



Lynn Ann Bethel, RDH, MPH (USA)

Oral Health/Public Health Consultant

Executive Board, American Public Health Association

Ms. Bethel was Dental Director for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 2005 to 2012. For the past 30 years Lynn Ann Bethel has been a licensed dental hygienist and for the past 12 years, she has worked in higher-education, teaching dental public health. For the last eight years, she worked in a leadership role for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health as the State Dental Director, and had statewide responsibilities working with high-risk population groups including the low income, the developmentally disabled, minorities and seniors, as well as collaborating with local, state and national organizations, agencies and institutions. In addition, Ms. Bethel implemented one of the first statewide oral health assessments of seniors and the first in Massachusetts. She also worked to create policies and regulations to expand access to dental care for all residents of the Commonwealth.

Ms. Bethel also has expertise in promoting effective oral health prevention programs and initiatives, such as water fluoridation and school-based programs in both rural and urban settings. Ms. Bethel was involved in workforce development in Massachusetts, and has spoken nationally and internationally on creatively using dental hygienists to expand access to dental care.

For more than 10 years Lynn has been actively involved in the American Public Health Association (APHA) and was elected to its' Executive Board in 2012. In addition, Lynn is Editor of Oral Health Matters, the newsletter of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors. Most recently, at the invitation of Harvard University School of Dental Medicine, Ms. Bethel is serving on a workgroup to develop global oral health competencies for the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH).