



**DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DENTAL ASSISTING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 2021**

NOTE: Pursuant to the provisions of Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-08-21, dated June 11, 2021, the Dental Assisting Council (Council) of the Dental Board of California (Board) met on August 19, 2021, via teleconference/WebEx Events, and no public locations or teleconference locations were provided.

Members Present:

Melinda Cazares, RDA, Chair
Jeri Fowler, CDA, RDAEF, OA, Vice Chair
Cara Miyasaki, RDA, RDHEF, MS
Rosalinda Olague, RDA, BA
Joanne Pacheco, RDH, MAOB
Traci Reed-Espinoza, RDAEF

Members Absent:

Michele Jawad, RDA, M.A.ED

Staff Present:

Karen M. Fischer, MPA, Executive Officer
Sarah Wallace, Assistant Executive Officer
Tina Vallery, Chief of Administration and Licensing
Emilia Zuloaga, Dental Assisting Program Manager
Wilbert Rumbaoa, Administrative Services Unit Manager
Mirela Taran, Administrative Analyst
Tara Welch, Board Counsel, Attorney III, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)

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

Council Chair, Ms. Melinda Cazares, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.; six members of the Council were present, and a quorum was established.

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

Dr. Marty Lipsy indicated that there seems to be an increasing trend for individuals or organizations to seek and obtain approval to operate a registered dental assistant (RDA) educational program, such as radiation safety, coronal polish, infection control, etc., at a single location and then offer the course at additional unapproved locations. He stated that filing a complaint with the Board allows these unapproved programs to operate for years while the complaint goes through the backlog of Board complaints. Dr. Lipsy requested that there be a future agenda item to discuss what the Council can do to act

on unapproved programs and more quickly abate the threat they pose to dental personnel and the public.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion and Possible Action on April 30, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Motion/Second/Call the Question (M/S/C) (Fowler/Olague) to approve the April 30, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Cazares, Fowler, Miyasaki, Olague, Pacheco, Reed-Espinoza.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: Jawad.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed and the minutes were approved. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 4: Update on Dental Assisting Educational Program and Course Applications and Reevaluations

Ms. Emilia Zuloaga, Dental Assisting Program Manager, provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. Re-evaluations were placed on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2020. Board staff have resumed RDA program re-evaluations. In addition to resuming RDA program re-evaluations of those programs and courses that are potentially operating out of compliance, Board staff have also begun re-evaluating all registered dental assistant in extended functions (RDAEF) programs.

There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 5: Update on Dental Assisting Examination Statistics

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

Vice Chair, Ms. Jeri Fowler, noted that the 66% RDA exam pass rate is very low. Considering the school location pass rate, it is possible that a language barrier is contributing to this low rate. Vice Chair Fowler proposed RDA exams be administered in Spanish and English. She indicated that the Orthodontic Assistant Permit (OAP) has a 39% pass rate, which is also extremely low. There could potentially be an exam ambiguity issue as exam questions are open to more than one interpretation. Ms. Fowler speculated that the committee that is responsible for creating the exam is failing to communicate clear, concise questions. Council member, Ms. Cara Miyasaki, agreed with Vice Chair Fowler and requested to add Vietnamese to the list of languages in which the exam is offered.

There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 6: Update on Dental Assisting Licensing Statistics

Ms. Zuloaga provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 7: Update Regarding Administration of RDAEF Examinations

Ms. Zuloaga provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 8: Update Regarding Orthodontic Assistant Written Examination

Ms. Zuloaga provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 9: Future Agenda Items

Ms. Miyasaki requested a future agenda item to propose gathering data from RDA written exam candidates regarding whether they are bilingual and what is their primary language. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment

Chair Cazares adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.