



**MINUTES FROM THE JOINT MEETING OF THE DENTAL BOARD AND DENTAL ASSISTING COUNCIL**

**Thursday, December 3, 2015**

Marriott LAX

5855 West Century Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90045

**Members of the Board Present**

Fran Burton, MSW, Public Member, President

\*Bruce Witcher, DDS, Vice President (Also a Council member)

\*Judith Forsythe, RDA, Secretary (Also a Council member)

Steven Afriat, Public Member

Yvette Chappell-Ingram, Public Member

Katie Dawson, RDH

Luis Dominicis, DDS

Kathleen King, Public Member

Ross Lai, DDS

Huong Le, DDS, MA

Meredith McKenzie, Public Member

Steven Morrow, DDS, MS

Thomas Stewart, DDS

Debra Woo, DDS

**Members Absent**

Stephen Casagrande, DDS

**Members of the Dental Assisting Council Present**

Chair - Judith Forsythe, RDA

Vice Chair - Anne Contreras, RDA

Pamela Davis-Washington, RDA

Teresa Lua, RDAEF

Emma Ramos, RDA

Bruce Witcher, DDS

**Members Absent**

Tamara McNealy, RDA

**JNT 1 - Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum**

President Fran Burton called the DAC meeting to start at 11:28 a.m. Judith Forsythe, Board Secretary, called the roll and a quorum was established.

**JNT 2 - Approval of the August 27, 2015 Joint Dental Board and Dental Assisting Council Meeting Minutes**

The motion to Approve: Dr. Morrow and 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Dr. Le. However, Teresa Lua found mistake on Item #10 that mentioned Sunday, August 28, 2015 when it should read Friday, August 28, 2015. President Burton found spelling error of words "letting" and "commented" on page 3 of the minutes. Lastly, on page 7, Ms. Davis-Washington's name was backwards.

Spencer Walker asked that the motion be amended to approve the corrected minutes.

The motioner (Dr. Morrow) and seconder (Dr. Le) agreed.

President Burton asked that a DAC member be the seconder to the motion along with Dr. Le since this is a joint meeting. Emma Ramos, DAC member, was the seconder.

Ms. Forsythe read rollcall for motion:

**Support:** Burton, Forsythe, Casagrande, Chappell-Ingram, Dominicus, King, Lai, Le, McKenzie, Stewart, Witcher, Morrow, Woo, Contreras, Davis-Washington, Lua, Ramos **Oppose:** 0 **Abstain:** Afriat, Dawson

Motion carries.

### **JNT 3 - Dental Assisting Staff Update**

Sarah Wallace, Assistant Executive Officer, gave a staff update. Ms. Wallace mentioned that we are now fully staffed in the Dental Assisting (DA) Unit. With being fully staffed, we will begin scheduling regulatory workshops in 2016 on Fridays every six to eight weeks.

The RDA and RDAEF Occupational Analysis is currently in the survey process. The initial survey sample did not give OPES the response rate they were looking for so reminder postcards were sent out before Thanksgiving. Due to the initial low response rate, the final results and findings will not be available until late March or early April.

The 2016 RDA and RDAEF examination schedules have been posted on the Board website. We are continuing to look for additional dates. Due to the launch of Breeze, there are more strict rules on application deadlines which are noted on the posted schedules.

Ms. Wallace had Ms. Byers pass out the practical and written examination results that are currently being posted to the Board website.

Questions:

Dr. Stewart, Board Member, asked if the new application deadlines were clearly marked on the schedule with big red flags. Ms. Wallace responded that they are clearly marked in a red font and that she is getting a letter out to all the program directors to inform them as well. Ms. Wallace stated that we have been receiving applications and have scheduled the candidates in February who were not able to be scheduled for the November examination, as well as adding more space to our Southern California location which essentially adds another session's worth of candidates throughout the weekend.

Public Comment:

Lori Gagliardi, CADAT, acknowledged that there had been discussion about a preparation guidebook for the examination. She is still asking that the guidebook to be created and, as a stakeholder, is willing to help the Board create it. She is also asking that a sub-committee be created that would include stakeholders and Board members

to help write it. Her next comment was regarding the examination locations. For the candidates graduating in May, either driving 4 hours to Fresno in July or having to wait until September will create difficulty.

Karen Fischer, Executive Officer, commented that the Board has asked if other facilities are interested in holding the RDA examination. However, we only received interest from Foothill College. Rumors circulated that there was a list of twenty-two locations interested, but the Board has yet to see that list. Karen asked that if Board members or members of the public know if any locations, to please share.

Steven Afriat, Public Member, asked for what is needed at facility to run an examination. Ms. Wallace responded with what's needed and also mentioned that we would be responding to a party that showed interest later in the week.

Dr. Stewart, Board Member, asked about the candidate handbook that was brought up. Ms. Wallace responded that we currently have candidate instructions that are available on the Board website and are researching what other Boards offer by means of a handbook and would need to consult with OPES to continue to move forward.

Claudia Pohl, CDAA, commented that she would like to see two exam sites in Southern California. She also asked if Carrington College was open to have an exam date available in the summer. Ms. Wallace responded that though they are available with dates, the Board has a conflicting schedule, and that we are continuing to work on the schedule.

Cara Miyasaki, Foothill College and also representing the Dental Assisting Educators group, commented that she feels it would be important that Program Directors be stakeholders for the examination handbook.

President Burton announced there was nothing further and to move onto the next item.

#### **JNT 4 - Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Implementation of AB 179**

Ms. Wallace gave a complete overview of the memo that was presented regarding AB 179.

Pamela Davis-Washington, DAC member, asked how dentists and dental assistants will go about knowing to send their email addresses to the Board. Ms. Wallace responded that there will be outreach efforts in the new Breeze system or manually inputting information into the system. Ms. Fischer also commented that there will be a massive outreach along with the implementation of the new Breeze program.

President Burton announced there was nothing further and to move onto the next item.

#### **JNT 5 - Presentation by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) Regarding Occupational Analyses, Examination Development, and Recommendations for Dental Examinations**

President Burton introduced Heidi Lincer-Hill, Ph. D, who is Chief of the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES), who gave an extensive power point presentation regarding the overview of the ongoing Occupational Analysis (OA).

Questions:

Emma Ramos, DAC Member, asked how RDA's were receiving information regarding the Survey that was sent out. Dr. Lincer-Hill explained that a sampling plan was developed that included 2700 or 8.2% of all RDA's in California based on years licensed and different counties throughout the state. She also mentioned that they intentionally reached out to 60% of licensees who have held a license for zero-five years. Each recipient received a letter with a pin number and password to join the survey. Dr. Lincer-Hill also said that survey letters were sent out to 100% of RDAEF2's and 55% of RDAEF1's totalling 924 licensees.

Dr. Whitcher, Board Member, asked how some of the more infrequent duties in the scope of practice are weighed in the examination. Dr. Lincer-Hill responded that they discuss the duties with the Subject Matter Experts (SME's) to determine the weight. They will also see what the results of the survey are and discuss this at future workshops.

Dr. Morrow, Board Member, asked how the different variables of the practical examination, which is taken in different environments with different equipment that the candidates do not have any control over, are accounted for and how are the passing and non-passing scores are accounted for due to these environmental effects and use of different equipment to prove their skill level. Dr. Lincer-Hill explained that practical examinations are difficult to maintain consistency while trying to prove that each candidate can achieve the skill level while testing in different environments. This is something that all Boards struggle with. By observing the examinations in person, OPES will be able to offer recommendations to achieve consistency and recommend whether the practical examination should continue.

Dr. Le, Board Member, asked what procedures are being tested on the RDA examination and if they are parallel to the written examination. Dr. Lincer-Hill responded that what is on the practical examination is set in regulation and was created separately from the written examination.

Judith Forsythe, Chair of DAC, asked what the written examination format would look like if there isn't a practical examination. Dr. Lincer-Hill explained that through multiple choice questions, everything on the practical examination would be covered as well as possible.

Teresa Lua, DAC member, asked if RDA's were surveyed who had been in the profession longer than five years since it was brought up (during the presentation) that OPES focused on licensees of five years or less. Dr. Lincer-Hill responded that 40% of all RDA's surveyed were licensees who have held a license longer than five years.

Dr. Morrow asked how long, approximately, Boards go before having an Occupational Analysis (OA) done. Dr. Lincer-Hill responded that, for the last 20 years she has been with the Department, they have been performed about every five-six years. Dr.

Morrow said that, based on rapidly changing technology, the intervals of when OA's are performed should be less than five-six years.

No Public Comment.

President Burton thanked Dr. Lincer-Hill for her time.

**JNT 6 - Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

None.

**JNT 7 - Adjourn Joint Meeting of the Dental Board and the Dental Assisting Council**

President Burton adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm