



**Dental Assisting Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 22, 2009  
San Francisco, CA**

**Members Present:**

Judith Forsythe, RDA, Chair  
Luis Dominicis, DDS  
Bruce Whitcher, DDS

**Members Absent:**

Stephen Casagrande, DDS

**Staff Present:**

Cathleen Poncabare, Executive Officer  
Richard DeCuir, Assistant Executive Officer  
Dawn Dill, Licensing & Exam Unit Manager  
Sarah Wallace, Administrative Analyst  
Donna Kantner, Legislative & Regulatory Analyst  
Jocelyn Campos, Enforcement Coordinator  
Jessica Olney, Examination & Licensing Analyst  
LaVonne Powell, DCA Senior Staff Counsel  
Kristy Schieldge, DCA Senior Staff Counsel  
Gregory Salute, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Forsythe, RDA, called the meeting to order at 2:41 p.m. and established a quorum.

**RDA 1: Discussion Regarding RDA Practical and Written Examination Pass/Fail Rate**

Donna Kantner, Regulatory and Legislative Analyst, reported that the Committee requested a report regarding the RDA practical and written examination pass/fail rate. Reasons for the pass/fail rate may include the fact that many of the candidates speak English as a second language, a lack of experience in the orthodontics portion of the exam, and the fact that many of the candidates are qualified to take the exam through work experience and have not had formal training. The Board offers reasonable accommodations to applicants that meet the requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Dr. Earl Johnson, California Society of Orthodontists, questioned if the orthodontic questions in the examination would be diminished due to the new orthodontic assistant examination.

Richard DeCuir, Assistant Executive Officer, reported that the Office of Professional Examination Services was in the process of reviewing and revising the RDA written examination so that it will be current with the new functions of the RDA listed under the new law.

**RDA 2: Approval of Program Courses Submitted after the June 24<sup>th</sup> DBC Meeting**

M/S/C (Dominicis/Whitcher) to ratify the approval of the following pit and fissure sealant courses:

- i. Dental Career Institute – Cypress
- ii. Everest College – Gardena
- iii. Baldy View ROP – Cucamonga

The motion passed unanimously.

M/S/C (Dominicis/Whitcher) to ratify the approval of the following infection control course:

i. Palomar College – San Marcos  
The motion passed unanimously.

**RDA 3: RDA Licensure by Credential**

Judith Forsythe, RDA, stated that the Committee was opening up for discussion the idea of having a Registered Dental Assistant Licensure by Credential. There are Licensure by Credential programs for dentists and Registered Dental Hygienists.

LaDonna Drury-Klein, California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers, reported that the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries (COMDA) had drafted proposed language for a Registered Dental Assistants Licensure by Credential program. During the process there were concerns that came up because there are so many layers of dental assisting that it could become too complicated. There are only five states that offer the license type of Registered Dental Assistant. It was found that there were so many scope of practice issues in the dental assisting profession, that the proposed language was tabled. Ms. Drury-Klein offered to provide the original proposed language to the Dental Board for their review.

Karen Wyant, Dental Assisting Alliance, added that COMDA had decided not to pursue the language because the duties of dental assisting vary so much state to state.

Dr. Dominicus requested that the Committee Chair gather the original regulations and other information from other States regarding licensure by credential programs for Registered Dental Assistants.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.