

**DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DENTAL ASSISTING COUNCIL**

**NOTICE OF MEETING
August 17, 2023**

Council Members

Traci Reed-Espinoza, RDAEF, Chair
Cara Miyasaki, RDA, RDHEF, MS, Vice Chair
De'Andra Epps-Robbins, RDA
Jeri Fowler, RDAEF, OA
Rosalinda Olague, RDA, BA
Joanne Pacheco, RDH, MAOB
Kandice Rae Pliss, RDA

**Action may be taken on any
item listed on the agenda.**

The Dental Assisting Council (Council) of the Dental Board of California (Board) will meet at 8:30 a.m., on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at the following location:

Department of Consumer Affairs
1747 N. Market Blvd., Hearing Room #186
Sacramento, CA 95834

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum
2. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda **[4]**
Note: The Council may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this Public Comment section, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting. (Government Code Sections 11125 and 11125.7(a).)
3. Discussion and Possible Action on May 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes **[5-18]**
4. Executive Officer Report **[19]**
5. Update on Dental Assisting Examination Statistics **[20-21]**
 - a. Registered Dental Assistant General Written and Law and Ethics Examinations
 - b. Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions General Written Examination
 - c. Orthodontic Assistant Written Examination
 - d. Dental Sedation Assistant Written Examination
6. Update on Dental Assisting Licensing Statistics **[22-32]**
 - a. Registered Dental Assistant License

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- b. Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions License
 - c. Orthodontic Assistant Permit
 - d. Dental Sedation Assistant Permit
7. Update on Registered Dental Assistant and Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions Educational Programs and Courses Application Approvals **[33-37]**
 8. Update, Discussion, and Possible Recommendation on Criteria to Become a Subject Matter Expert or Site Evaluator for Board Approval of Dental Auxiliary Educational Programs and Courses **[38-41]**
 9. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Penalties for Fraudulent Advertising and Misinformation of Dental Assistant Educational Programs and Courses **[42-43]**
 10. Update, Discussion, and Possible Recommendations on Proposed Regulations
 - a. Status Update on Pending Regulations **[44-45]**
 11. Update, Discussion, and Possible Recommendation on Pending Legislation **[46-49]**
 - a. Assembly Bill (AB) 481 (Wendy Carrillo, 2023) Dentistry: dental assistants
 12. Adjournment

Information regarding the meeting is available by contacting the Board at (916) 263-2300 or (877) 729-7789, email: DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov, or send a written request to the Dental Board of California, 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1550, Sacramento, CA 95815. This agenda can be found on the Dental Board of California website at dbc.ca.gov. The time and order of agenda items are subject to change at the discretion of the Council Chair and may be taken out of order. In accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, all meetings of the Council are open to the public.

The meeting will be webcast, provided there are no unforeseen technical difficulties or limitations. To view the webcast, please visit thedcapage.wordpress.com/webcasts/. The meeting will not be cancelled if webcast is not available. Meeting adjournment may not be webcast if it is the only item that occurs after a closed session. Members of the public may, but are not obligated to, provide their names or personal information as a condition of observing or participating in the meeting. (Government Code section 11124.)

Government Code section 11125.7 provides the opportunity for the public to address each agenda item during discussion or consideration by the Council prior to the Council taking any action on said item. Members of the public will be provided appropriate opportunities to comment on any issue before the Council, but the Council Chair may, at their discretion, apportion available time among those who wish to speak. Individuals may appear before the Council to discuss items not on the agenda; however, the

Council can neither discuss nor take official action on these items at the time of the same meeting (Government Code sections 11125, 11125.7(a)).

This meeting is accessible to the physically disabled. A person who needs disability-related accommodations or modifications to participate in the meeting may make a request by contacting Tracy Montez, Executive Officer at Dental Board of California, 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1550, Sacramento, CA 95815, or by phone at (916) 263-2300. Providing your request at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting will help ensure availability of the requested accommodations. TDD Line: (877) 729-7789



DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

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MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 20, 2023
TO	Members of the Dental Assisting Council
FROM	Mirela Taran, Administrative Analyst Dental Board of California
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 2.: Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Notes



**DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DENTAL ASSISTING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 18, 2023**

The Dental Assisting Council (Council) of the Dental Board of California (Board) met on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at the following location available for Council and public member participation:

Hilton Anaheim
777 W. Convention Way
Anaheim, CA 92802

Members Present:

Traci Reed-Espinoza, RDAEF, Chair
Cara Miyasaki, RDA, RDHEF, MS, Vice Chair
De'Andra Epps-Robbins, RDA
Jeri Fowler, RDAEF, OA
Joanne Pacheco, RDH, MAOB

Members Absent:

Rosalinda Olague, RDA, BA
Kandice Rae Pliss, RDA

Staff Present:

Tracy A. Montez, Ph.D., Executive Officer
Carlos Alvarez, Chief of Enforcement Field Offices
Paige Ragali, Chief of Dental Programs and Customer Support
Jessica Olney, Anesthesia Unit Manager
Rikki Parks, Dental Assisting Program Manager
Wilbert Rumbaoa, Administrative Services Unit Manager
David Bruggeman, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist
Thomas Tortorici, Investigator
Paul De La Cruz, Investigator
Mirela Taran, Administrative Analyst
Alex Cristescu, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
Tara Welch, Board Counsel, Attorney IV, Legal Affairs Division, DCA

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

Council Chair, Ms. Traci Reed-Espinoza, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.; five members of the Council were present, and a quorum was established.

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Agenda Item 2: Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion and Possible Action on February 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Council Vice Chair Cara Miyasaki requested an amendment to the meeting minutes on page 5, Agenda Item 7, second paragraph, fifth line, to strike and replace “years” with “year” and on page 5, Agenda Item 7, second paragraph, sixth line, to strike and replace “general assistant” with “dental assisting”.

Motion/Second/Call the Question (M/S/C) (Pacheco/Fowler) to approve the February 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes as revised.

Chair Reed-Espinoza requested public comment before the Council acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

Chair Reed-Espinoza called for the vote on the proposed motion. Ms. Mirela Taran took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Epps-Robbins, Fowler, Miyasaki, Pacheco, Reed-Espinoza.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: Olague, Pliss.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 4: Executive Officer Report

Dr. Tracy Montez shared that she continued to have calls with the Chair and Vice Chair on the upcoming Dental Assisting Council (DAC) meetings to go over various agenda items, ensure that they are prepared, and answer any questions prior to meetings. She disclosed that Board staff have resumed conducting continuing education (CE) audits and are using that as a means to remind dental assisting professionals the importance of meeting the obligations of maintaining their license in good standing. Board leadership is reorganizing the structure of the units and divisions within the Board with the goal of dedicating more staff resources to the dental assisting profession. Dr. Montez added that Board staff had the opportunity to present at the California Dental Assistants Association (CDAA) and California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT) Conference on April 21, 2023, at which staff gave a brief presentation on dental assisting and were available for questions.

Chair Reed-Espinoza asked how many CE audits the Board is doing in a quarter for dental assistants and registered dental assistant in extended functions (RDAEF). Dr. Montez replied that she did not have the specific number, but that it is about one percent of the population and added that it is a random sample of dental assisting professions, as well as dentists. Ms. Rikki Parks voiced that the total number across the

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entire Board for all license types is 30; 15 are dental auxiliary license types, which include the Orthodontic Assistant (OA), Dental Sedation Assistant (DSA), RDAEF, or Registered Dental Assistant (RDA). Chair Reed-Espinoza asked whether that is 30 per year. Ms. Parks responded that it is per month, and that those are the licensees who renewed on an active status.

Chair Reed-Espinoza requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 5: Update on Dental Assisting Examination Statistics

Ms. Parks provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. As she was asked at the February 9, 2023 Council meeting how many questions are on the RDA General and Law and Ethics examination, she clarified that the RDA exam is comprised of 125 scorable items (25 pre-test items for a total of 150 items).

Chair Reed-Espinoza requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 6: Update on Dental Assisting Licensing Statistics

Ms. Parks provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Chair Fowler requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 7: Update on Registered Dental Assistant and Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions Educational Programs and Courses Application Approvals and Site Visits

Ms. Parks provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Dr. Montez thanked Ms. Parks and her team and noted that they had been doing a remarkable job with pooling education program approvals that had been shelved, primarily due to COVID-19 and vacancies, and moving them forward. She voiced that Board staff had some time dedicated in the following week to look at the education programs and had a strategy to address deficiencies more quickly. She voiced that Board staff hoped to streamline things in the next nine months or so.

Chair Reed-Espinoza asked if an education program is in one county, would they fully need to do another application if they are going to go into another county and put that together, and whether it is targeted off their original licensing for their education system. Ms. Parks responded that historically they would need to submit another application if they wanted to operate out of another site. Chair Reed-Espinoza asked whether they get any advantage if they are already in the system for opening another site or whether they would have to go through the full process. Ms. Parks replied that it would be the full process.

Dr. Montez responded that because they already have a program in place, she would reasonably assume the approval process would be more efficient as it has already been approved and is merely going to a different county for approval. Additionally, they are less likely of any deficiencies.

Vice Chair Miyasaki asked whether it would it be possible for the ones that have a course that is already approved to have a more streamlined method of submitting an application to the alternative site. Dr. Montez replied that it would likely require some changes and that the process itself would still be streamlined as they have already been approved.

Vice Chair Miyasaki asked whether it was possible to have a discussion on subject matter experts (SMEs) and make recommendations such as if someone has a program or course in Southern California that they are evaluated by a SME that comes from a different area of California, such as Central or Northern. She verbalized that Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) site visitors cannot evaluate a program in their same state. She asked whether that is something that the Council can add as a recommendation. Tara Welch recommended that topic be set for a future agenda item because it was very specific; the agenda item was general with respect to site evaluation and programs and there was no request for the Council to take any action on this item, so she believed it would be better as a future agenda item that highlights the issue itself and then include a recommendation to take some form of action.

Dr. Montez asked whether the Council could discuss some criteria to be advanced in a future agenda item. Ms. Welch responded that the Council could give Board staff some directions to what the agenda item would look like, either now or under the other agenda item for future agenda items. She added that it would be a more effective discussion if the Council let Board staff know exactly what type of the discussion it wanted to have, or the Council could delegate that to a two-member working group to compile information for a thorough discussion at a future meeting. If the Council wanted research on what other accrediting bodies do, it would be better for a two-member working group to prepare that information for meeting materials. Based on direction from legal counsel, Dr. Montez suggested to the Chair to create a two-member working group to come up with this list to be provided to Board staff so that they can bring an agenda item with this information in it. She expressed that Board staff would like a two-member working group to potentially come up with additional criteria for these individuals.

Chair Reed-Espinoza stated that Council Member Joanne Pacheco and Vice Chair Miyasaki volunteered to educate the Council on this agenda item at the next Council meeting.

Chair Reed-Espinoza requested public comment on this item. The Council received public comment.

Dr. Bruce Whitcher, representing himself, spoke to the question given about whether there is any standardization that might be applied to programs given in multiple locations. He voiced that he had been involved with the DSA program for some years, and the association had a model curriculum that they share with their members, which facilitates the application process; that was reviewed and approved by the Board. The site-specific information for each course location does need to be updated for each site. However, they can use that curriculum, which is 350 pages long, and is designed to conform to the educational regulations. For each program to have to develop, that would be extremely burdensome. Dr. Whitcher conveyed that in reading some of the materials, there was a reference to the fact that the courses often share material more than the educational programs themselves, and there could be a lesson that can be taken from that.

Agenda Item 8: Discussion and Possible Recommendation on Legislative Proposal to Amend Business and Professions Code (BPC) Sections 1601.1 and 1740 and Repeal BPC Section 1742 Regarding Dental Assisting Council

Mr. Bruggeman provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Dr. Montez stated that she has had a long working relationship with the Board, in addition to her time as the Executive Officer, and felt that this was something that had been discussed with prior leadership of the Board but had never been brought forward. With the changes Board staff was making in terms of reorganization, she conveyed that the Board staff could move more efficiently through dental assisting needs and issues, bring them to the Board, and have a healthy discussion rather than the process that is in place presently.

Vice Chair Miyasaki understood the advantage of the proposal to increase the efficiency and the flexibility of having a two-person committee but felt that those two people would not be able to represent the stakeholders, RDAs, RDAEFs, OAPs, DSAs, CODA and RDA approved programs, Regional Occupational Programs (ROPs), adult education, and all the educators for those programs. She did not believe the two-person committee could represent fully all of the dental assistants in California. Looking at the Board meeting materials, Vice Chair Miyasaki noted there is about 32, 000 active dental assistants and about 35, 000 active dental licenses. Vice Chair Miyasaki added that Board representation is not equivalent to the representation of the ratio of dental assistants to dentists, and that there are more public members than there are dental assistants.

To have representation of dental assistants, RDAEF2s, and educators, Chair Reed-Espinoza suggested to change the composition of the Board to have one RDA, one RDAEF2, and one educator.

Council Member Fowler stated that the two-person committee would have a lot of information they would have to be able to speak on and weigh in on. The selection

process for that two-person committee would have to be someone who is very robust in a lot of areas in order to really represent the community and the profession well.

Dr. Montez clarified that the members of the Board would be appointed by the Governor, and the standing committee would consist of Board Members. Therefore, the RDAs on the Board would be the standing committee, assuming the Board would appoint them. The standing committee then would be able to work with the stakeholder groups to ensure that all of those areas are represented.

Council Member De'Andra Epps-Robbins agreed with Chair Reed-Espinoza that it is a definite need to have it an RDAEF, an educator, and an additional RDA. She believed that the RDAEF would bring in some of their viewpoints and expressed that the two RDAs should be categorized in order to be able to see different viewpoints. As far as the educator, she believed that was also needed as it helps to support that area of education-based information that may come through as an educator to be able to input something that would help balance out the committee. She agreed with Vice Chair Miyasaki that there would be a lot of information to disperse amongst the two RDAs.

Dr. Montez asked whether the Council was suggesting that when the current Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) position on the Board terms out, that position would become the third RDA position, or whether they were suggesting that there be three RDAs and one RDH. Chair Reed-Espinoza asked whether all Board positions were full. Dr. Montez replied that the Board has vacancies in their dentist positions. However, the Board is unable to swap them out, as it has to be a statutory change.

Chair Reed-Espinoza requested that when the RDH terms out, that position would be taken over by a dental assistant educator. Council Member Epps-Robbins voiced that she would support that as long as there was not any concern from the RDH position.

Council Member Pacheco expressed that in this era of inclusivity, having a dental hygienist on the Board provides collegiality between the Board and the Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC).

Vice Chair Miyasaki believed that the RDH position was created before the creation of the DHBC, and now that the DHBC is created, they have a voice as a stakeholder.

Council Member Fowler agreed with Council Member Miyasaki regarding the need to maintain the RDH position but questioned why a dentist position could not be taken away, as the Board is heavily DDS centered. She stated that hygienists, RDAs, RDAEFs, and dentists need to be represented, but she would like to make it a little more even.

Vice Chair Miyasaki supported Dr. Montez's proposal of replacing the RDH, when it terms out, with an RDA. She preferred having four RDAs or dental assistants on the Board, but if it came down to it adding one, it would be when the RDH terms out and

replacing it with another assistant, preferably an educator, an RDA, or an RDAEF2. She verbalized that when participating in workshops when there was a subcommittee and when it came down to reporting to the Board, she thought that what they were graded on was not reported to the Board.

Chair Reed-Espinoza requested public comment on this item.

Shari Becker, representing the Alliance consisting of CDAA, CADAT, and the California Dental Extended Functions Association, voiced that the current Council structure requires Board staff to schedule Council meetings, coordinate Council member travel, prepare Council meeting agendas and associated meeting materials, all separate from the quarterly Board meetings. She noted that the Council meeting materials indicated that these actions are burdensome and costly. Ms. Becker indicated that it is the Board's charge to coordinate these meetings. If cost is a main issue, she said the fees should be raised, as they have not increased since 2016. She stated that the Council was formed to replace the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries (COMDA) and to have representation for all dental assistants. In regard to efficiency, she stated that the proposed RDAs on the Board would not adequately represent all areas of dental assisting and could not possibly fulfill all the duties of the seven Council representatives. Ms. Becker stated that an appointed two-person committee representing dental assistants potentially introduces lack of transparency, especially with no public notice required, effective communication lacking, and lack of expertise and breadth of experience. She concluded that the Alliance strongly opposed this change.

Anthony Lum, Executive Officer of the DHBC, speaking on behalf of himself, stated it was very important that the issues that are brought up from the Board have input from an RDH representative. He stated that the Board would be missing out on a very valuable piece of information if it were to have the dental hygienist excluded.

Dr. Whitcher, speaking on behalf of the California Dental Association (CDA), stated that he served as a Board liaison to the Council during his tenure on the Board and voiced that the Legislature did an excellent job in their selection of appointment to the Council qualifications in that it represents a broad base of dental assisting. As the Board deals with very technical and complex issues, such as SB 501, that reaches across multiple specialties within dentistry, reducing that expertise by one Board member would lose significant input from a Board member. He spoke in opposition to the proposal.

The Council discussed the proposed amendments in the meeting materials. Dr. Montez stated that increasing fees is great but would require regulations, and it has been hard to find regulatory staff.

(M/S/C) (Miyasaki/Reed-Espinoza) to reject the proposed amendments to BPC section 1740 and reject the repeal of BPC section 1742 and to propose revisions to the proposed amendments to BPC section 1601.1, subdivision (a), to maintain the existing eight dentists on the Board, maintain the existing RDH on the Board, add two RDA

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positions for a total of three, keep the five public members. Of the three RDA positions on the Board, have one RDA who is licensed with professional experience of five years or more, one RDA or RDAEF educator from a Board-approved RDA educational program, and one practicing RDAEF2 with a minimum of five years of experience.

Chair Reed-Espinoza requested public comment before the Council acted on the motion. The Council received the following public comments.

Dr. Lori Gagliardi, representing the Foundation of Allied Dental Education (FADE), a non-profit organization that advocates for high standards in dental assisting education, quality assurance, and patient safety, concurred with the previous speakers and the Council's discussion, and were thrilled that the Council supported the retention of the Council. They appreciated the discussion for adding additional members for more parity on the Board and look forward to continuing on with the Council.

Ms. Becker, representing the Alliance, agreed with Dr. Gagliardi's comments and appreciated the addition of two members to the Board and the retention of the Council.

Chair Fowler called for the vote on the motion. Ms. Taran took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Epps-Robbins, Fowler, Miyasaki, Pacheco, Reed-Espinoza.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: Olague, Pliss.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 9: Update, Discussion, and Possible Recommendation on Pending Legislation

David Bruggeman provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Vice Chair Miyasaki noted that in Assembly Bill (AB) 481, BPC section 1741, subdivision (b), would provide for apprenticeship dental assisting programs. She tried looking up whether they are recognized by the United States Department of Education. She believed that the talk regarding specific apprenticeship dental assisting programs was in reference to dental assisting apprenticeship programs in California. Mr. Bruggeman asked if the Council wanted to clarify that the apprenticeships would need to be from within the State of California. Vice Chair Miyasaki suggested to add that they would need to be approved by the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS). She advised to include the part about the United States Department of Education and whether that was something that oversees the California DAS. Mr. Bruggeman replied that he would look into these questions and have a response for the Council.

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Vice Chair Miyasaki noted that in AB 481, BPC section 1741, subdivision (e), states “‘Certified dental assistant’ means an individual who has successfully passed the national board examination in clinical chairside assisting administered by the Dental Assisting National Board” (DANB). She noted that the CDA exam is comprised of three exams that need to be passed: General Chairside, Infection Control (IC), and Radiation Health and Safety (RHS). Vice Chair Miyasaki believed that the national board examination in chairside assisting should add IC and RHS for the CDA certification.

Vice Chair Miyasaki also noted that in AB 481, BPC section 1741, subdivision (o), states that “‘Preceptee’ means an unlicensed dental assistant who is employed by a California-licensed dentist” and wondered what would happen if the preceptee is employed by the Veterans Affairs (VA), a hospital, or a clinic. She asked whether the text could be revised to state “employed by a California licensed dentist or employed in a dental facility.” Vice Chair Miyasaki also noted that BPC section 1748, subdivision (a)(4)(D)(iv), requires “completion of a board-approved course in coronal polishing which shall not be performed on a patient until licensure as a registered dental assistant is obtained.” She believed that the language was changed in another part of the document where the coronal polishing could be performed as soon as the certificate is awarded. Mr. Bruggeman asked for clarification whether there appeared to be an internal conflict. Vice Chair Miyasaki replied that she believed so. Vice Chair Miyasaki noted that in AB 481, BPC section 1755, subdivision (b)(2), regarding the unlicensed dental assistant taking the infection control class, requires “a board-approved eight-hour course, with six hours of didactic instruction and no more than two hours of laboratory instruction using video or a series of video training tools.” She wondered if that statement could be broader due to the fact that someone may choose to not take an in-person class. The verbiage “using video or series of video training tools” indicates that is a requirement. She asked if that could be changed to no more than two hours of laboratory instruction which may use video or a series of video training tools. Vice Chair Miyasaki noted that page 48 of the meeting materials discussed the inclusion of the CDA certificate as a pathway for licensure and how the certificate must be renewed annually, while the RDA license is renewed biennially. She stated from having experience with educators who have a CDA certificate and a RDA license, the same CE can be used. The CDA certificate is only 10 units, which includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the RDA license is 25 units. Vice Chair Miyasaki voiced that she has personally used her 25 units as part of the 10 units when she renews her CDA certificate.

Council Member Jeri Fowler noted that in AB 481, BPC section 1753.1, subdivision (b), states that an RDAEF “licensed after January 1, 2010 may perform all the following duties under the direct supervision and pursuant to the order, control, and full professional responsibility of a licensed dentist,” which then lists those duties. She noticed that there were major duties that were left off this list that were in the previous allowable duties for the RDAEF2 specifically. The duties that were left off the list that she would like to have added back on are: size and fit endodontic master points and

accessory points, cement endodontic master points and accessory points, polish and contour existing amalgam restorations, place, contour, finish, and adjust all direct restorations, and adjust and cement permanent indirect restorations. She voiced that BPC section 1753.1, subdivision (b)(5), states “perform final impressions for removable prosthesis”. In the past, the Council had delineated on that and said tooth born; removing that changes what they are allowed to do. She recommended that those duties she had listed are placed back in, because otherwise, with the way this legislation is written, the RDAEF2 licensure is removed completely and only RDAEF1s are left. Mr. Bruggeman clarified that this was not legislation that Board staff had advanced, and the bill was written by others.

Ms. Welch stated that staff had been working with CDA to amend the bill, as it is CDA’s bill, and noted that the Board was also taking a look at this legislation and raising their own concerns to document and provide feedback to the sponsor and author of the bill, as well as legislative staff.

Council Member Fowler expressed that this bill is very specific listing exactly what the duties were for the dental assistant, RDA, Orthodontic Assistant Permit (OAP), and even the DSA, and that when it got to the RDAEF section, many allowed duties were left off, which were all RDAEF2 duties. She suggested that if all duties are going to be listed and will be specific when it comes to dental assisting in the different positions and licensures, the language needs to be consistent across the board so there is no misinterpretation, and nothing gets changed that should not be changed. Council Member Fowler did not want to eliminate the RDAEF2 position from California.

Ms. Welch noted that staff had raised an issue in AB 481 with section 1748, subdivision (a)(4)(ii), pertaining to the preceptorship credentialing and the completion of at least 300 hours of courses in dental assisting related topics. She stated that was a real concern for staff, because they are going to have to process certificates reflecting 300 hours of courses, which, in effect, could actually be more like 600 certificates. In California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 16, section 1016, subsection (g), the Board allows CE credits to be issued in half hour increments. Therefore, if Board staff have to process 600 certificates for one applicant, that is going to take a lot of staff time and cost to cover that staff time. Ms. Welch noted that one issue is whether or not this particular pathway should have an increased license application, fee because it is going to require so much staff time. Presently, the RDA application fee is \$120 under CCR, title 16, section 1022, and the statutory cap for RDA fees is \$200. Depending upon how much staff time this is going to take, there is going to be a cost associated with it. She expressed that BPC section 1725 may need to be amended to raise the RDA fee cap. CCR, title 16, section 1022 is going to have to be amended through the regulatory process to establish that application fee for that pathway. Consequently, the Board would not be able to immediately issue RDA registrations for that pathway until an application fee was established for that pathway.

Ms. Welch state that in AB 481, BPC section 1750.1, subdivision (a)(1), would authorize an unlicensed dental assistant to perform digital scanning and imaging procedures using scanner technology used for orthodontic records only. Ms. Welch was uncertain as to what that entails because if they are only scanning for record purposes, then that presumes that the scans, which is in effect digital intraoral imaging, could not then be used as a diagnostic tool to form a diagnosis by the dentist, create a written treatment plan, and then approve fabrication of an orthodontic appliance. She stated that the second part of the sentence seems to contradict that, because then it would say with final inspection and approval of the images by the dentist who treats the patient of record before fabricating. She affirmed that Board staff was concerned about the consumer protection of that authorized duty because, under existing law, an unlicensed dental assistant may only perform intraoral impressions under direct dentist supervision. This bill would change that so that it is general supervision. Ms. Welch questioned what exactly the purpose of that provision is if it is only for record purposes and asked whether that means the consumer must go back for a second visit and then get additional digital intraoral impressions so that they could then be used for diagnosis written treatment plan fabrication and manufacture of the appliances.

Chair Reed-Espinoza indicated that scanning is done for crowns, bridges, and orthodontics, and that in a scanning unit, the scanning unit is set up for a no fail situation. Whether it is direct or indirect supervision, she did not believe that was a concern in safety because the computer system is set up for safety issues in regard to getting the data that the dentist would need to have in diagnosing, sending off a case, and so forth.

Vice Chair Miyasaki declared that what might happen in the future, and is possibly happening now, with orthodontic appliance is that the brackets and the archwire are actually produced from the scan. She asked whether the scan would be accurate enough and that it sounded like the fee would be assessed for all RDAs even though there just might be a few of the preceptors. Ms. Welch responded that the Board only charges licensing fees for the cost of processing each type of application. Presumably, the increased fee for applications would only apply to preceptorship applications.

The Council received public comment on this item.

Mary McCune, CDA representative, verbalized that the preceptorship and a lot of the other pathways included in this bill were intended to address the workforce shortage issues seen in the dental assisting profession, and the theme is to meet people where they are at. In a similar approach, they have done that with the eight-hour IC course, which is why they have an eight-hour didactic only option. Ms. McCune stated CDA wanted to continue that to be sensitive to areas around this vast state where an in-person IC course is not readily available, especially now that there is the requirement to complete this before exposure to blood and saliva. Regarding the concern around DANB, she clarified that having the DANB was really a qualification to get the RDA licensure, but not necessarily to continue having that, and that there is complete overlap

in those CE requirements should the RDA decide to keep their CDA moving forward. She stated that in CDA's next set of amendments, all references to scanning are going to be removed. Additionally, she voiced that the RDAEF duties that Board Member Fowler raised were inadvertently removed and will also be added back in the next set of amendments.

Chair Reed-Espinoza asked for confirmation whether all of the items for the RDAEF2 are going to stay in as a duty. Ms. McCune replied that [removing the RDAEF2 duties] was never their intention and was an editing error.

Vice Chair Miyasaki asked what the concern regarding scanning was and why it is being removed. Ms. McCune responded that they are removing it so it is status quo of what the law is today. Any new references under the unlicensed dental assistance scope or the RDAEF scope around the CAD/CAM are going to be removed so it is going to remain what it is today.

Dr. Montez thanked CDA for listening to the Board's and Board staff concerns and working collaboratively to address the workforce shortage.

Vice Chair Miyasaki asked whether the references to apprenticeship in the bill is the reason why that was not left in as one of the pathways. Ms. McCune replied that they are going to be including ROP, adult education, and apprenticeship as a big umbrella for alternative education. She conveyed that they are working on amendments to clarify the Department of Education's reference to make sure that it is inclusive of all the accrediting bodies that the Board of Education approves. Vice Chair Miyasaki asked whether Ms. McCune would agree that it should be limited to only California apprenticeships. Ms. McCune believed in their next set of amendments, they were going to do U.S. Department of Education to be broader. She added that their intention is to make it so the accreditation standards that apprenticeships do in California are reflected and encapsulated in the bill

Ms. Becker, representing the Alliance, appreciated CDA's openness and dialogue regarding AB 481, but they still oppose unless amended, specifically regarding the removal of the lab requirement on the eight-hour IC class, and will continue to work with CDA on suggestions on how to compromise.

Dr. Gagliardi, representing FADE, disclosed that FADE supports CDA's proposal to add a significant alternative to the current eight-hour IC requirement while ensuring education training and public protection are central to the outcome. Employees are required to have annual California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) training including bloodborne pathogen training and that there are no total course hours, no hands-on elements, and no evidence to suggest that the absence of a hands-on lab or clinical component would in any way negatively impact the employee's ability to protect themselves or the public. Dr. Gagliardi continued that the DANB IC exam is also knowledge base with no lab or clinical component and its purpose is to

ensure that individuals meet the minimal national standards for knowledge base competence in dental infection prevention. They believe that the military dental assisting workforce in California, those teaching in CODA accredited dental assisting programs, and dental assistants working in a veteran's dental clinic all have earned and maintained a CDA for employment. This pathway would allow for mobility and recruitment of CDAs to becoming RDAs and joining the workforce in California. She verbalized that FADE is unclear as to how the CDA RDA renewal process competes with, impacts, or replaces the opportunities of employment requirement to maintain both the CDA and RDA. Dr. Gagliardi stated that FADE encourages the Council to support AB 481 if amended as the items related to IC and the CDA pathway will be taken into consideration.

Amanda Saling, Central California Dental Academy (CCDA) instructor, addressed the eight-hour IC course. As an instructor of that course, specifically to a plethora of individuals that are in the public, she believed the hands-on portion is extremely important. Looking at the CCDA's reviews for that course, one can see how that course has opened individuals' eyes up to things that they were not aware of in the field.

Council Member Epps-Robbins communicated that it is very imperative to keep in the 8 IC within these guidelines. Taking into consideration someone that is not knowledgeable on how to transfer a case from the lab to the lab technician, that not only puts the safety of that auxiliary in jeopardy but also the safety of the public when there are non-dental auxiliaries picking up cases as transfers, runners, or delivery services. If things are not properly packaged, IC is not being seen as something that needs to be educated on, and this results in a transfer of cross-contamination. With these eight-hour IC courses that are mandatory, they can refresh their skills and can keep up with what is expected for cross-contamination and for IC, which ultimately keeps the auxiliary safe as well as the public.

Council Member Fowler agreed with previous statements that the hands-on component for the IC is crucial, as that is where they get a good foundational knowledge of the whole process. Chair Reed-Espinoza also agreed with those statements.

Vice Chair Miyasaki was also in agreement and believed that there are other ways that these can be done, such as possibly remotely with current technology. She asked whether it would be better if the verbiage stated a minimum of two hours of laboratory instruction IC versus no more than two hours.

Ms. Welch advised the Council members to submit their comments to Chair Reed-Espinoza so that she can present them to the Board for potential inclusion in their recommendation, and that staff will do what they can to include them in what will likely be a letter to the author.

(M/S/C) (Reed-Espinoza/Pacheco) to recommend to the Board to support AB 481 if amended based upon the feedback to be provided to the Board for consideration.

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Vice Chair Miyasaki asked if the Council was in support for instead of no more than two hours of laboratory instruction, IC to be a minimum of two hours of infection for laboratory instruction. Board Member Pacheco clarified that the delivery of that could be remote wet lab.

Chair Reed-Espinoza requested public comment before the Council acted on the motion. The Council received the following public comments.

Ms. Becker, representing the Alliance, communicated that they are in opposition of a remote lab with live and would like to see live hands-on versus some other type of virtual option for the lab.

Ms. Saling expressed that the labs should be live not virtual and did not believe that students get the same experience from a computer setting than from hands-on.

Dr. Ariane Terlet, representing CDA, clarified that there is a plethora of amendments coming up that will address Vice Chair Miyasaki's inquiries, and they are looking at an alternative delivery of education. She stated that health centers throughout the state should be able to have that education on site for staff as soon as they are hired and that they are asking for a pathway.

Chair Reed-Espinoza called for the vote on the motion. Ms. Taran took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Epps-Robbins, Fowler, Miyasaki, Pacheco, Reed-Espinoza.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: Olague, Pliss.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment

Chair Reed-Espinoza adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.



MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 20, 2023
TO	Members of the Dental Assisting Council
FROM	Mirela Taran, Administrative Analyst Dental Board of California
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 4.: Executive Officer Report

Background

Dr. Tracy Montez will provide an update of Board activities.

Action Requested

No action required.



MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 19, 2023
TO	Members of the Dental Assisting Council
FROM	Rikki Parks, Dental Assisting Program Manager Dental Board of California
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 5.: Update on Dental Assisting Examination Statistics

Background

The following table provides the examination statistics for candidates who attempted dental assisting examinations this current fiscal year from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and the past three fiscal years (FYs).

License Type		RDA	OA	DSA	RDAEF		
		Written	Written	Written	Clinical	Practical	Written
FY 2022/23	Total 1st Time Candidates Tested	2,107	255	8	N/A	N/A	194
	1st Time Candidates Pass	1,644	189	7	N/A	N/A	155
	1st Time Candidates Pass %	78%	74%	88%	N/A	N/A	80%
	1st Time Candidates Fail	463	66	1	N/A	N/A	39
	1st Time Candidates Fail %	22%	26%	12%	N/A	N/A	20%
	Total Repeat Candidates Tested	774	100	2	N/A	N/A	130
	Repeat Candidates Pass	342	54	2	N/A	N/A	52
	Repeat Candidates Pass %	44%	54%	100%	N/A	N/A	40%
	Repeat Candidates Fail	432	46	N/A	N/A	N/A	78
	Repeat Candidates Fail %	56%	46%	N/A	N/A	N/A	60%
	Total Candidates Tested	2,881	355	10	N/A	N/A	324
	Total Candidates Passed	1,986	243	9	N/A	N/A	207
	Total Candidates Pass %	69%	68%	90%	N/A	N/A	64%
	Total Candidates Failed	895	112	1	N/A	N/A	117
Total Candidates Failed %	31%	32%	10%	N/A	N/A	36%	
FY 2021/22	Total 1st Time Candidates Tested	1,556	137	5	54	58	160
	1st Time Candidates Pass	1,077	102	4	37	46	111
	1st Time Candidates Pass %	69%	74%	80%	69%	79%	69%
	1st Time Candidates Fail	479	35	1	17	12	49
	1st Time Candidates Fail %	31%	26%	20%	31%	21%	31%
	Total Repeat Candidates Tested	1,001	130	1	14	19	108
	Repeat Candidates Pass	411	66	1	9	12	43
	Repeat Candidates Pass %	41%	51%	100%	64%	63%	40%
	Repeat Candidates Fail	590	64	N/A	5	7	65
Repeat Candidates Fail %	59%	49%	N/A	36%	37%	60%	

Agenda Item 5.: Update on Dental Assisting Examination Statistics
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	Total Candidates Tested	2,557	267	6	68	77	268
	Total Candidates Passed	1,488	168	5	46	58	154
	Total Candidates Pass %	58%	63%	80%	68%	75%	57%
	Total Candidates Failed	1,069	99	1	22	19	114
	Total Candidates Fail %	42%	37%	20%	32%	25%	43%
FY 2020/21	Total 1 st Time Candidates Tested	1,665	162	3	N/A	N/A	156
	1 st Time Candidates Pass	1,285	82	2	N/A	N/A	133
	1 st Time Candidates Pass %	77%	51%	67%	N/A	N/A	85%
	1 st Time Candidates Fail	380	80	1	N/A	N/A	23
	1 st Time Candidates Fail %	23%	49%	33%	N/A	N/A	15%
	Total Repeat Candidates Tested	854	184	2	N/A	N/A	28
	Repeat Candidates Pass	368	51	1	N/A	N/A	20
	Repeat Candidates Pass %	43%	28%	50%	N/A	N/A	71%
	Repeat Candidates Fail	486	133	1	N/A	N/A	8
	Repeat Candidates Fail %	57%	72%	50%	N/A	N/A	29%
	Total Candidates Tested	2,519	346	5	N/A	N/A	184
	Total Candidates Passed	1,653	133	3	N/A	N/A	153
	Total Candidates Pass %	66%	38%	60%	N/A	N/A	85%
	Total Candidates Failed	866	213	2	N/A	N/A	31
	Total Candidates Fail %	34%	62%	40%	N/A	N/A	17%
FY 2019/20	Total 1 st Time Candidates Tested	2,122	213	6	56	64	96
	1 st Time Candidates Pass	1,416	110	6	29	35	71
	1 st Time Candidates Pass %	67%	52%	100%	52%	55%	74%
	1 st Time Candidates Fail	706	103	N/A	27	29	25
	1 st Time Candidates Fail %	33%	48%	N/A	48%	45%	26%
	Total Repeat Candidates Tested	1,481	225	N/A	24	21	53
	Repeat Candidates Pass	635	91	N/A	11	7	30
	Repeat Candidates Pass %	43%	40%	N/A	46%	33%	57%
	Repeat Candidates Fail	846	134	N/A	13	14	23
	Repeat Candidates Fail %	57%	60%	N/A	54%	67%	43%
	Total Candidates Tested	3,603	438	6	80	85	149
	Total Candidates Passed	2,051	201	6	40	42	101
	Total Candidates Pass %	57%	46%	100%	50%	49%	68%
	Total Candidates Failed	1,552	237	N/A	40	43	48
	Total Candidates Fail %	43%	54%	N/A	50%	51%	32%

The Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) monitors the passing rates for the dental assistant examinations. OPES works with subject matter experts (i.e., actively practicing licensees who are in good standing) to build a bank of quality questions that adhere to professional guidelines and technical standards for use on occupational licensing examinations.

Additional information regarding written examination is available on the Board's website located here: https://dbc.ca.gov/applicants/rda_written_exam_stats_2021.shtml

Action Requested

Informational only. No action required.



MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 10, 2023
TO	Members of the Dental Assisting Council
FROM	Rikki Parks, Dental Assisting Program Manager Dental Board of California
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 6.: Update on Dental Assisting Licensing Statistics

Dental Assistant License Application Statistics

The following tables provide monthly dental assistant license application statistics for fiscal year 2019–20, 2020–21, 2021–22 and 2022–23. The data provided for 2022–23 is through June 30, 2023.

Dental Assistant Applications Received by Month													
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals
RDA 19/20	325	204	320	328	131	326	204	153	273	47	42	100	2,453
RDA 20/21	128	120	288	409	134	210	263	120	215	239	195	340	2,661
RDA 21/22	212	220	246	256	176	174	172	159	222	199	278	331	2,645
RDA 22/23	265	213	138	184	156	100	187	155	190	272	281	183	2,324
RDAEF 19/20	9	11	11	1	0	5	45	1	69	6	1	3	162
RDAEF 20/21	3	13	17	2	4	0	1	11	12	36	13	14	126
RDAEF 21/22	4	7	27	14	21	13	9	9	5	42	10	29	190
RDAEF 22/23	4	14	11	24	10	8	4	10	20	29	31	40	205
OA 19/20	20	31	31	47	14	42	19	18	17	6	2	11	258
OA 20/21	14	16	15	21	9	25	10	15	28	21	23	29	226
OA 21/22	14	24	26	25	30	28	18	14	25	26	22	20	272
OA 22/23	16	28	23	16	18	8	27	19	19	25	17	13	228
DSA 19/20	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	12
DSA 20/21	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	7
DSA 21/22	0	0	1	5	0	2	0	1	2	6	1	0	18
DSA 22/23	0	4	3	8	0	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	21
Dental Assistant Applications Approved by Month													
	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals
RDA 19/20	339	316	213	235	195	216	126	239	80	209	106	105	2,379
RDA 20/21	65	47	248	188	69	89	261	239	219	244	146	92	1,907
RDA 21/22	225	273	225	209	176	108	71	118	114	139	118	121	1,897
RDA 22/23	129	271	846	378	480	338	180	140	286	252	247	284	3,831

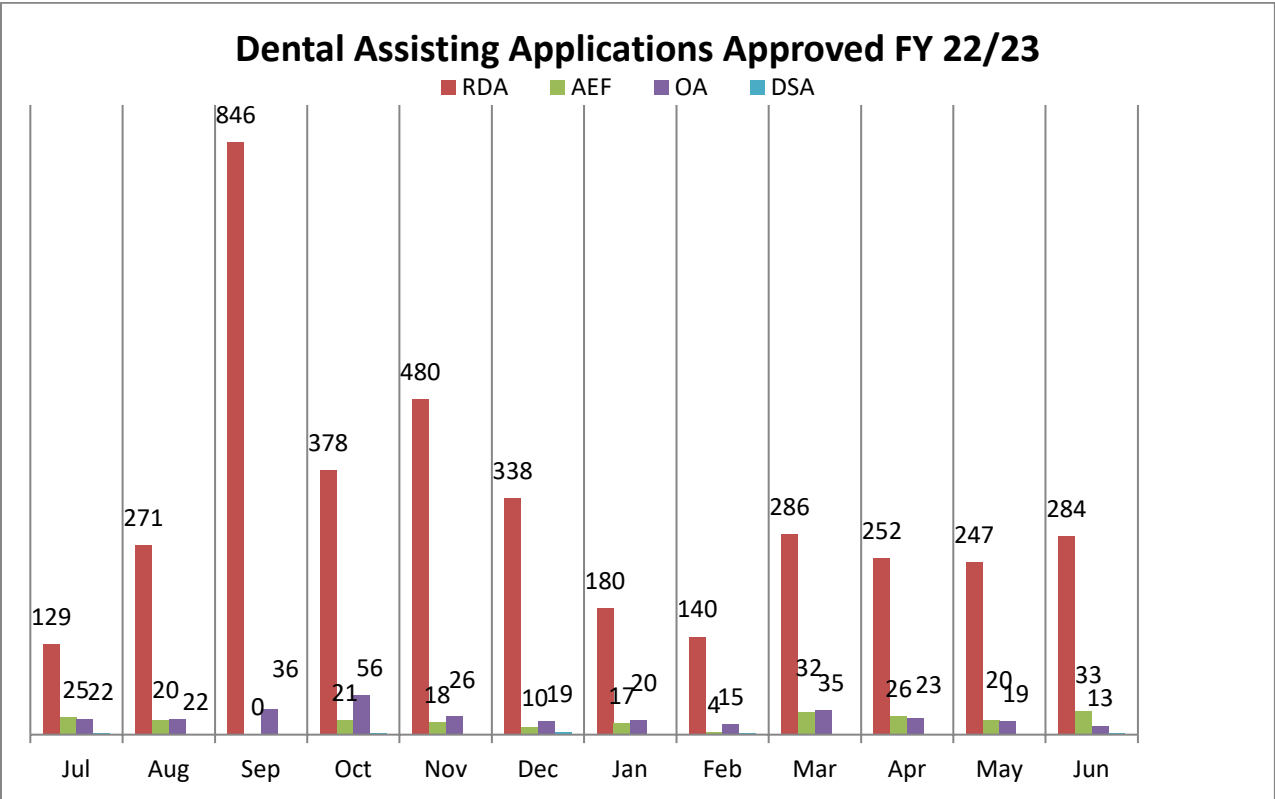
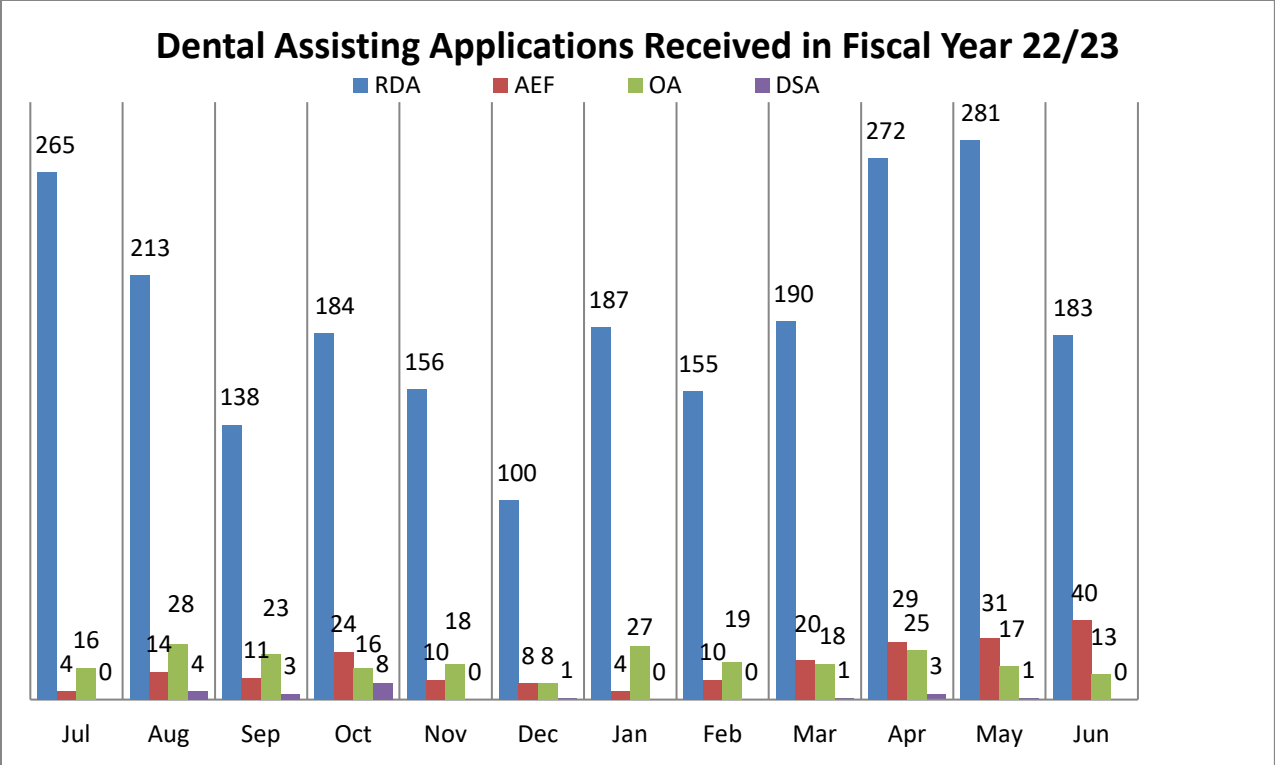
Agenda Item 6.: Update on Dental Assisting Licensing Statistics
Dental Assisting Council Meeting
August 17, 2023

Dental Assistant Applications Approved by Month – Cont'd													
	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals
RDAEF 19/20	2	0	11	20	2	1	17	31	1	6	0	0	91
RDAEF 20/21	36	19	23	17	1	5	2	3	19	10	23	20	178
RDAEF 21/22	18	1	4	22	25	12	3	11	9	7	24	35	171
RDAEF 22/23	25	20	0	21	18	10	17	4	32	26	20	33	226
OA 19/20	26	19	37	26	23	17	23	24	7	25	10	5	242
OA 20/21	0	4	22	12	13	7	18	28	17	31	14	7	173
OA 21/22	20	18	13	6	23	12	10	10	7	13	11	14	157
OA 22/23	22	22	36	56	26	19	20	15	35	23	19	13	306
DSA 19/20	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	6
DSA 20/21	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
DSA 21/22	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	6
DSA 22/23	2	1	0	2	1	4	1	2	0	0	1	3	17
Dental Assistant Licenses Issued by Month													
	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals
RDA 19/20	217	184	245	252	248	294	185	146	104	27	51	81	2,034
RDA 20/21	179	19	263	90	215	67	87	124	204	167	137	181	1,733
RDA 21/22	244	151	126	149	155	181	79	97	99	97	121	100	1,599
RDA 22/23	115	126	117	248	221	222	153	165	221	136	166	159	2,049
RDAEF 19/20	7	20	3	12	7	2	2	12	11	0	1	1	78
RDAEF 20/21	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
RDAEF 21/22	0	46	1	1	0	0	262	0	2	6	7	4	329
RDAEF 22/23	39	20	19	8	14	24	11	8	25	21	18	30	237
OA 19/20	18	28	18	25	29	17	19	12	16	5	8	10	205
OA 20/21	11	7	9	16	9	5	8	10	11	12	22	9	129
OA 21/22	10	17	2	0	32	19	22	13	15	17	11	11	169
OA 22/23	18	20	12	30	28	34	19	16	24	21	20	25	267
DSA 19/20	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3	7
DSA 20/21	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
DSA 21/22	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	5
DSA 22/23	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	3	10
Cancelled Dental Assistant Applications by Month													
	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals
RDA 19/20	3	0	4	1	1	1	2	2	4	0	0	1	19
RDA 20/21	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	2	0	3	1	11
RDA 21/22	0	1	4	2	0	6	1	0	0	2	4	5	25
RDA 22/23	1	3	3	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	13
RDAEF 19/20	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	5
RDAEF 20/21	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	2	8
RDAEF 21/22	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10
RDAEF 22/23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

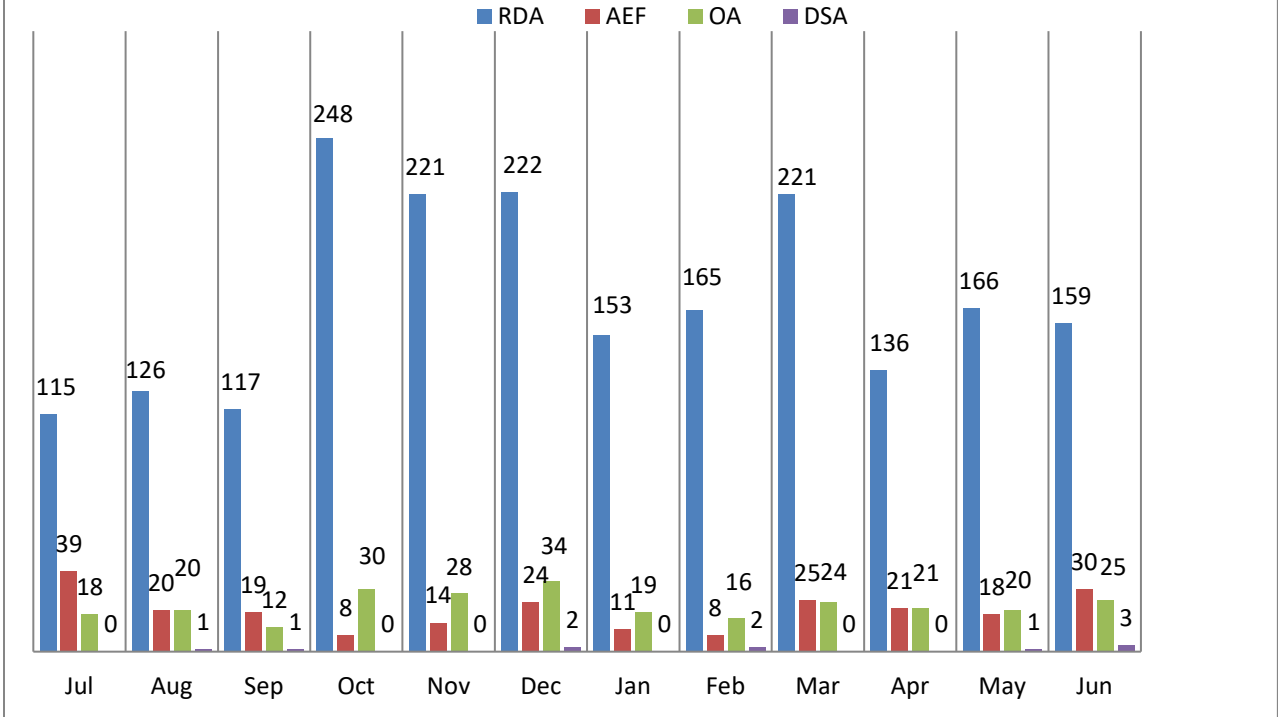
Cancelled Dental Assistant Applications by Month – Cont'd													
	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals
OA 19/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OA 20/21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OA 21/22	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
OA 22/23	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
DSA 19/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DSA 20/21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DSA 21/22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DSA 22/23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Withdrawn Dental Assistant Applications by Month													
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals
RDA 19/20	7	1	6	3	7	0	6	0	7	1	1	1	40
RDA 20/21	0	3	7	2	1	3	1	1	2	0	0	1	21
RDA 21/22	3	2	0	0	4	3	4	5	4	2	1	5	33
RDA 22/23	4	8	2	9	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	2	30
RDAEF 19/20	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
RDAEF 20/21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
RDAEF 21/22	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
RDAEF 22/23	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	4
OA 19/20	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	7
OA 20/21	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
OA 21/22	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	1	1	10
OA 22/23	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	9
DSA 19/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DSA 20/21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
DSA 21/22	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
DSA 22/23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Denied Dental Assistant Applications by Month													
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals
RDA 19/20	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	9
RDA 20/21	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	2	9
RDA 21/22	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	6
RDA 22/23	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	5	2	14
RDAEF 19/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RDAEF 20/21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RDAEF 21/22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RDAEF 22/23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OA 19/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OA 20/21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
OA 21/22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OA 22/23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Denied Dental Assistant Applications by Month – Cont'd													
	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals
DSA 19/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DSA 20/21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DSA 21/22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DSA 22/23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

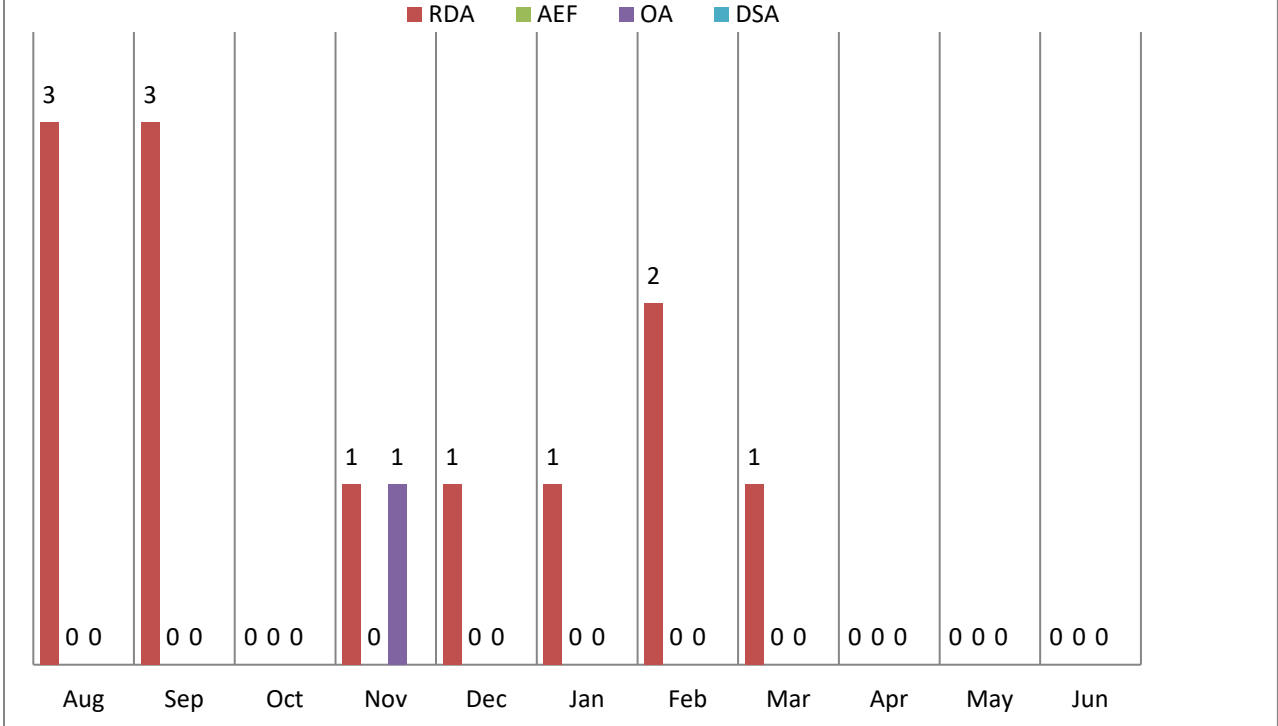
Application Definitions	
Received	Application received in paper format or electronically through BreZze system.
Approved	Application for eligibility of licensure processed with required documentation and examination eligibility issued.
License Issued	Final application including examination results approved and license issued.
Cancelled	Board requests staff to remove application (i.e., duplicate).
Withdrawn	Applicant requests Board to remove application for eligibility of licensure.
Denied	The Board denies an application on the grounds that the applicant has been convicted of a crime or has been subject to formal discipline; in accordance with Business and Professions Code, Division 1.5, Chapter 2, Denial of Licenses.

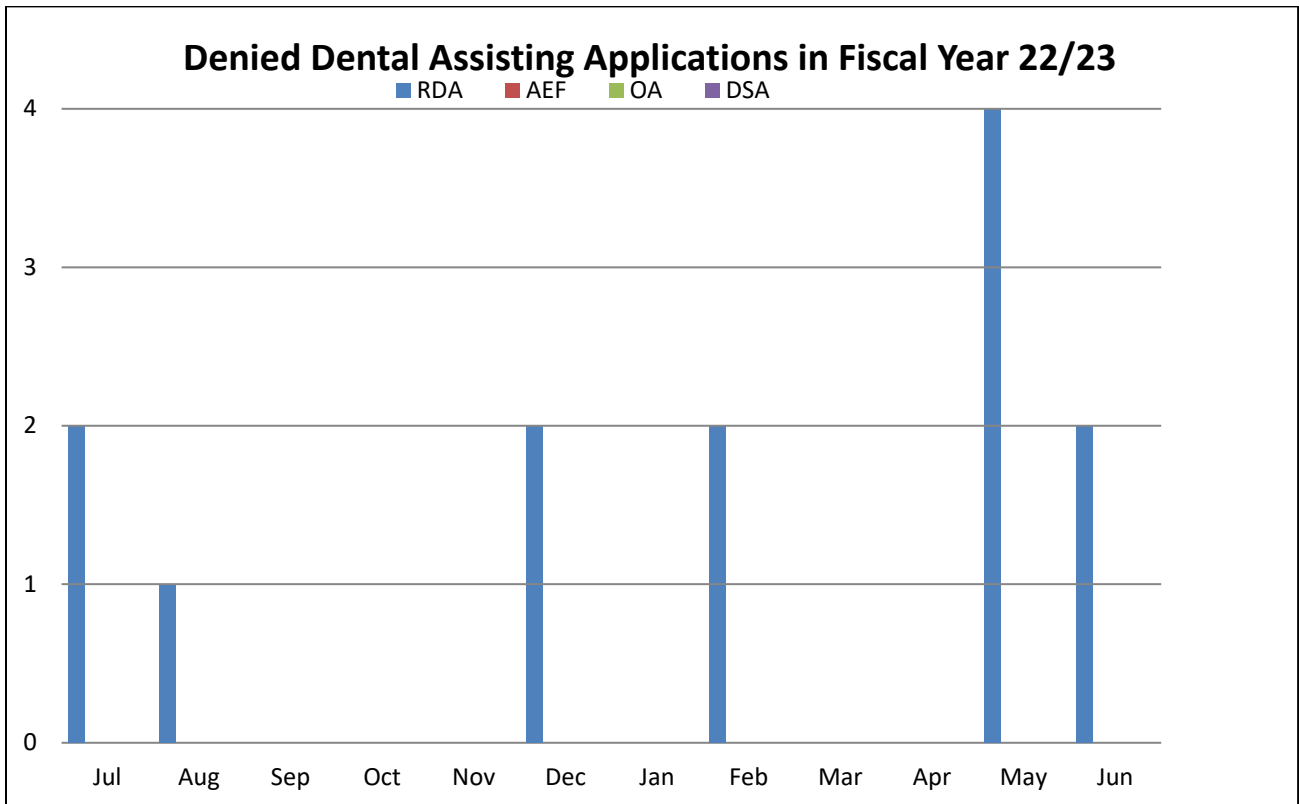
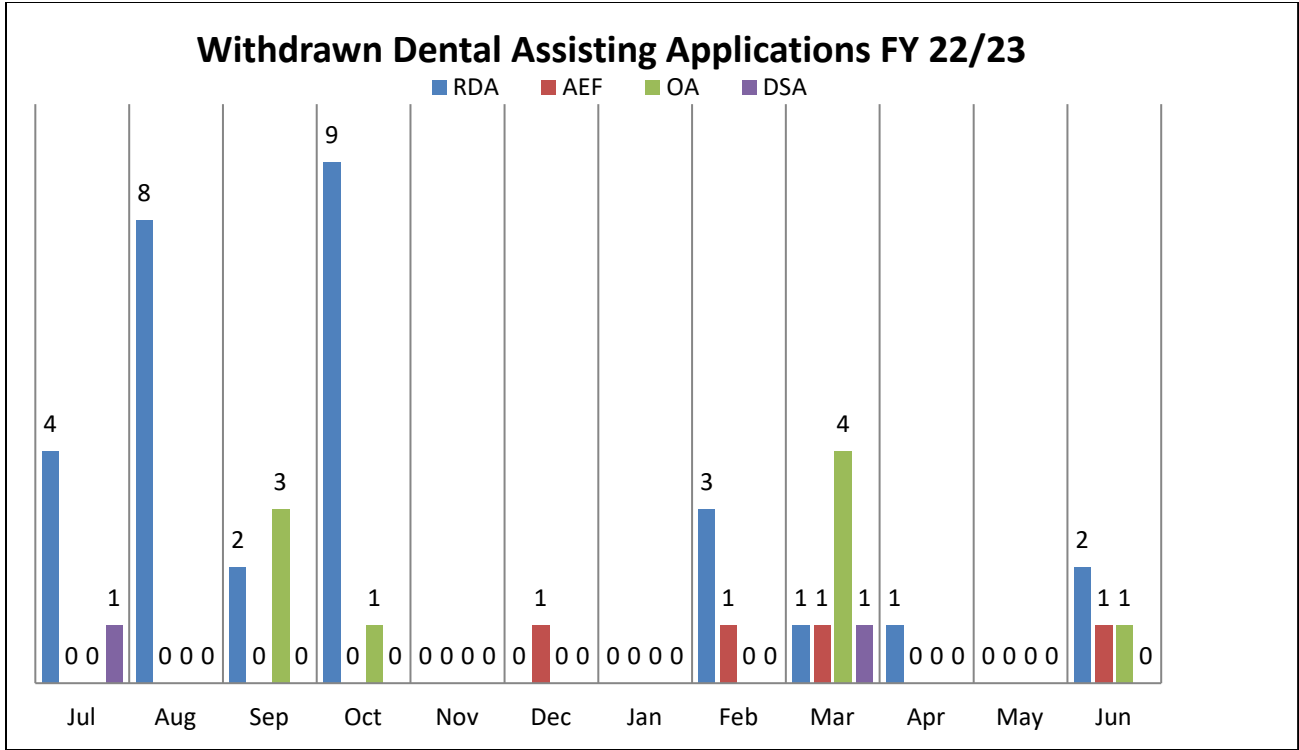


Dental Assisting Licenses Issued in Fiscal Year 22/23



Cancelled Dental Assisting Applications FY 22/23





Dental Assistant License Status Statistics

The following table provides dental assistant license and permit status statistics for fiscal years 2019–20, 2020–21, 2021–22, and 2022–23.

License Type	License Status	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Registered Dental Assistant	Active	30,465	30,317	28,902	28,437
	Inactive	4,321	4,155	3,991	3,790
	Delinquent	11,636	11,802	12,992	13,543
	Cancelled	47,759	49,700	51,512	53,712
License Type	License Status	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions	Active	1,584	1,522	1,756	1,950
	Inactive	75	74	75	77
	Delinquent	213	251	298	305
	Cancelled	350	379	420	462
License Type	License Status	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Orthodontic Assistant	Active	1,281	1,340	1,407	1,602
	Inactive	23	34	44	46
	Delinquent	158	211	286	333
	Cancelled	4	13	27	51
License Type	License Status	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Dental Sedation Assistant	Active	36	38	38	45
	Inactive	2	3	2	4
	Delinquent	15	13	16	17
	Cancelled	2	4	7	9

Definitions	
Active	An individual who has an active status and has completed all renewal requirements receives this status.
Inactive	An individual who has an inactive status; has paid the renewal fees but cannot perform the duties of the license unless the license is re-activated. Continuing education units are not required for inactive license renewal.
Delinquent	An individual who does not comply with renewal requirements receives this status until renewal requirements are met.
Cancelled	An individual who fails to comply with renewal requirements by a set deadline will receive this status. Total number of licenses / permits cancelled to date.

The following table provides statistics on population, current and active Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) licenses by county, and population per RDA license by county for fiscal years 2020–21, 2021–22 and 2022–23.

County	RDA 20/21	Pop. 20/21	Pop. PerRDA 20/21	DDS 20/21	RDA to DDS Ratio 20/21	RDA 21/22	Pop. 21/22	Pop. Per RDA 21/22	DDS 21/22	RDA to DDS Ratio 21/22	RDA 22/23	Pop. 22/23	Pop. Per RDA 22/23	DDS 22/23	RDA to DDS Ratio 22/23
Alameda	1,252	1,670,834	1,334	1,497	1:1	1,185	1,651,979	1,394	1,492	1:1	1,221	1,651,979	1,352	1,485	0:1
Alpine	0	1,142	N/A	1	0:1	0	1,200	N/A	1	0:1	0	1,200	0	0	0
Amador	57	37,676	660	23	2:1	55	40,297	732	22	2:1	78	40,297	516	21	2:1
Butte	267	210,291	787	126	2:1	250	201,608	806	124	2:1	291	201,608	692	124	2:1
Calaveras	61	45,023	738	18	3:1	55	40,297	732	18	3:1	69	45,049	652	21	2:1
Colusa	28	21,902	782	6	5:1	28	21,807	779	6	4:1	28	21,807	778	6	4:1
Contra Costa	1,285	1,153,561	897	1,123	1:1	1,224	1,156,555	944	1,098	1:1	1320	1,156,555	876	1,103	1:1
Del Norte	29	27,298	941	15	2:1	26	27,218	1,046	13	2:1	30	27,218	907	11	2:1
El Dorado	220	193,227	878	161	1:1	205	190,465	929	157	1:1	257	190,465	741	152	1:1
Fresno	907	1,023,358	1,128	622	1:1	884	1,011,273	1,143	613	1:1	962	1,011,273	1,051	620	1:1
Glenn	49	29,400	600	10	5:1	46	28,750	625	6	7:1	46	28,750	625	7	7:1
Humboldt	170	133,302	784	68	2:1	162	135,168	834	64	2:1	162	135,168	834	63	2:1
Imperial	85	188,777	2,220	38	2:1	83	179,329	2,161	38	2:1	102	179,329	1,758	39	2:1
Inyo	11	18,584	1,689	9	1:1	9	18,978	2,109	8	1:1	8	18,978	2,372	5	1:1
Kern	624	917,553	1,470	350	2:1	601	909,813	1,513	340	1:1	734	909,813	1,239	341	1:1
Kings	139	153,608	1,105	64	2:1	134	152,023	1,135	49	2:1	157	152,023	968	61	2:1
Lake	90	64,040	711	45	2:1	80	67,407	842	26	3:1	112	67,407	601	39	1:1
Lassen	48	28,833	600	24	2:1	40	30,274	756	23	1:1	40	30,274	756	22	1:1
Los Angeles	4,748	10,172,951	2,142	8,502	1:2	4,503	9,861,224	2,189	8,418	1:2	5099	9,861,224	1,933	8,416	0:1
Madera	137	158,147	1,154	43	3:1	135	157,396	1,165	45	3:1	144	157,396	1,093	44	3:1
Marin	183	260,831	1,425	304	1:2	174	257,135	1,477	308	1:2	183	257,135	1,405	290	0:1
Mariposa	15	18,067	1,204	7	2:1	12	17,045	1,420	7	1:1	11	17,045	1,549	7	1:1
Mendocino	103	87,946	853	52	2:1	97	89,999	927	54	1:1	112	89,999	803	49	1:1

County	RDA 20/21	Pop. 20/21	Pop. per RDA 20/21	DDS 20/21	RDA to DDS Ratio 20/21	RDA 21/22	Pop. 21/22	Pop. per RDA 21/22	DDS 21/22	RDA to DDS Ratio 21/22	RDA 22/23	Pop. 22/23	Pop. Per RDA 22/23	DDS 22/23	RDA to DDS Ratio 22/23
Merced	252	283,521	1,125	91	3:1	240	284,338	1,184	97	2:1	264	284,338	1,077	92	2:1
Modoc	4	9,570	2,392	5	1:1	2	8,690	4,345	3	1:2	3	8,690	2,896	3	0:1
Mono	5	13,464	2,692	3	2:1	6	13,379	2,229	5	1:1	5	13,379	2,675	5	1:1
Monterey	392	441,143	1,125	259	2:1	380	433,716	1,141	257	1:1	436	433,716	994	248	1:1
Napa	137	139,088	1,015	113	1:1	127	136,179	1,072	112	1:1	141	136,179	965	110	1:1
Nevada	96	98,114	1,022	77	1:1	88	101,242	1,150	77	1:1	100	101,242	1,012	72	1:1
Orange	1,823	3,194,332	1,752	4,005	1:2	1,742	3,162,245	1,815	4,044	1:2	1814	3,162,245	1,743	4,073	0:1
Placer	507	403,711	796	471	1:1	465	409,025	879	466	1:1	534	409,025	765	472	0:1
Plumas	19	18,260	961	15	1:1	19	18,942	996	14	1:1	18	18,942	1,052	13	1:1
Riverside	2,126	2,442,304	1,148	1,111	2:1	1,982	2,435,525	1,228	1,122	1:1	2171	2,435,525	1,121	1,142	1:1
Sacramento	1,662	1,555,365	935	1,159	1:1	1,619	1,576,618	973	1,175	1:1	1887	1,576,618	835	1,176	1:1
San Benito	106	62,353	588	23	5:1	111	65,479	589	24	4:1	118	65,479	554	23	4:1
San Bernardino	1,567	2,180,537	1,391	1,381	1:1	1,505	2,187,665	1,453	1,370	1:1	1688	2,187,665	1,296	1,398	1:1
San Diego	2,659	3,343,355	1,257	2,779	1:1	2,541	3,287,306	1,293	2,764	0:1	2808	3,287,306	1,170	2,820	0:1
San Francisco	437	897,806	2,054	1,225	1:3	416	842,754	2,025	1,175	1:3	452	842,754	1,864	1,151	0:1
San Joaquin	792	773,632	976	371	2:1	777	784,298	1,009	371	2:1	873	784,298	898	376	1:1
San Luis Obispo	222	277,259	1,248	225	1:1	206	280,721	1,362	207	1:1	248	280,721	1,131	210	1:1
San Mateo	605	773,244	1,278	858	1:1	561	744,662	1,327	853	1:1	572	744,662	1,301	843	0:1
Santa Barbara	352	451,840	1,283	324	1:1	352	445,164	1,264	312	1:1	399	445,164	1,115	307	1:1
Santa Clara	1,673	1,961,969	1,172	2,292	1:1	1,598	1,894,783	1,185	2,284	1:1	1662	1,894,783	1,140	2,289	0:1
Santa Cruz	234	271,233	1,159	170	1:1	214	266,564	1,245	166	1:1	225	266,564	1,184	168	1:1
Shasta	189	178,045	942	115	2:1	174	180,531	1,037	107	1:1	203	180,531	889	100	1:1
Sierra	5	3,201	640	1	5:1	2	3,229	1,614	0	4:0	2	3,229	1,614	0	0:1
Siskiyou	34	44,461	1,307	24	1:1	29	43,830	1,511	21	1:1	28	43,830	1,565	23	1:1
Solano	641	440,224	686	287	2:1	621	447,241	720	282	2:1	623	447,241	717	279	2:1
Sonoma	671	492,980	734	393	2:1	656	482,404	735	383	1:1	675	482,404	714	382	1:1

County	RDA 20/21	Pop. 20/21	Pop. per RDA 20/21	DDS 20/21	RDA to DDS Ratio 20/21	RDA 21/22	Pop. 21/22	Pop. per RDA 21/22	DDS 21/22	RDA to DDS Ratio 21/22	RDA 22/23	Pop. 22/23	Pop. Per RDA 22/23	DDS 22/23	RDA to DDS Ratio 22/23
Stanislaus	594	557,709	938	273	2:1	587	549,466	936	271	2:1	665	549,466	826	274	2:1
Sutter	124	100,750	812	56	2:1	120	99,145	826	52	2:1	143	99,145	693	51	2:1
Tehama	87	65,129	748	29	3:1	83	65,052	783	31	2:1	95	65,052	684	31	2:1
Trinity	4	13,548	3,387	4	1:1	5	16,023	3,204	3	1:1	5	16,023	3,204	3	1:1
Tulare	451	479,977	1,064	227	2:1	425	475,014	1,117	218	1:1	491	475,014	967	217	2:1
Tuolumne	75	54,917	732	47	2:1	69	55,291	801	48	1:1	81	55,291	682	47	1:1
Ventura	550	842,886	1,532	666	1:1	513	833,652	1,625	666	1:1	590	833,652	1,412	627	0:1
Yolo	196	221,705	1,131	114	2:1	190	221,165	1,164	118	1:1	210	221,165	1,053	122	1:1
Yuba	88	78,887	896	7	13:1	90	82,275	914	6	15:1	104	82,275	791	7	13:1
TOTAL	29,887	39,782,870	65,490	32,308	N/A	30,119	39,371,318	1,307	32,034	1:1	31,499	39,185,605	66,100	32,080	N/A

*Population data obtained from Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit.

**Ratios are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Counties with the Highest Population per RDA:	Trinity County (1:3,204)	Counties with Lowest Population per RDA:	Alpine County (No RDAs)
	Modoc County (1:2,896)		Amador County (1:516)
	Mono County (1:2,675)		San Benito County (1:554)
	Inyo County (1:2,372)		Lake County (1:601)
	Los Angeles County (1:1,933)		Glen County (1:625)

Action Requested

Informational only. No action required.



MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 24, 2023
TO	Members of the Dental Assisting Council
FROM	Rikki Parks, Dental Assisting Program Manager Dental Board of California
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 7.: Update on Registered Dental Assistant and Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions Educational Programs and Courses Application Approvals

Update

The following tables provide an update on educational program and course applications.

Action Requested

Informational Only. No action is required.

Table 1 below identifies the total number of Dental Assisting (DA) Program and Course curriculum applications approved in 2023.

Table 1											
Total DA Program and Course Applications Approved in 2023											
	RDA Programs	RDAEF Programs	RDAEF-ITR	Radiation Safety Course	Coronal Polish Course	Pit & Fissure Sealant	Ultrasonic Scaler	Infection Control	Ortho Assistant	Dental Sedation Assistant	Grand Total
Course Totals	1	1	0	6	5	3	0	4	18	3	41

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Table 2 below lists the DA Program and Course application status in 2023.

Table 2					
DA Program and Course Application Status in 2023					
Program or Course	Approved	Denied	Curriculum Approved-Pending Site Visit	In the Review Process	Deficient
RDA Program/Curriculum	0	0	1	0	0
RDAEF Program/Curriculum	0	0	1	0	1
RDAEF-ITR	0	0	N/A	0	0
Radiation Safety	6	0	N/A	5	5
Coronal Polish	5	0	N/A	1	4
Pit & Fissure Sealant	3	0	N/A	3	0
Ultrasonic Scaler	0	0	N/A	2	1
Infection Control	4	0	N/A	7	9
OA Permit	18	1	N/A	1	2
DSA Permit	3	0	N/A	0	1
Total Applications	39	1	2	19	23

Table 3 below identifies the total number of DA Program and Course applications approved in the second quarter of the current year, April 1 to June 30, 2023.

Table 3										
Total Number of DA Program and Course Applications Approved in Quarter-2 of 2023										
RDA Programs	RDAEF Programs	RDAEF-ITR	Radiation Safety Course	Coronal Polish Course	Pit & Fissure Sealant	Ultrasonic Scaler	Infection Control	Ortho Assistant	Dental Sedation Assistant	Grand Total
0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	4	1	10

Table 4 below provides the total number of approved DA programs and courses in active status.

Table 4									
Total Number of Approved DA Programs and Courses in Active Status									
RDA Programs	RDAEF Programs	RDAEF-ITR Programs	Radiation Safety Course	Coronal Polish Course	Pit and Fissure Sealants Course	Ultrasonic Scaler Course	Infection Control Course	Orthodontic Assistant Course	Dental Sedation Assistant Course
86	11	4	172	120	133	42	144	195	53

Table 5 that begins on the following page identifies approved DA program and course providers by name and type of program.

Table 5

Approved DA Program and Course Providers by Name and Type of Program

Provider	Approval Date	RDA Program	RDAEF Program	RDAEF-ITR	X-Ray	CP	P/F	US	IC	DSA	OA
Global Dental	02/14/23				X	X			X		
Scripps Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics	02/15/23										X
Anacapa Orthodontics	02/15/23										X
Academy of Evolution in Dental Assisting	02/15/23										X
Dental Academy of California	02/15/23						X				
Dental Academy of California	02/17/23				X	X			X		
Norwalk La Mirada Adult School	02/21/23					X					
Continuing Education School for Dentistry	02/21/23								X		
Continuing Education School for Dentistry	02/24/23				X						
iEducations	02/27/23					X					
Fresno City College	02/27/23				X						
Wow! Smiles	02/27/23				X						
Dr. Andrew C. Wong, Orthodontist	02/27/23										X
Vicki Wang Orthodontics	03/06/23										X
Wayne S. Hane, DDS	03/06/23										X
David H. Lindsey DDS MS Inc.	03/13/23										X
GO Orthodontics	03/13/23										X
Pulver Dental, P.C.	03/13/23										X
Roger S. Lim, DDS, MS, Inc.	03/13/23										X
Shelby J. Smith, DDS, MS A Professional Corporation	03/14/23										X
Lemoore Orthodontics	03/14/23										X
Marin Braces	03/14/23										X
Orthodontics Pediatric Dentistry	03/14/23										X
Center for Oral Reconstruction & Education	03/16/23									X	
Scotts Valley Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	03/16/23									X	

Table 5-continued

Approved DA Program and Course Providers by Name and Type of Program

Provider	Approval Date	RDA Program	RDAEF Program	RDAEF-ITR	X-Ray	CP	P/F	US	IC	DSA	OA
TMS	05/24/2023								X		
Watsonville Family Orthodontics	05/24/2023										X
Highland Hospital Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	05/25/2023									X	
Diablo Valley College	05/31/2023						X				
Chaffey Community College	06/01/2023										X
Tavarez Orthodontics	06/01/2023										X
ABC Adult School/ABC Unified School District	06/01/2023						X				
Dougherty Orthodontics	06/01/2023										X
Reedley College	06/09/2023					X					
Reedley College	06/09/2023				X						
INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM/COURSE TOTALS		0	0	0	6	5	3	0	4	3	18
TOTAL APPROVALS = 39											



MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 6, 2023
TO	Members of the Dental Assisting Council
FROM	Tracy A. Montez, Ph.D., Executive Officer Dental Board of California
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 9.: Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Penalties for Fraudulent Advertising and Misinformation of Dental Assistant Educational Programs and Courses

Background

Through communications with professional associations and stakeholder groups, the Dental Board of California (Board) staff have become aware of fraudulent advertising and misinformation distributed by dental assistant educational programs and courses. Examples of these issues are programs and courses including false statements on their websites that they are Board accredited (i.e., the Board does not accredit any program or course), completing the program or course satisfies Board requirements for licensure, or that the course or program is Board approved when it is not.

Fraudulent advertising and misinformation lures prospective students to pay for these programs or courses that do not satisfy the educational requirements for registered dental assistant or registered dental assistant in extended functions licensure, causing the students to pay additional money to take Board-approved programs and courses and delays the student's licensure.

Existing Board Authority

Currently, the Board has authority to approve educators to offer courses and programs. However, since no license, registration, or permit is issued to Board-approved dental assistant educational programs or courses, the Board does not have robust enforcement over these course and program providers and cannot discipline any license, registration, or permit held by the educational program or course for non-compliance with regulatory requirements. The Board may only withdraw or deny program and course approvals due to failure to comply with program and course requirements. (California Code of Regulations (CCR), tit. 16, § 1070, subs. (a)(2), (4).)

Agenda Item 9.: Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Penalties for Fraudulent Advertising and Misinformation of Dental Assistant Educational Programs and Courses
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Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 17500 prescribes a penalty for false advertising; a violation is a misdemeanor punishable by six months in jail or a \$2,500 fine, or both. However, the Board does not file criminal actions and has no authority to cite educators for false advertising.

One option would be to establish, via statute or regulation, that a violation of BPC section 17500 would constitute unprofessional conduct. The Medical Board of California has something like this in BPC section 2271.

“Any advertising in violation of section 17500, relating to false or misleading advertising, constitutes unprofessional conduct.”

This language could be entered as a separate statute or added to the current unprofessional conduct language in section 1680 (which applies to all dental licensees).

Such language would permit the Board to pursue the licenses and/or permits of individuals associated with programs, or licenses and/or permits held by the programs themselves.

Alternately, the Board may decide to request that violations of section 17500 would be subject to disciplinary action and determine the appropriate sanctions for such violations.

Staff Recommendation

Board staff recommend including this issue in the Board’s Sunset Review Report and requesting that the California State Legislature create a clear enforcement action statute, with prescribed Board administrative enforcement actions, to combat fraudulent advertising and misinformation distributed by educational programs and course providers.

Action Requested

The Council is asked to discuss and consider this request, and then move to recommend to the Board that this issue be included in the Board’s Sunset Review Report.



MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 21, 2023
TO	Members of the Dental Assisting Council
FROM	David Bruggeman, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist Dental Board of California
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 10.a.: Status Update on Pending Regulations

Background

This memo is intended to inform members of the Dental Assisting Council (Council) about actions taken on rulemaking packages related to dental assisting initiated by the Dental Board of California (Board).

Dental Assisting Comprehensive Rulemaking Regulations (Title 16 CCR sections 1067-1081.3)

The Dental Assisting Council (Council) held several stakeholder workshops in 2017 and 2018 to develop its comprehensive rulemaking proposal for dental assisting. The final stakeholder workshop took place on March 2, 2018. As a result of these workshops, Board staff developed proposed regulatory language to include changes to educational program and course requirements, examination requirements, and licensure requirements for dental assisting. Board staff presented the proposed language at a special meeting of the Council on July 26, 2019. The Council received extensive comments and feedback on the proposed language from stakeholders. The Council members themselves also provided extensive comments and feedback. Council and stakeholder comments required extensive staff research, drafting and editing. Staff presented the updated rulemaking at the November 2019 Council meeting. The Council voted to accept the changes proposed by staff and moved for staff to present the proposed text to the full Board.

Staff worked with the Board's Regulatory Counsel to update and recreate various forms requiring amendments resulting from the changes within the proposed language. This review identified new issues with the language and necessitated bringing the package back to the Board for review and approval. The final language approved by the Council in November 2019 was submitted and approved by the Board at its December 2020 meeting. The Board also moved to initiate a rulemaking.

Numerous events have occurred between 2020 and today, including legislation introduced (Assembly Bill (AB) 481) that, if signed into law, would make significant changes to the Dental Assisting article of the Dental Practice Act. Regardless of the status of the previously approved regulatory language, Board staff expects that AB 481 would require both new regulations and changes to existing regulations. The legislation is, as of the date of this memo, in the Senate awaiting hearing before the Appropriations Committee.

Because of this new legislation, and the time that has passed since the Board approved the rulemaking language, staff are recommending that the approved language be reviewed. Staff are requesting that the Board direct the Council to lead this review, through a two-person working group. This group would work with staff and stakeholders to update the language to reflect the requirements of AB 481 (unless it is not signed into law) and revise the language to reflect changes in the profession since the language was last drafted.

Action Requested

No action is requested at this time, but if the Board approves the proposed request, the Council will be asked to form a two-person working group to review the previously approved dental assisting comprehensive rulemaking language.



MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 21, 2023
TO	Members of the Dental Assisting Council
FROM	David Bruggeman, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist Dental Board of California
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 11.: Update, Discussion, and Possible Recommendation on Pending Legislation

Background

The Dental Board of California (Board) has been tracking bills that impact the Board, the Dental Assisting Council (Council), the Department of Consumer Affairs, healing arts boards and their respective licensees, and all licensing boards. This memorandum includes information regarding the status, location, date of introduction, date of last amendment, and a summary of Assembly Bill (AB) 481. Staff will be presenting this bill for Council discussion and possible recommendation to the Board at the August meeting.

[AB 481](#) (Wendy Carrillo, 2023) Dentistry: dental assistants.

Introduced: February 7, 2023

Last Amended: July 12, 2023

Disposition: In Committee

Location: Senate

Status: July 10, 2023: Passed Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development and referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Summary: As introduced, the bill would have made a non-substantive change to Business and Professions Code section 1740, which expresses the intent of the Legislature concerning dental assistants. The change would replace a reference to 'pursuant to' with 'by'.

At the February 2023 Board meeting, representatives from the California Dental Association indicated that they had a legislative proposal and that it would be included in AB 481.

The bill was significantly amended on March 23, 2023 to include language from a legislative proposal offered by the California Dental Association. Additional amendments

Agenda Item 11.: Update, Discussion, and Possible Recommendation on Pending Legislation
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were made on April 10 and again on April 20. As currently written, the bill is a significant overhaul of the Dental Practice Act article on Dental Assisting. The changes include:

- Adding definitions for several terms into statute
- Changes the number of pathways to licensure from three (graduation from a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) educational program, work experience, and a combination of work experience and education) to five. The bill would add an hourly requirement to the current 15-month work experience pathway. Unlicensed dental assistants would have to have at least 1,280 hours of ‘satisfactory work experience’ as certified by the employer dentist. All pathways, except graduation from an RDA education program, would also require, in addition to pathway-specific requirements, passing courses in radiation safety, coronal polishing, and the new mandatory course requirements described below. The existing combination education and work experience pathway would be removed. The three new pathways are:
 - A ‘preceptorship’ combining work experience (at least 500 hours) and coursework (at least 300 hours, including mandatory courses) and supervised by an employer-dentist designated as ‘preceptor’ who would evaluate competency, teach critical reasoning, ensure the coursework is from a Board-approved provider and document progress.
 - Graduation from an alternative dental assisting program (at least 500 hours of coursework) as defined by the bill, plus 300 hours work experience verified by the employer-dentist
 - Holding a current Certified Dental Assistant certificate from the Dental Assisting National Board and completing a course in pit and fissure sealants
- Revises the obligations of the employer-dentist of an unlicensed dental assistant to also require the employer-dentist to inform the unlicensed dental assistants about pathways to licensure and mandatory education requirements.
- Amends the mandatory course requirements for unlicensed dental assistants to require the following courses (in addition to basic life support certification) from Board-approved providers (the courses would not require Board approval) within one year of initial employment:
 - Eight-hour course in infection control (completed prior to any procedures where there could be exposure to infectious material)
 - Two-hour course in Dental Practice Act
 - Two-hour course in Division of Occupational Safety and Health bloodborne pathogen training.
- Orthodontic Assistant (OA) permit holders whose permits were issued on or after January 1, 2026 would be allowed to perform additional duties, and OA permit holders who are RDA or Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF) licensees could perform certain placements as well.
- Revises the requirements for dental sedation assistant permit applicants depending on whether they are unlicensed or an RDA or RDAEF. Unlicensed applicants will

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need to take a longer course than RDA or RDAEF applicants and would have to comply with the mandatory education requirements for unlicensed dental assistants before sitting for the exam.

- Revises the list of permitted duties for unlicensed dental assistants.
- Revises the list of permitted duties for RDA.
- Revises the list of permitted duties for RDA in Extended Functions.
- Establishes criteria for courses in interim therapeutic restorations and radiographic decision making as well as infection control.
- Requires licenses, permit holders and radiation safety certificate holders to display those credentials in the treatment facility where the dental assistant, RDA or RDAEF is performing the associated duties.

The Board voted at its May 2023 meeting to take a Support if Amended position, outlining several concerns it had with the bill. Many of those concerns were addressed in amendments to the bill on July 3. Considering these changes, the Board President and Vice-President, as the Board's Executive Committee, revised the Board's position to Support.

The July 3 amendments revised several definitions to address feedback from the Board and other stakeholders. Portions of the bill were reorganized and the implementation dates for the new permitted duties for orthodontic assistant and dental sedation assistant permit holders were moved from January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2024. The July 12 amendments made further clarifying changes to the bill.

Board Impact: The bill as currently written makes significant changes to several aspects of the dental assisting provisions of the Dental Practice Act. Board staff would need to revise current forms and processes and develop new forms and processes for the new licensure pathways detailed in the bill.

The bill would require the development of new forms and processes to address the new pathways. This would include changes to the BreEZe system. New regulations would need to be developed, and existing regulations would need to be reviewed and amended to reflect the bill

The Board anticipates needing additional staff positions to address the new pathways established by the legislation. With much of the bill's provisions (as of this writing) going into effect in the first six months of 2024, staff believes it likely that there will be some implementation challenges having the necessary new processes in place and functional in 2024.

Recommended Board Position: Support.

Action Requested

The Council may make one of the following recommendations regarding this bill:

- Support
- Support if Amended
- Oppose
- Oppose unless Amended
- Watch
- Neutral
- No Action