



**Examination Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 25, 2010  
San Diego, CA**

**Members Present:**

Stephen Casagrande, DDS, Chair  
Huong Le, DDS, Vice Chair  
John Bettinger, DDS  
Thomas Olinger, DDS  
Rebecca Downing, Public Member

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:**

Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer  
Denise Johnson, Assistant Executive Officer  
Nancy Butler, Acting Enforcement Chief  
Teri Lane, Supervising Investigator 1, Southern California  
Dawn Dill, Dental Assisting Unit Manager  
Donna Kantner, Licensing & Examination Unit Manager  
Jocelyn Campos, Enforcement Coordinator  
Karen Fischer, Licensing Analyst  
Kristy Schieldge, DCA Senior Staff Counsel  
Greg Salute, Deputy Attorney General

Dr. Casagrande, Chair, called the committee meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

**EX 1 – Acceptance of the November 9, 2009 Examination Committee Meeting Minutes**

M/S/C (Bettinger/Olinger) to accept the November 9, 2009 Examination Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**EX 2 – Registered Dental Assistant Practical and Written Examination Statistics**

Dawn Dill, Manager of the Dental Assisting Unit reported that the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Written Exam Statistics reported in the Board packet represent the prior examination. The Board has since switched over to the new RDA exam and there are no statistics yet available. Dr. Casagrande commented that the 51% pass rate for the written exam is unacceptable. Ms. Dill responded that she thought the new exam would yield better results. Executive Officer Richard DeCuir interjected that Tracy Montez, Ph.D. from Applied Measurement, will be giving a presentation to the Board on the new RDA Examination tomorrow and encouraged everyone to wait until tomorrow to discuss this item further.

**Public Comment**

Dr. Lori Gagliardi representing the California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT) asked if it was appropriate to bring up a comment about the Registered Dental Assistant Law and Ethics Examination. Kristy Schieldge, Legal Counsel, stated that if the comments do not pertain to the examination statistics that were just discussed, the Committee is not able to comment because the item was not specifically noticed on the agenda. Dr. Gagliardi continued and asked when the

Content and Exam Outline for the new RDA Law & Ethics Examination would be posted on the website. She also mentioned that the 2006 RDA Duties which are currently on the website should be updated. Executive Officer DeCuir referred her questions to staff.

### **EX 3 – Calendar of Upcoming Dental Board Examinations**

The Committee reviewed the list of Law & Ethics Examinations that are scheduled for 2010. Donna Kantner, Manager, Licensing, Certification, and Permits Unit mentioned that the exam is given at least once a month and sometimes twice a month. She went on to say that there are no complaints regarding access. The exam is usually given either in the Dental Board offices or at a dental school. Two staff people usually administer the exam. Dr. Casagrande would like to see the Law & Ethics Examination administered via computer online. There was discussion. Dawn Dill, Manager of the Dental Assisting Unit reported that the bid process has begun for a new vendor who will give the Board the option of a computer based exam which would allow candidates to take the exam on line. This will mean that the two Board staff currently assigned to administer the exams could be assigned to work on other critical projects.

Rebecca Downing, public member, noted that only one application for the March 25-28, 2010 clinical examination at the University of the Pacific in San Francisco was received. Due to the impracticality of testing only one candidate at a cost exceeding \$20,000, the exam was cancelled. She asked what happens to the candidate when an exam is cancelled. Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer responded that this candidate was contacted verbally that the exam might be cancelled. There was written follow-up to the candidate once that exam was cancelled indicating that staff would be looking for another date with other schools. Additionally, it was suggested that the candidate contact the Western Regional Examination Board (WREB). Dr. Casagrande suggested that as a courtesy, staff assist the candidate in applying for WREB.

### **Public Comment**

Dr. Steve Morrow, Loma Linda School of Dentistry asked if staff had looked into a correlation between examination scores on the Law and Ethics exam and complaints regarding ethics issues. If there is a discrepancy between high pass scores on the exam and complaints, perhaps staff should look into the validity and reliability of the exam itself. Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer responded that workload issues would preclude staff from looking into this issue this year. Dr. Morrow suggested it might be addressed in the strategic planning session.

### **EX 4 – Discussion and Possible Action to Review Licensure by Residency Requirements for Individuals Wanting to Take the California State Dental Examination**

Dr. Earl Johnson, Orthodontic Association, asked that this item be put on the agenda. He commented that dentists who are trained at non-CODA approved dental schools but have been accepted into a graduate specialty program in the United States and complete the program should be allowed to take the California Dental examination. He asked the Board to change the statute so that candidates who finish a CODA approved graduate specialty program be allowed to take the State exam. There was discussion. Dr. Casagrande would like to see what other states are doing. Dr. Bettinger asked Dr. Johnson to prepare draft legislative language with a cover letter outlining his proposal and submit it to the Board. Dr. Johnson acknowledged he would do so.

Dr. Steve Morrow, Loma Linda School of Dentistry commented that licensure by Residency and/or Credential has been successful in California.

Dr. Casagrande asked that Dr. Olinger and Dr. Le accept the information that will come in on this issue.

### **EX 5 – Update Regarding Portfolio Examination Pathway to Qualify for a California Dental License.**

Dr. Casagrande stated that he has been working with Dr. Le to move the Portfolio Examination Pathway to Licensure project forward. AB 1524 (Hayashi) was heard in the Assembly Committee. Board member Fran Burton, Executive Officer Richard DeCuir and Dr. Casagrande participated in the hearing along with representatives from the dental schools (Dr. Morrow and Dr. Abelson), and Dean Chaliros representing the California Dental Association (CDA). Eleven members of the Assembly Committee were present and voted unanimously to advance the legislation. It is currently in the Senate awaiting detailed draft regulations. Georgetta Coleman Griffith, former Executive Officer of the Dental Board will be working with Dr. Casagrande to put together these draft regulations. Additionally, Drs. Norm Hertz and Dr. Roberta Chinn from COMIRA will be working on the project. Dr. Casagrande commented, that in his opinion, this portfolio examination pathway to qualify for a California dental license will be so much better than other exams. California will offer the only examination in the nation that requires a certain number of clinical experience requirements from students as part of their portfolio licensure. Candidates will be tested in six different areas on clinical patients. It is more comprehensive and offers better patient protection. The patients will be patients of record of the schools.

Dr. Le commented that Portfolio is a creative way of providing a pathway to licensure and as such will undergo heavy scrutiny. California is establishing a national standard. Dr. Bettinger commended Dr. Casagrande for keeping this project moving. Dr. Olinger agreed that this is an exciting opportunity.

### **Public Comment**

Dr. Paul Reggiardo, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry. With regard to the Portfolio Pathway to Licensure, in the six clinical competencies and clinical experiences there are two areas that represent a large part of clinical practice but are not covered in the competencies: treatment of the minor child and treatment of primary dentician. He feels this should be addressed early before legislation and/or regulations are developed and before the Office of Vocational Analysis looks at the validity of the examination. There was discussion. Dr. Casagrande indicated that these concerns would be addressed in the regulations.

Dr. Steve Morrow, Loma Linda Dental School. As a point of clarification, while Portfolio will test six competencies, his school has 22 competencies for students to pass in order to graduate – a couple of them are related to pediatric dentistry. Students are being tested to competency in those areas.

### **Adjournment**

The committee meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.