



**DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
TELECONFERENCE MEETING
DENTAL ASSISTING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021**

NOTE: Pursuant to the provisions of Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, dated March 17, 2020, the Dental Assisting Council (Council) of the Dental Board of California (Board) met on February 25, 2021, via teleconference/WebEx Events, and no public locations or teleconference locations were provided.

Members Present:

Rosalinda Olague, RDA, BA, Vice Chair
Melinda Cazares, RDA
Jeri Fowler, CDA, RDAEF2, OA
Michele Jawad, RDA, M.A.ED
Cara Miyasaki, RDA, RDHEF, MS
Joanne Pacheco, RDH, MAOB
Traci Reed-Espinoza, RDAEF2

Members Absent:

None.

Staff Present:

Karen M. Fischer, MPA, Executive Officer
Sarah Wallace, Assistant Executive Officer
Tina Vallery, Chief of Administration and Licensing
Emilia Zuloaga, Dental Assisting Program Manager
Wilbert Rumbaoa, Administrative Services Unit Manager
Pahoua Thao, Administrative Analyst
Tara Welch, Board Counsel, Attorney III, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

The Vice Chair, Ms. Rosalinda Olague, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.; seven members of the Council were present, and a quorum was established.

Agenda Item 2: Election of Council Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Karen Fischer, Executive Officer, facilitated the election. She opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Council.

Vice Chair Olague nominated Ms. Melinda Cazares. Ms. Cazares accepted the nomination. There were no additional nominations.

Ayes: Cazares, Fowler, Jawad, Miyasaki, Olague, Pacheco, Reed-Espinoza

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

Ms. Cazares was elected as Chair of the Council.

Ms. Fischer opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Council.

Chair Olague nominated Ms. Jeri Fowler. Ms. Fowler accepted the nomination. There were no additional nominations.

Ayes: Cazares, Fowler, Jawad, Miyasaki, Olague, Pacheco, Reed-Espinoza

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

Ms. Fowler was elected as Vice Chair of the Council.

Ms. Cazares assumed her position as the new Chair.

Agenda Item 3: Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments for items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item 4: Update on Dental Assisting Programs and Courses

Ms. Emilia Zuloaga, Dental Assisting Program Manager, provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 5: Overview of Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Program Re-evaluations

Ms. Zuloaga provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 6: Update on Dental Assisting Examination Statistics

Ms. Zuloaga provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 7: Update on Dental Assisting Licensing Statistics

Ms. Zuloaga provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 8: Presentation on Dental Assistant Pathway and Smile Crew California – California Dental Association (CDA)

Mr. Anders Bjork, Vice President of CDA, Strategic Intelligence and Analytics, provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Ms. Michele Jawad asked how CDA will determine the curriculum for the candidates. Mr. Bjork responded that the dental assisting curriculum was developed from the Elsevier model and would be sufficient for candidates to understand the basic knowledge to support dental providers as assistants. Ms. Olague commented in support of CDA's Dental Assistant Pathway and asked if the launch date is still scheduled for March of 2021. Mr. Bjork responded that the project is in flux, and he is hopeful that it will begin in April. Ms. Cara Miyasaki asked if there were any educators involved in the process and if there will be a background check on candidates who are interested in the pathway. Mr. Bjork responded that CDA will conduct background checks and currently does not have a process that involves educators in the project; however, they will consider working with educators as they progress with the development of the pathway.

The Council received public comment. Ms. Melodi Randolph, California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT), California Dental Assistants Association (CDAA) and Dental Assisting Educator's Group (DAEG) representative, commented in support of having educators involved in the planning and process of the pathway. Dr. Bruce Whitcher asked CDA to consider preparing candidates to pass courses that currently exist for dental assistants such as California Law, Infection Control, California Dental Practice Act, and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) as a requirement. Dr. Whitcher pointed out there is a similar program that the Board has for dental assistants that are non-Board approved programs accredited under the Department of Education.

Agenda Item 9: Discussion and Possible Action on Potential Amendments to Business and Professions Code Section 1750, Infection Control Course Requirements for Unlicensed Dental Assistants

Ms. Zuloaga provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. After a lengthy discussion, the Council directed staff to draft proposed language regarding the course requirement and bring back more information regarding the geographic location of where the course is being offered.

The Council received public comment. Dr. Whitcher reminded all members that the dental providers would be responsible for oversight responsibilities and expertise of the employees they hire. Ms. Randolph stated that some dental providers delegate their employees to work with infection control procedures, and she supported updating the language. Ms. Claudia Pohl, CDAA representative, commented that allowing dental assistants to work for 12 months without the infection control course does not align with the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard for the Division of Occupational Safety and Health of California.

Agenda Item 10: Presentation Regarding Examination Development and Validation Processes – DCA, Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES)

Dr. Tracy Montez, Chief of Division of Programs and Policy Review for DCA, and Dr. Heidi Lincer, Chief of OPES, provided the report regarding OPES functions and responsibilities, which includes Business and Professions Code section 139 requirements from the DCA Licensure Examination Validation Policy, conducting occupational analyses, examination development and validation process, and the scoring criteria methodology.

Dr. Montez and Dr. Lincer addressed Council member's questions regarding impacts on the exams from the Coronavirus (COVID-19), educators' involvement in the occupational analysis process, the format of the exams, and updates regarding references for the RDA General and Written exam.

The Council received public comment. Ms. Randolph asked if the exam questions are updated and revised every five years and stated waiting five to seven years to change the exam seemed problematic. Dr. Lincer stated that the occupational analysis is updated every five years, and updates to the exam are ongoing.

Agenda Item 11: Presentation Regarding RDA Written Examination Pass Rates – OPES

Dr. Montez and Dr. Lincer provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. The report went over the OPES analysis of the RDA examination. Dr. Montez and Dr. Lincer addressed Council member's questions regarding demographic information for the examination.

The Council received public comment. Ms. Randolph supported offering the exam in multiple languages.

Agenda Item 12: Update Regarding RDAEF Examination

Ms. Zuloaga provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. Since the posting of the meeting materials, Ms. Sarah Wallace, Assistant Executive Officer, provided an update that Senator Richard Roth introduced Senate Bill 607 on February 19, 2021, which included the Board's proposal to eliminate the RDAEF practical and clinical exam. Ms. Wallace addressed Council member questions and provided information regarding the legislative process. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 13: Future Agenda Items

Ms. Traci Reed-Espinoza asked to consider a future agenda item regarding adding a secondary certificate to authorize RDAEF2s to administer local anesthesia to patients.

Agenda Item 14: Adjournment

Chair Cazares adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

**Agenda items for this meeting were taken out of order. The order of business conducted herein follows the publicly noticed Council meeting Agenda*