



**DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
DENTAL ASSISTING COUNCIL MINUTES**

**August 15, 2019**

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San Francisco Airport  
835 Airport Blvd.  
Burlingame, CA, 94010

**Members Present:**

Anne Contreras, RDA  
Cindy Ovard, RDA  
Jennifer Rodriguez, RDAEF  
Rosalinda Olague, RDA  
Bruce Witcher, DDS

**Members Absent:**

Pamela Peacock, RDA

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

The meeting of the Dental Assisting Council was called to order by Dental Assisting Council Chair Jennifer Rodriguez. Roll was called and a quorum established.

Agenda Item 2: Update on New Dental Assisting Program and Course Applications

Tina Vallery, Dental Assisting Licensing Manager, provided a report on the new dental assisting program and course applications. Refer to the board meeting materials on the Board's website.

Public Comment:

Dr. Guy Acheson, California Academy of General Dentistry representative, requested the Council to consider expanding training for dental sedation assistants.

Dr. Witcher responded that a lot of dental assisting programs were interested in teaching dental sedation assistant courses; however, their administrations were unwilling to take on the courses due to insurance considerations. Dr. Witcher added that the Council recognizes the need for expanding the training but the logistics of providing those courses is an ongoing challenge. The Council does encourage dental assisting specialties to open more dental sedation assistant courses.

Agenda Item 3: Update on RDA Program Re-Evaluation and Overview of Re-Evaluation Process

Ms. Vallery provided a report of the RDA program re-evaluation and an overview of the re-evaluation process. Refer to the board meeting materials on the Board's website.

Ms. Ovard questioned if there has been any improvement on applications since the last meeting. Ms. Vallery responded that the Board has not sent out any requests since the last meeting and the workshops are intended to inform the programs of the process. Ms. Ovard questioned how long deficiency and extensions last. Ms. Vallery responded that it is a case by case basis depending on what the program's requesting as the Board does it's best to consider the program's time. Dr. Whitcher commented that the process is still new and recognized Board staff for working with the programs. Ms. Contreras questioned if the Board will do re-evaluation for stand-alone courses. Ms. Vallery responded that no plans have been made for those courses; however, it is something Board staff wants to eventually work on in the future.

Public Comment:

Claudia Pohl, California Dental Assistants Association (CDAA), thanked and recognized staff for working collaboratively with CDAA.

Agenda Item 4: Update on Dental Assisting Examination Statistics

Ms. Vallery provided the dental assisting examination statistics report. Refer to the board meeting materials on the Board's website.

Ms. Contreras noticed the decline in the passing rate for *orthodontic assistants* under *repeat candidates* and questioned if there have been any changes in the written exam. Ms. Vallery responded there has been no change. Dr. Whitcher commented that an efficient exam should display successful candidates passing the first time and a higher failure rate for repeat candidates. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 5: Update on Dental Assisting Licensing Statistics

Ms. Vallery provided the dental assisting licensing statistics report. Refer to the board meeting materials on the Board's website.

Dr. Whitcher commented on the shortage of dental assistants in the workforce. Ms. Ovard questioned how long dental assistant licensees can be inactive since there is no continuing education requirement. Ms. Vallery responded that the licensees can remain in inactive status as long as they choose to with the opportunity to renew their dental assistant license every two (2) years. Ms. Ovard asked how long a license can remain delinquent before it gets cancelled. Ms. Vallery responded that the delinquent status would be automatic after the expiration date until its renewed. The license will then be cancelled after five years in delinquent status. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 6: Update Regarding the Dental Assisting Comprehensive Rulemaking Proposal

Ms. Sarah Wallace, Assistant Executive Officer reported on the dental assisting comprehensive rulemaking proposal. Refer to the board meeting materials on the Board's website.

Ms. Wallace reported that a special meeting may be held with the Dental Assisting Council to finalize the rulemaking proposal for the Board's consideration in initiation of the rulemaking. Dr. Whitcher recognized Board staff's work and acknowledged stakeholders and Council members for reading through the proposal and providing feedback. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 7: Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda  
None.

Agenda Item 8: Future Agenda Items  
None.

Agenda Item 9: Council Member Comments on Items Not on the Agenda  
None.

Agenda Item 9: Adjournment  
Meeting adjourned.