



## **EXAMINATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 14, 2015**

Crowne Plaza San Francisco Airport  
1177 Airport Blvd., Burlingame, CA 94010

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chair – Stephen Casagrande, DDS  
Vice Chair – Steven Morrow, DDS  
Yvette Chappell-Ingram, Public Member  
Judith Forsythe, RDA  
Ross Lai, DDS  
Huong Le, DDS, MA  
Debra Woo, DDS

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

#### **1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum**

Dr. Stephen Casagrande, Chair of the Examination Committee, called the meeting to order at 5:38pm. Roll was called and a quorum established.

#### **2. Approval of the February 26, 2015 Examination Committee Meeting Minutes**

M/S/C (Morrow/Woo) to approve the February 26, 2015 Examination Committee minutes.

**Support:** Casagrande, Morrow, Chappell-Ingram, Forsythe, Lai, Le, Woo **Oppose:** 0  
**Abstain:** 0

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **3. Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) Update**

Dr. Le, the Dental Board's liaison to WREB, reported on WREB activities and updates. Dr. Nathaniel Tippitt, President of WREB provided additional information on WREB's undertakings.

#### **4. American Dental Licensing Examination (ADEX) Report**

Stan Kanna, President of ADEX and Guy Shampagne, ADEX CEO, gave a presentation on ADEX.

Dr. Lai and Dr. Le, the subcommittee formed to research the feasibility of accepting other regional exams, gave a report on their findings:

ADEX is proposing to work with the Board to facilitate the recognition of the ADEX Examination as an option for initial licensure in California. The goal of ADEX is to create a uniform national clinical examination which would be accepted for licensure by all State dental boards. The ADEX is accepted in 46 US States and jurisdictions as well as Jamaica. ADEX would like the Board to accept its dental clinical examination as a pathway to licensure, similar to what was done when the Board accepted the Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) examination. The ADEX examinations

are administered uniformly by Regional Testing Agencies, which include the Commission on Dental Competency and Assessment (CDCA) formally known as NERB, the Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA), and the Coalition of Independent Testing Agency (CITA). The content validity of the ADEX examination is based on a National Independent Occupational Analysis completed in 2011. Examination methodology requires that the examination tests all testable skill sets based on criticality and frequency.

SB 1865 established the acceptance of the WREB examination. The bill specified that prior to the implementation of WREB, the department's Office of Examination Resources review the WREB examination to assure compliance with the requirements of Business and Professions Code (BPC) Section 139. In order to maintain compliance with BPC139, the same would apply to ADEX. Prior to acceptance of the examination, an occupational analysis (OA) would need to be done to determine if the ADEX meets the requirements of BPC 139. ADEX recognizes the significant costs involved with the process and has offered to underwrite all associated costs of a third party of the Board's choosing. However, after speaking with Board legal counsel, this is not possible.

It was noted that the acceptance of new regional examinations will have a significant fiscal impact upon the Board. The Board currently has one full-time staff services analyst dedicated to the processing of all applications for dentistry via the WREB pathway. Per the DCA Budget Analyst, it is estimated that an additional SSA to staff the program would cost the Board \$87,000 the first year and \$79,000 ongoing. There are approximately 3800 dental candidates who take the ADEX examination annually. It is unknown how many of those would apply for licensure in California. It is assumed that the Board would need at least one additional staff services analyst for every additional regional examination added to the Board's pathways to licensure.

The cost estimates related to conducting an OA and examination validation for the ADEX examination were provided by the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES). The projected cost of the OA is \$50,000 and the projected cost for the examination validation is between \$20,000 - \$50,000. The costs estimates for the project do not include Subject Matter Experts (SME) costs (travel, hotel, per diem, etc.) The projects start date would be subject to OPES scheduling availability and would take approximately 13 months. In addition, the Board would incur costs associated with modifications to its licensing systems Legacy and Breeze. Estimated costs range from \$300,000 to \$1.5 million. It was shared that another Board had a similar situation and the cost to update Breeze after 'go-live' was approximately \$498,000.

Due to current budget constraints, the Board is not in a position to absorb such costs and would most likely need to increase licensure fees as a result. Ms. Fischer suggested making this a two year bill to give staff time to research financial avenues. Dr. Shampaigne commented that they would not move anything forward without collaboration with the Dental Board.

Dr. Le commented that there are still some questions to be answered such as the calibration of the examiners, auditing components and acceptance of the administering agencies. There was discussion regarding acceptance of the Regional Testing Agencies that administer the ADEX exam. Dr. Shampaigne commented that the decision surrounding which testing agencies are accepted is made solely by each individual state. Dr. Lai commented that we should give the Portfolio Pathway a chance since it is still new and there has been a lot of time and effort put forth by the Board to get it going. Dr. Ariane Terlet commented that because the Portfolio pathway to licensure only provides a California license, accepting ADEX for licensure would increase opportunities for licensure in other states and give students who were educated outside of California the opportunity for California licensure. Gayle Mathe, California Dental Association (CDA), commented that CDA is interested in the ADEX examination for California and would like to know why ADEX can't pay for the required Occupational Analysis. Spencer Walker, Senior Legal Counsel, stated that it would be a conflict of interest for ADEX to offer to pay the costs but if it was written into legislation that they were required to pay the costs, which would eliminate the conflict of interest.

**The committee recessed at 7:02pm to resume at 9:00am Friday, May 15, 2015.**

**5. Staff Update on Portfolio Pathway to Licensure**

Karen Fischer, Executive Officer, gave an overview of the latest updates regarding the Portfolio Pathway to licensure implementation. Dr. Casagrande and Dr. Morrow provided additional details regarding the first students in the program. Yvette Chappell-Ingram offered to put together a strategy for outreach to the participating dental schools.

**6. Public Comment of Items Not on the Agenda**

There was no public comment.

**7. Future Agenda Items**

Dr. Casagrande requested an item on the next Examination Committee agenda regarding the possibility of requiring an indirect restoration on the WREB examination.

**8. Committee Member Comments for Items Not on the Agenda**

There were no committee member comments.

**9. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 9:51am.