

Dental Health Services & labor: A history of collaborative success

Dental Health Services' experience with trade unions and other organized labor groups is unique among dental benefit companies. It includes a rich history of service excellence and comprehensive care dating back more than 60 years.

In the early 1950's, company founder Godfrey Pernell, DDS was approached by Joint Board of Culinary Workers in Southern California, who looked to him to help provide dental benefits and service to their members for the first time. Dr. Pernell was able to work with the union to meet the challenge, putting into place a long-lasting relationship between his practice and the organized labor group.

Dr. Pernell would be called upon to assist another union some 20 years later, and once again proved up to the task. When the United Transportation Union in Los Angeles needed a dental office to fill the void left by another practice that abruptly shut its doors, he came to their rescue, putting together an entire office's operations over one weekend to ensure that members could receive care without disruption.

Since Dr. Pernell established the company as Knox-Keene health carrier in 1974, Dental Health Services has provided a wide range of high quality dental benefit solutions to a diverse array of labor groups throughout the West Coast. From transit organizations (United Transportation Union, San Diego Transit), to educational entities (El Monte Union High School District), maritime groups (ILWU & Pacific Maritime Association), government groups (American Federation of Government Employees), and many trust funds, Dental Health Services' expertise and support in the labor arena is extensive — with more than 50 years of consecutive labor service, dating back to Dr. Pernell's first plan in the 1950's.

Dental Health Services continues to deliver successful outcomes with unions, trust funds, and other labor groups because we understand and are able to deliver the high level of service and member care that these groups demand. Our employee-owners have an in-depth understanding of the unique organizational challenges that benefit administrators for these groups face, and are well-prepared to supply the solutions that meet those needs.

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