There are four types of supervision that this proposal will address and it is important to understand the differences. Starting with the most restrictive to the least.

1. **Direct Supervision—**For procedures performed by a dental assistant requiring direct supervision, the dentist is required to be present in the dental office to authorize the procedures, and to remain in the dental office while the procedures are being performed. Before dismissing the patient, the dentist evaluates the performance of the dental assistant. (Currently, there are no functions of dental hygienists or dental assistants that fall in this category). The Nebraska Dental Hygienists Association recommends that this level of supervision be required for dentists supervising dental assistants performing the duties proposed for a dental assistant in the Nebraska Dental Association proposal.

2. **Indirect Supervision—**The licensed dentist authorizes the procedure to be performed by a dental auxiliary and is physically present on the premises when such procedure is being performed. (Licensed Dental Hygienists are allowed to **monitor** nitrous oxide and to administer local anesthesia under this level of supervision.) (Dental Assistants who have completed a basic CPR course also are allowed to monitor nitrous oxide under this level of supervision).

3. **General Supervision—**The directing of activities of a dental auxiliary by a licensed dentist, not construed to require the physical presence of the supervisor. (All dental hygiene functions, except administering local anesthetic, and monitoring nitrous oxide require this level of supervision) (Dental assistants who have taken a course in X-ray and Coronal polishing may perform these functions under general supervision)

4. **Public Health Supervision—**Certain dental hygienists who have met statutory requirement are allowed to perform services specified in law and regulations as part of an organized community program in various public health and institutional settings. (These services include screenings, dental cleanings, fluoride varnish and dental sealants)

Defining the differences in the proposals

For Dental Assistants with on-the-job-training only:

- **Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association (NDHA)** proposes the establishment of a minimum age requirement, Required CPR, and Direct supervision of a dental assistant who is monitoring nitrous oxide or sedation patients. NDHA also proposes that assistants take course similar to that required for hygienists for monitoring nitrous oxide. This would mean that the dentist would check this patient prior to dismissal to assure that they are recovered.
- **AGREE: NEW: place topical anesthetic under indirect supervision, with infection control training required.**
- **Nebraska Dental Association (NDA)** opposes a minimum age requirement and recommends CPR, if an assistant is to monitor nitrous oxide. NDA agrees that they should be CPR certified per requirements in the statute.

For Licensed Dental Assistants with formal training:

- **Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association** proposes that the hours of experience consist of 3500 hours of chairside experience
- **Under *DIRECT* supervision Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association** proposes that dental assistants be allowed to place dental sealants, fit and cement crowns on primary teeth, take final impressions/records for dental prosthesis (crowns, bridges, etc. with course)
- **AGREE: 19 yr. old, CPR certified, Current Dental Assisting National Board certification or equivalent board approved exam to include clinical competency and testing. Pass NE jurisprudence exam. Become licensed with Health and Human Services and complete Continuing Education per Uniform Credentialing Act.**
- **Nebraska Dental Association** proposes that the procedure of placing pit and fissure sealants be removed from the entire proposal. That dental assistants are allowed to provide the following under ***INDIRECT* supervision:** Fit and cement crowns on primary teeth, take final impressions/records (including digital) for dental prostheses (crowns, bridges, etc.) and **Administer and adjust nitrous oxide per dentist order. (This is the same that is being requested for licensed dental hygienists and under the same supervision level).**

For Dental Hygienists, all of whom have formal training:

- **Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association** proposes that orofacialmyology be included in dental hygiene scope of practice, as is presently being permitted by the Board of Dentistry but should be expressed in statute.

  ● Provide a dental hygiene diagnosis. (needed to determine dental hygiene treatment plan). Hygienists already do this and is part of their accredited educational requirements. Upon completion of a required training course, extract teeth with a class IV mobility and hopeless prognosis.

  ● Upon completion of an appropriate training course, provide Enameloplasty sealant technique.

- **Under *GENERAL* supervision:** Administer local anesthesia and reversal agents.

  ● Take final impressions (this is allowed for the proposed licensed dental assistant)

- **AGREE: Under *INDIRECT* supervision, administer nitrous oxide (already being taught in dental hygiene programs.)**

  ● Under *General* supervision: Place Interim Therapeutic Restorations (with course), write prescriptions for mouth rinses and other topical products as well as fluoride products that help decrease one's risk for tooth decay (with course)

For Public Health Dental Hygienists:

- **Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association** proposes the full scope of dental hygiene scope of practice with the additions that are listed above.

  ●Adjust removable appliances/soft reline **(with course)** to enable hygienists to help those without a dental home to be able to carry on the activities of daily living.

  ●With an appropriate training course, provide Palliative care to include smoothing of a rough edge of a tooth.

For Expanded Function Dental Hygienists:

- **Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association** supports **Under *General* Supervision:** current scope of practice of a licensed dental hygienist and public health permit hygienist. **ALSO:** Place and finish dental restorations and preparation of a class I and class V restoration per dentist order. **Must be a licensed registered Dental Hygienist and have (additional coursework required that would include completion of course with didactic and clinical components taught by an accredited dental school or has completed equivalent exam from another state). Pass board approved exam, proof of liability insurance, and licensure for expanded function.** Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association supports the same clinical competency for dentists, hygienists and assistants that are doing the same procedures. This educational requirement needs to be outlined in statute to protect the public.

For Expanded Function Dental Assistant:

- **Nebraska Dental Association** proposes **Under *Indirect* supervision:** a dental assistants with 1500 hours as a licensed dental assistant who has completed a Dental Assisting National Board Expanded Function Dental Assistant exam **OR** a board approved exam. Obtain Expanded Function Dental Assistant license from Health and Human Services and complete Continuing Education per Uniform Credentialing Act. Duties: Place and finish dental restorations (fillings, crowns, etc.)