



DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
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DENTAL ASSISTING COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 17, 2012
Embassy Suites SFO Airport Waterfront
150 Anza Blvd., Burlingame, CA 94010

Members Present

Anne Contreras, RDA
Pamela Davis-Washington, RDA
Judith Forsythe, RDA
Teresa Lua, RDAEF
Emma Ramos, RDA
Denise Romero, RDA
Bruce Witcher, DDS

Members Absent

Staff Present

Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer
Denise Johnson, Assistant Executive Officer
Kim Trefry, Enforcement Chief
Sarah Wallace, Legislative and Regulatory Analyst
Karen Fischer, Associate Analyst
Linda Byers, Executive Assistant
Kristy Shellans, DCA Senior Staff Counsel
Greg Salute, Deputy Attorney General

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

The council meeting was called to order at 3:16 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

DAC 1 – Dental Assisting Council Member Self Introductions and Administration of Oath of Office

The new Dental Assisting Council members introduced themselves and told a little bit about their backgrounds. Dr. Witcher conducted the Oath of Office to each of the members.

DAC 2 - Election of Dental Assisting Council Chairperson

M/S/C (Lua//Romero) to nominate Judy Forsythe as Chair of the Dental Assisting Council. The motion passed unanimously. M/S/C (Davis-Washington/Contreras) to nominate Denise Romero as Vice-Chair of the Dental Assisting Council. The motion passed unanimously.

DAC 3 – Overview of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Dental Assisting Council

Ms. Forsythe discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Dental Assisting Council members.

DAC 4 – Update Regarding Status of Dental Assisting Programs and Courses

Ms. Forsythe reported that the Dental Assisting Program and consultants have been working diligently to reduce the backlog of course applications which occurred during the 3 month vacancy at the educational programs desk. They have made significant headway by reviewing 12 stand-alone courses, 2 RDA programs, and conducting 6 site visits throughout the state.

DAC 5 – Dental Assisting Program Examination Statistics

Ms. Forsythe reviewed the Dental Assisting Program Examination Statistics. She reported that the RDA written exam was re-released in January of this year and statistics show the pass rates lower. Ms. Davis-Washington asked if the statistics could be broken down into on-the-job trained candidates versus candidates who had completed an approved course in school. Mr. DeCuir stated that we could do that but he would like to leave this exam alone for at least a year before making any changes. This item was also scheduled to be discussed in the Examination Committee meeting. Dr. Lori Gagliardi, California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT), commented that they would like to request that the results of the RDA examinations be posted in a timelier manner so that the schools could look at their programs for ongoing outcomes and assessments. They would also request that the statistics be broken down into those that completed an approved program as opposed to those that were trained on the job (OJT). She stated that ideally, CADAT would like the results broken down into OJT, school trained and by each individual school. Dr. Earl Johnson asked what the status is of the Orthodontic Assistant Examination. Ms. Romero stated that she is one of the Subject Matter Experts helping with the revising of that examination. She said that they are in the process and things are coming right along. Ms. Forsythe noted that there was a new version of the Law and Ethics examination released May 1, 2012. The results will be held until a reasonable candidate pool has been tested.

DAC 6 – Dental Assisting Program Licensure and Permit Statistics

Ms. Forsythe gave an overview of the Licensure and Permit statistics. Ms. Romero asked for some clarity as to whether it is necessary to keep renewing an RDA license once you have become an RDAEF. In other words, do you need to keep both licenses current or can you let the RDA license lapse? Ms. Johnson and Ms. Wallace will research and bring back an answer at the next meeting. Ms. Romero commented that regarding the declining number of delinquent RDA licenses, Dental Assistants do not need to be licensed but can still work in a dental office so it may be that some RDA's are letting their licenses lapse because they don't want to pay the renewal fee or keep up with the continuing education.

There was no further public comment.

The Dental Assisting Council adjourned at 3:50 p.m.