NYDHA Member Spotlight:
Lisa McGeough

Interviewee: Lisa McGeough
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Lisa has always been passionate about helping people in her community, particularly the underserved. Her first position—and what would become a 12-year long career—began at a well-established general practice in Albany.

She moved through various roles, eventually becoming the practice manager during an exciting time of change in preventive dentistry. “As a team, we embraced the change by developing and implementing a soft tissue management program. We also transitioned to electronic dental recordkeeping,” Lisa states.

In 1999, the doctor announced his retirement secondary to a back injury. It was at this time that Lisa decided to pursue a degree in dental hygiene from Hudson Valley Community College, located in Troy. During her education at HVCC, Lisa completed an internship at an Article 28 clinic that served the special needs population. She soon realized that there was a dire need for hygienists to provide care to this underserved population. Upon graduating, she was offered a part-time position which later became full-time. After many years of accommodating to patient needs, and countless strenuous motions leading to uncomfortable wear on her body, Lisa decided to seek a dental hygiene position that did not involve direct care.

An opportunity soon presented itself at the New York State Department of Health, and Lisa accepted the position. Currently she supports the NYS Medicaid Dental Director, Dr. Michele Griguts, in the Bureau of Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Policy within the Office of Health Insurance Programs. The bureau’s dental team focus is on policies that strengthen the oral health of Medicaid members (especially vulnerable populations) and ensuring access to dental services. This is one of several dental hygiene positions within the State government. The dental team relies on evidence-based research to create policies. With the help of their data analysis team, they can monitor accessibility and utilization of services. To further assist their Medicaid providers, members, facilities, and stakeholders with any inquiries, the team created a bureau mail log.

When she became a member of NYDHA, Lisa was very happy to learn that she also would be gaining membership at both the national and local levels. She always looks forward to the monthly edition of Access magazine. “It’s always very informative regarding current topics,” she says. If she were to give one piece of advice to New York State RDHs, it would be to “continue to educate and spread the word about the systemic connection between good oral health and overall health.”
Thank you, Lisa, for your dedication to bringing oral health care to your New York community and your ongoing commitment to improving the field of dental hygiene!