thanked members who participated in the recent site visit. The program received no recommendations.

Children's Dental Health Day – February 7, 2026

The event will be held in partnership with Umpqua Bank. Kristi provided a breakdown of the funding and expenditure:

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- \$1,000 for outreach and marketing
- \$690 for patient goodie bags
- \$200 for the children's treasure box
- The remaining \$4,300 will go to the Foundation fund for restoration.

Umpqua Bank has also agreed to contribute an additional \$500 to support care for more children, including those with special needs, and \$500 for additional chair setting and disposable supplies.

Pete asked about Columbia Bank advertisements and recommended having a representative from the bank to greet families and distribute goodie bags.

Kristi noted that the \$4,300 contribution comes with a stipulation that all funds be spent by the third week of March. She and Mike plan to prioritize care for children from the event in restorative clinics through the end of the winter quarter.

Pete inquired whether unspent funds would need to be returned. Kristi confirmed that is the assumption.

Pete offered to write a thank-you note to Columbia Bank for their generous contribution.

Mike added that while the funding is very generous, the bank may be open to extending the spending deadline if they better understood the program's scheduling process.

Action Items:

- Kristi to contact Columbia Bank regarding fund usage timeline.
- Pete to write a thank-you note to Columbia Bank for their \$1,500 donation.

UPDATES: SADHA / Columbian Loss of Insurance

Pete raised concerns about the local loss of insurance coverage and the opportunity to market the dental hygiene program to attract more patients. He suggested leveraging the \$1,000 marketing budget from Children's Dental Health Day to promote available services at Clark College, noting the affordability for families.

Amy emphasized the ongoing need for new patients and asked about recruitment efforts.

Kristi said outreach would require strategic planning, including partnerships with Battle Ground Healthcare and Firstenberg.

Pete asked if there were fees associated with community publications. Kristi shared that the Vancouver School District previously charged \$250 to include information in its newsletters. Pete recommended allocating part of the \$1,000 marketing budget to this outreach, and Kristi agreed.

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Kramer suggested exploring opportunities to screen parents during Children's Dental Health Day who may be interested in becoming patients. Kristi supported this idea. Pete added that screenings could be as simple as gathering basic information and scheduling future appointments rather than conducting exams that day.

Kristi was in favor of implementing this approach.

Additional Update:

Kendra shared that 2025 graduates Amber and Alana G. have joined her team and are doing well.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores