



Licensing, Certification and Permits Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 9, 2009
Los Angeles, CA

Members Present:

William Baker, Public Member
John Bettinger, DDS
Luis Dominicis, DDS
Judith Forsythe, RDA
Suzanne McCormick, DDS
Bruce Whitcher, DDS

Members Absent:

Stephen Casagrande, DDS, Chair

Staff Present:

Richard DeCuir, Interim Executive Officer
Nancy Butler, Acting Enforcement Chief
Lori Reis, Complaint & Compliance Unit Manager
Dawn Dill, Licensing & Exam Unit Manager
Sarah Wallace, Administrative Analyst
Donna Kantner, Legislative & Regulatory Analyst
Jocelyn Campos, Enforcement Coordinator
Jessica Olney, Examination & Licensing Analyst
Karen Fischer, Licensing Analyst
LaVonne Powell, DCA Senior Staff Counsel
Kristy Schieldge, DCA Senior Staff Counsel

Dr. Bettinger called the committee meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. in the Chair's absence. Roll was called and a quorum established.

LCP 1: Approval of the July 22, 2009 Licensing, Certification, and Permits Committee Meeting Minutes

M/S/C (McCormick/Forsythe) to approve the July 22, 2009 Licensing, Certification, and Permits Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

LCP 2: Dental Licensure Statistics

The Committee reviewed the dental licensure statistics provided by staff. It was noted that there are 36,972 active dental licenses, 24,152 active Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) licenses, 1,296 active Registered Dental Assistant Extended Function (RDAEF) licenses for a total of 62,420 active licenses. Dr. Bettinger asked for clarification of "delinquent" status. Dawn Dill, Licensing Manager explained that this designation covers the period of time a licensee has not renewed thirty days, and up to five years past the expiration date of the license. It was noted that there are 8,409 delinquent RDA licenses. Dr. McCormick asked if outreach needed to be done to the RDA community to reduce the delinquency rate. Ms. Dill explained that one possible reason for the high delinquency rate is that RDAs cannot renew licenses on-line, as they were able to do in the past while associated with COMDA. Staff is working to follow-up with delinquent licensee holders.

Dr. Dominicis noted that there is no box or instructions for someone who no longer wants to renew a permit. Legal Counsel Powell stated that the Board loses its jurisdiction over a license or a permit that is voluntarily surrendered, which is one reason that this is not an option. There are licensees who, when a disciplinary action is pending, will voluntarily surrender their license to avoid discipline. She noted that there are permits that could be voluntarily surrendered without impact to the license.

Dr. McCormick asked if anything can be done to address the high delinquency rate for continuing education providers. Ms. Dill reported that most providers do not realize that their continuing education permit has expired when they are contacted regarding the delinquency. She explained that there is a form available on the Board's website to voluntarily cancel any permit that is no longer wanted. Dr. Witcher asked if there is a new effort to contact delinquent permitholders. Ms. Dill reported that this is an ongoing task.

LCP 3: Update Regarding Cancelled License Status

Dr. Bettinger reported that staff has provided alternative language to be placed on the Board's website regarding the definition of a cancelled license. Ms. Dill reported that the Board uses the Consumer Affairs computer system for its license codes. The Board has used all of its 99 allowed status codes. Legal Counsel Powell asked if the box could be added to the permit renewal form. Ms. Dill felt that an insert could be included with the renewal form to voluntarily cancel the permit.

Interim E.O. DeCuir noted that the current language on the website can be changed to the language on the second page. M/S/P (Dominicis/McCormick) to change the language on the Board's website and insert the form with the current renewal notices.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Earl Johnson felt that delinquent was a pejorative term, if you do not believe that you owe the amount, you are not delinquent. He also asked that an application form for an individual practitioner to train staff as an Orthodontic Assistant in the office be developed. Dr. McCormick felt that this item should be addressed by the Dental Assisting Committee.

Ms. LaDonna Drury-Klein asked when RDAs will be able to return to online license renewal. Ms. Dill noted that this is the determination of the Department of Finance. With the dissolution of COMDA and new codes assigned to both dental assisting and dental hygiene, the old codes were eliminated by the Department and no new codes are being issued pending the acquisition of a new computer system that will be used throughout the Department. Ms. Dill stated that the timetable for the new system has not been determined. Ms. Klein asked that licensees be notified that online renewal is no longer available to RDAs and RDAEFs. Ms. Dill reported that such a notification was placed on COMDA's website in mid-May, and a notation was added to the renewal notices to licensees as of mid-May to inform licensees that online renewal is no longer an option.

***CLOSED SESSION: LICENSING, CERTIFICATION, AND PERMITS COMMITTEE**

Issuance of New License(s) to Replace Cancelled License(s)

***The Board will meet in closed session as authorized by Government Code Section 11126(c)(2) to deliberate on applications for issuance of new license(s) to replace cancelled license(s)**

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Dr. Bettinger reported that the Committee met in closed session and granted two licenses to replace cancelled licenses.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJORNMENT

The committee meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.