



## DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

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### DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA MEETING MINUTES February 5-6, 2026

Pursuant to Government Code section 11123.2, the Dental Board of California (Board) met by teleconference/WebEx Events on February 5-6, 2026, with the following location available for Board and public member participation:

Department of Consumer Affairs  
1747 N. Market Blvd., Hearing Room #186  
Sacramento, CA 95834

#### **Board Members Present:**

Lilia Larin, DDS, President  
Rosalinda Olague, PhD(c), RDA, Vice President  
John Dierking, JD, Public Member, Secretary  
Steven Chan, DDS (remote participant)  
Kevin R. Cheng, JD, Public Member  
Robert P. David, Public Member  
Alan Felsenfeld, MA, DDS  
Joni Forge, DDS (remote participant)  
Jaskiran Grewal, DDS  
Angelita Medina, MHS, Public Member  
Yogita Thakur, DDS, MS  
Ram M. Vaderhobli, DDS, MS  
James Yu, DDS, MS

#### **Staff Present:**

Bryce W.A. Docherty, MPA, Executive Officer  
Christy Bell, Assistant Executive Officer  
Ryan Blonien, Enforcement Chief  
Jodi Ortiz, Chief of Licensing and Examination Division  
Paige Ragali, Chief of Administration and Compliance  
Tina Vallery, Chief of License and Program Compliance and Dental Assisting  
Jessica Olney, Anesthesia Unit Manager  
Wilbert Rumbaoa, Administrative Services Unit Manager  
Brant Nelson, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist  
Paul Corbin, Investigator  
Juan Pitta, Investigator  
Mirela Taran, Administrative Analyst  
Joseph Tippins, Investigator

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Shelly Jones, Assistant Deputy Director, Board and Bureau Relations, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)  
Alex Cristescu, Television Specialist, Office of Public Affairs, DCA  
David Bouilly, Facilitator and Strategic Business Analyst, Strategic Organizational Leadership and Individual Development (SOLID), DCA  
Kristy Schieldge, Regulations Counsel, Attorney IV, Legal Affairs Division, DCA  
Tara Welch, Board Counsel, Attorney IV, Legal Affairs Division, DCA

**10:30 a.m., Thursday, February 5, 2026**

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

The Board President, Lilia Larin, DDS, called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. Board Members Joni Forge, DDS, and Steven Chan, DDS, participated remotely and confirmed there were no individuals 18 years of age or older present in the room at their remote locations in compliance with Government Code section 11123.2, subdivision (j)(4).

The Board Secretary, John Dierking, JD, called the roll; 13 Board Members were present, and a quorum was established.

**Agenda Item 2: Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

President Larin called for public comment on items not on the agenda. The Board received the following public comments.

Dr. Sheetal Patil, Legislative Chair for the California Association of Orthodontists (CAO), congratulated President Larin and the Board's Executive Officer, Bryce Docherty, for their new leadership roles and noted that CAO looks forward to working closely with them both in the years ahead. She conveyed that CAO represents approximately 1,500 participating orthodontists across California and regularly engage with the Board and the legislature on issues impacting orthodontic practices and patient care. Ms. Patel thanked the Board for its ongoing stakeholder engagement particularly around updating the table of duties and aligning the statute with the regulation. Additionally, she thanked Board Chief of Licensing and Program Compliance and Dental Assisting Tina Vallery for her continued engagement and frequent communication with CAO, as her efforts have helped CAO work productively with the Board.

**Agenda Item 3: Discussion and Possible Action on Board Meeting Minutes**

a. **November 5, 2025**

Motion/Second/Call the Question (M/S/C) (Yu/Medina) to approve the November 5, 2025 meeting minutes.

President Larin requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Larin called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Dierking took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Vaderhobli, Yu.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: David.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

b. November 6-7, 2025

(M/S/C) (Chan/Cheng) to approve the November 6-7, 2025 meeting minutes as amended on page 12, Agenda Item 15, to strike and replace “Ms. Bell received three nominations for 2026 Board President: Board Member Yu, who accepted the nomination; Secretary Larin, who accepted the nomination; and President Chan, who accepted the nomination” with “Ms. Bell received three nominations for 2026 Board President: Board Member Yu, who accepted the nomination; Secretary Larin, who accepted the nomination; and President Chan, who expressed reluctance on the nomination for President due to uncertainty of reappointment”.

President Larin requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Larin called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Dierking took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Vaderhobli, Yu.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 4: Board President Report

President Larin congratulated the Board Members, Angelita Medina, Joni Forge, Steven Chan, Rosalinda Olague, and herself, on being reappointed to the Board by Governor Newsom. She noted that Vice President Olague and herself have been holding informative weekly meetings with Board Executive Officer Bryce Dochety and look forward to continuing this collaboration. On January 27, 2026, she had the pleasure of

delivering a motivational address to the Sandy Saunders NYU Langone Health pediatric residents focusing on leadership and resilience. President Larin announced the Board's 2026 committee appointments and mentioned that for 2026 her goal is to create more opportunities for Board members to actively be involved in committee work and other Board activities. This will allow everyone to contribute their expertise and collaborate on meaningful projects. She added that at the next Board meeting, which will take place in May, there will be a more detailed update on committee plans and activities.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

#### Agenda Item 5: Executive Officer Report

Mr. Docherty reported that he has instituted weekly one-on-one check-in meetings with each of his direct report staff and meets weekly with President Larin and Vice President Olague. He, along with Board Assistant Executive Officer Christy Bell, attends monthly meetings with DCA Acting Director Christine Lally and Deputy Director of Board and Bureau Relations Lucia Saldivar. Mr. Docherty mentioned that he and Ms. Bell, alongside Board Administrative Services Unit Supervisor Wilbert Rumbaoa and his team, have been keeping a strategic watchful eye on the Board's organizational chart and all personnel matters. He reported that the Board has a healthy retention rate and only a 6% vacancy rate. Furthermore, the Board currently has almost 15 months of operating reserves and that a healthy reserve balance is typically six to nine months. Mr. Docherty reported that in his capacity as Executive Officer of the Board, he has attended some additional noteworthy meetings and engagement since the last Board meeting. On December 6, 2025, he met with the Dental Hygiene Board of California Executive Officer Anthony Lum, at Dental Board headquarters to discuss ongoing strategic alliances and the tradition of attending each other's board meetings. On December 9, 2025, he along with Board Member Chan attended the DCA Board Leadership meeting hosted by former and now retired DCA Director Kimberly Kirchmeyer. On December 17, 2025, he and Board Member Chan attended the DCA Health Board Controlled Substance Joint Forum hosted by the California State Board of Pharmacy at Sacramento State University. On December 19, 2025, and January 8, 2026, he attended DCA Executive Officer Onboarding workshops at DCA headquarters. With a background in legislative advocacy, his 30-year experience in and around the state capitol, Mr. Docherty reported that he has been spending a considerable amount of time assessing the status of Board positions and priorities on several legislative matters. Additionally, he has been reintroducing himself to members of the California Legislature and legislative staff in his new capacity as Executive Officer of the Board.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 6: Report on Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Activities, which may include updates on DCA's Administrative Services, Human Resources, Enforcement, Information Technology, Communications and Outreach, as well as Legislative,

### Regulatory, and Policy Matters

Shelly Jones provided a departmental update, which included the following.

Ms. Jones reported that DCA Chief Deputy Director Christine Lally has been named the Acting Director of DCA. On January 8, 2026, Governor Newsom delivered his final State of the State address, reaffirming California's role as a national beacon for democracy and an economic engine with conscience, pushing back against federal overreach while boldly investing in jobs, education, affordability, climate action, and recovery from the Los Angeles wildfires. The following day on January 9, 2026, he delivered his proposed State Budget for 2026/27. Ms. Jones communicated that the budget is balanced for the coming fiscal year (FY), reflecting a surge in state revenues, forecasting more than \$42 billion higher than projected at last year's enacted budget. The budget does not include new significant spending proposals. Instead, it builds on prior policy successes and continues to implement critical investments in priorities such as education, affordability, small businesses, wildfire mitigation, and more.

Ms. Jones provided updates on the Governor's Reorganization Plan, travel, Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests filings, and Board member trainings.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

### Agenda Item 7: Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action on 2026 – 2029 Strategic Plan

Mr. Docherty provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Board Member Alan Felsenfeld requested an amendment on page 4 of the Strategic Plan to strike "dental" from "The Board issues many types of permits to administer dental anesthesia and sedation, as well as orthodontic assistant and dental sedation assistant permits" and replace it with "general".

(M/S/C) (Felsenfeld/Chan) to approve the amendment to the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan.

President Larin requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Larin called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Dierking took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Vaderhobli, Yu.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

(M/S/C) (David/Medina) to approve the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan.

President Larin requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Larin called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Dierking took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Vaderhobli, Yu.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 8: Dental Assisting Council February 5, 2026, Meeting Report  
Dental Assisting Council (DAC) Chair, Jeri Fowler, provided a verbal report on the February 5, 2026 DAC meeting. Ms. Fowler advised the Board regarding DAC discussion of DAC meeting agenda items.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 9: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Appointment of Dental Assisting Council Members

Mr. Docherty provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

(M/S/C) (David/Felsenfeld) to reappoint Jessica Gerlach to the DAC.

President Larin requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Larin called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Dierking took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Vaderhobli, Yu.

Nays: None.  
Abstentions: None.  
Absent: None.  
Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

(M/S/C) (Chan/Cheng) to reappoint Cara Miyasaki to the DAC.

President Larin requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Larin called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Dierking took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Vaderhobli, Yu.

Nays: None.  
Abstentions: None.  
Absent: None.  
Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

#### Agenda Item 10: Budget Report

Mr. Rumbaoa provided a report on the Board's budget for FY 2025/2026. He conveyed that to date, the Board's appropriation is \$20.4 million, and the Board is expected to expend roughly \$18.6 million for this FY, with \$10.9 million in personnel and \$7.7 million in operating equipment and expenses. Based on that report, the Board is expected to revert \$1.9 million for the FY, which provides the Board with approximately 14.9 months in reserve for FY 25/26.

Board Member Vaderhobli inquired whether the \$1.9 million accrues interest. Mr. Rumbaoa responded that \$1.9 million will go back to the Board's fund at the end of the FY, and that the amount that did collect interest was the General Fund (GF) Loan of \$5 million. He added that the Board collected approximately \$132,000 in interest on that loan.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

#### Agenda Item 11: Licensing, Certifications, Permits, and Examinations

##### Agenda Item 11.a.: Update on Dental Licensure and Permit Statistics

Board Chief of Licensing and Examination Division Jodi Ortiz provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 12.: Presentation on California State Loan Repayment Program and Scholarship Programs for Oral Health Professionals – Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)

Jalaunda Granville, Federal Policy and State Special Projects Section Chief, HCAI, provided an overview on California State Loan Repayment Program and Scholarship Programs for Oral Health Professionals.

Board Member Chan voiced that in 2001 when the California Dental Association (CDA) debuted its foundation, among its debut was a pilot prototype program for a loan repayment on student debt for dentists serving in shortage areas. He stated that in 25 years they must have a lot of history on what was the return on investment of having the shortfall of those areas in shortage areas and how they treated. Additionally, he conveyed that dental students across the country have anywhere from \$250,000 to \$500,000 in student debt and noted that should be put into the equation on the recruitment to go to those areas.

Board Member Robert David noted that for the state loan repayment program to only have \$333,000 in state funding and no federal match available is not going to help anyone.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. The Board received public comment.

Ariane Terlet asked whether the \$333,000 is the money that the state will distribute. Ms. Granville responded that the loan repayment is up to \$50,000, where \$25,000 would come from the state and the other \$25,000 would come from the employer. In terms of HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) and other loan repayment programs, Ms. Terlet inquired whether this is taxable to the person who is receiving the money. Ms. Granville responded that it depends on the individual, but that is something that one can bring up and ask for as a part of the application cycle. She added that it is her understanding that it is on a case-by-case basis.

At 12:09 p.m., the Board recessed for a break.

At 1:15 p.m., the Board reconvened.

Agenda Item 13: Elective Facial Cosmetic Surgery (EFCS) Permit Credentialing Committee January 14, 2026, Meeting Report

Agenda Item 13.a.: Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendations on EFCS Permit Application

Ms. Ortiz provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

(M/S/C) (Chan/Felsenfeld) to deny the Application of O.N., DDS, for a Category 3 EFCS Permit.

President Larin requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Larin called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Dierking took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Vaderhobli, Yu.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

#### Agenda Item 14: Anesthesia and Sedation

##### Agenda Item 14.a.: General Anesthesia and Sedation Permits: Inspections and Evaluations Statistics

Board Anesthesia and Customer Service and Support Unit Manager Jessica Olney provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. Ms. Olney noted that on December 10, 2025, she and Board Member Felsenfeld provided an evaluator calibration course that was done virtually. Ms. Olney added that they had 230 people in attendance who were current evaluators for both the moderate sedation and general anesthesia programs. Additionally, new permit holders who would like to sign up to become evaluators were invited. Since then, the Board has had about 40 new evaluators who have joined.

Board Member Felsenfeld inquired whether it has been easier to schedule evaluations since one evaluator is enough on a secondary evaluation. Ms. Olney responded that the Board requires two evaluators when an individual is being evaluated for their first time or in the event that there is a failure. She conveyed that for every subsequent evaluation moving forward, there is only one evaluator required. Therefore, it has helped being able to schedule the evaluations quickly.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

#### Agenda Item 15: Substance Use Awareness

##### Agenda Item 15.a.: Diversion Program Report and Statistics

Board Chief of Administration and Compliance Paige Ragali provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. Ms. Ragali noted that the next quarterly Diversion Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2026.

Board Member David stated that while a lot of the probationers are on probation because of substance abuse, there are so few people in the Diversion Program. Ms. Ragali responded that the Board has Uniform Standards, which essentially are criteria that the Board looks at for determining whether an individual is considered a substance abusing licensee. She added that a lot of the licensees who go through disciplinary action have either criminal convictions or substance abuse issues, but they do not all reach that criteria of being considered a substance abusing licensee, which would then have them fall under the Uniform Standards, which dictates the certain terms and conditions that the Board would apply to their probationary terms.

Ms. Ragali noted that there are different reasons why they could have provided rehabilitation, and it is different mitigating criteria that Board staff reviews when they are determining the probation terms of the licensees, which is the reason as to why there are not many participants. She mentioned that it is also because Board staff want to ensure the probationers are successful. Therefore, the goal of probation is to rehabilitate the licensees, not be punitive. She added that Board staff are trying to evaluate and determine what the best course of action would be in order for them to rehabilitate the licensees; not all of the cases are extreme enough for them to be within the Uniform Standards, which would require participation in Diversion.

Board Member Chan requested that the Board have a presentation by the Diversion Evaluation Committee Chair.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. The Board received public comment.

Dr. Guy Acheson, representing the California Academy of General Dentistry, requested that when the presentation by the Diversion Evaluation Committee Chair is made, that real world examples be used of multiple people who are considered for the Diversion program but did not make the grade.

Agenda Item 16: Discussion of and Possible Action Regarding Government Code Section 11340.6 Petition to Adopt, Amend, or Repeal Regulations Regarding Complaint Intake, Review, Evaluation, and Closure Procedures

Board Counsel Tara Welch provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

(M/S/C) (David/Chan) to deny the Petition and approve the proposed Decision as drafted in Attachment 2 to be sent to the Petitioner and for filing and publication in the California Regulatory Notice Register.

President Larin requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Larin called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Dierking took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Vaderhobli, Yu.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Board Regulations Counsel Kristy Schieldge noted that the procedure after this is that the Decision will be sent to the Petitioner but also is required to be published in the California Notice Register. She reported that the attachment that the Board approved would be published, and then the Petitioner has 60 days to appeal and ask the Board to reconsider its Decision.

Agenda Item 17: Recess Open Session Until February 6, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

President Larin recessed Open Session at 1:50 p.m.

Agenda Item 18: Convene Closed Session

At 2:00 p.m., the Board convened Closed Session.

Agenda Item 19: Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(c)(3), the Board will Meet in Closed Session to Deliberate and Vote on Disciplinary Matters, Including Stipulations and Proposed Decisions

The Board convened in Closed Session to discuss disciplinary matters.

Agenda Item 20: Adjourn Closed Session

President Larin adjourned Closed Session at 2:31 p.m.

### **9:00 a.m., Friday, February 6, 2026**

Agenda Item 21: Reconvene Open Session – Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

President Larin called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Board Members Forge and Chan participated remotely and confirmed there were no individuals 18 years of age or older present in the room at their remote locations in compliance with Government Code section 11123.2, subdivision (j)(4).

Secretary Dierking called the roll; 13 Board Members were present, and a quorum was established.

Agenda Item 22: Board President's Report on Closed Session Items

President Larin provided a verbal report regarding Closed Session items. She reported that the Board met in closed session and granted one petition for consideration.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 23: Enforcement

Agenda Item 23.a. Presentation of "Attorney General's Annual Report on Accusations Prosecuted for Department of Consumer Affairs Client Agencies, Business and Professions Code Section 312.2, January 1, 2026" – Carl Sonne, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Justice

Carl Sonne, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Department of Justice, provided a verbal update and presentation on the OAG Annual Report.

Board Member David asked how the Board compares the 260 days accusations filed to settlement of the Board with other healthcare licensing boards. Mr. Sonne responded that there are a lot of different considerations that goes into every case and noted that agencies that may usually be referred to them that do not require expert testimony may go faster, and agencies that have some additional complexity may take longer.

Board Member Vaderhobli asked how many staff Mr. Sonne has on his team. Mr. Sonne responded that in the licensing section, they have about 115 attorneys and paralegals who work on the Board cases and for all of their other client agencies.

Secretary Dierking stated that when a case goes to the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for a proposed decision at the hearing, what the Board very often sees is a more developed history of an individual licensee involved in the underlying misconduct, and that usually includes aggravating and mitigating factors and sometimes there is quite a robust discussion of that, which helps facilitate a decision in some of these cases. He noted that when the Board sees stipulations offered up for consideration, the Board sometimes sees something more on a summary side and something more on a narrative side. Secretary Dierking inquired what the Board can do to facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of the rational basis for the terms of the settlement which would then be agreed to by the respondent or licensee.

Mr. Sonne responded that the process of settlement usually involves a dialogue with their client representatives in which they have a discussion regarding the terms and conditions that are being offered. When they provide a recommendation letter to adopt a settlement, there is also a desire not to provide too much information such that if in fact the Board were not to adopt the settlement, it has already heard more evidence that

should properly be the subject of a hearing. Mr. Sonne stated that they try to characterize the value of the settlement to the Board, and they do that so they can facilitate the adoption of a settlement. He added that there is always that type of tension where they are not going to try the case so to speak to the Board when they are conducting a settlement. They have to be mindful of the interests of the respondent in case the settlement is not agreed to.

Secretary Dierking inquired whether the Board could move forward indicating if there is a letter of support and if there is not; it is his understanding that these support letters are entitled to very little weight. Therefore, in the case of support letters offered when an individual is being accused or there is a statement of issues, Secretary Dierking asked what the Board can do to this particular point to ensure that it is included in the memorandum. Mr. Sonne responded that they typically do not attach those letters themselves, and it can vary from case to case. He added that one has to assume that the deputy has evaluated all those letters, and at the end of the day, the deputy is recommending the settlement to the Board. If in fact the Board is ever feeling like they have not received sufficient information or that the letters do not provide clarity, the Board has the ability to reject the settlement and choose to go to hearing and see what these individuals actually say when they are called to testify at the hearing. Mr. Sonne conveyed that regarding the recommendation to adopt letters, they usually try to keep them fairly brief so that the Board has a focus on it rather than trying to present the entire case. The accusation itself is sort of the operative document that is before the Board to be settled. Therefore, the letter along with the accusation itself and the terms of the stipulated settlement are the material considerations that the Board needs to evaluate in order to determine whether to adopt, reject, or sometimes even come up with counter terms to refer back to the OAG to negotiate another term that the Board wants to see included.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

#### Agenda Item 23.b: Review of Statistics and Trends

Ryan Blonien provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Board Member Felsenfeld noted that it looks like dentists have averaged about 3,000 complaints a year, and yet in the first 6 months of this year, it looks like the Board is already almost at that number. Mr. Blonien responded that a big cause to that is attributed to social media and conveyed that when a dentist makes a controversial statement and it goes in the media, the trend has been that it generates complaints.

Board Member David expressed that regarding investigative case aging where 23 percent of the cases are two to three years old, he hopes the Board is able to put some effort into clearing those up, as that is the number that the Legislature tears their hair out over about licensing boards. Mr. Blonien responded that the more staff he has, the more those cases can be moved.

President Larin inquired on the Board complaint process. Mr. Blonien responded that individuals can go online and file a complaint against anybody for anything. A complaint is evaluated in the intake unit and if it is a viable complaint, Board staff will attempt to collect records and have those records looked at by a dental consultant, who will provide them with areas of concern that the Board should focus on for the treatment. Afterwards, the case is assigned to either a special investigator or a sworn investigator, who will organize the file, determine what records they have, what records they may need to collect, and who needs to be interviewed. Once the interviews are all done and the records are all there, Board staff will send that to a dental expert, who is now the expert witness in the case. Board staff will then use that expert testimony in the report to move the case forward and determine next steps.

Board Member Vaderhobli voiced that since there is data that shows a stark difference between Northern and Southern California, whether there is a need to rebalance resources. Mr. Blonien responded that Board staff have taken a little bit of that southern area to help out.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

#### Agenda Item 24: Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on Proposed Regulations

##### Agenda Item 24.a.: Status Update on Pending Regulations

Board Legislative and Regulatory Specialist Brant Nelson provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Mr. Docherty conveyed there are five regulatory packages that will be coming before the Board this year. He noted that once the regulations are promulgated and published according to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and the Administrative Procedure Act, the Board will have 12 months by which to get that language and those regulations approved by the OAL. Although there are only five rulemaking packages that will come before the Board this year, that will leave 10 for next year.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

#### Agenda Item 25: Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on Legislative Proposals

##### Agenda Item 25.a.: Discussion and Possible Action to Amend Business and Professions Code (BPC) Sections 1621, 1628, 1633, 1635.5, 1638.1, 1724, 1750.1, 1753, 1753.5, 1754.5, and 1755, and Repeal BPC Section 1632.6 Regarding Dentistry

Mr. Nelson provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

(M/S/C) (David/Thakur) to approve for submission to the California State Legislature the legislative proposal in Attachment 1 to amend BPC sections 1621, 1628, 1633, 1635.5,

1638.1, 1724, 1750.1, 1753, 1753.5, 1754.5, and 1755, and repeal BPC Section 1632.6 regarding dentistry.

President Larin requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. The Board received public comment.

Tooka Zokaie, representing the California Dental Association (CDA), reiterated that CDA is looking forward to seeing this language submitted as one package with the committee. Additionally, they are also continuing to offer stakeholder input, especially with the 8-hour infection control course, which is a big priority for CDA members. As it has been a challenge for the last year, they look forward to the language to offer this course virtually so CDA can ensure it is accessible and that it meets the standards of the Board. Ms. Zokaie indicated that they will continue to monitor this language and give their input.

Susan McLearn, California Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA), stated that she supports Ms. Zokaie's comments about their interest in the infection control aspect of the bill. She noted that they support the virtual option but are concerned about the time frame in which the dental assistant would need to take the course. She added that they would like to see it taken before any contact with any potentially infectious material and therefore will look forward to that bill and its content.

President Larin called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Dierking took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Vaderhobli, Yu.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 25.b.: Legislative Proposal to Amend BPC Sections 1684.5, 1741, 1750, 1750.1, and 1752.4 Regarding Dental Auxiliaries

DAC Member Gerlach alongside Ms. Vallery provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Board Member David asked whether this proposal is considered non-substantive. Ms. Vallery responded that the main things that Board staff did was reorder and clarify things from regulation into statute. At the moment, the Board has allowable duties in regulation that have been there for a very long time, and the statute was approved more recently. However, in order to make things clearer, Board staff are moving the language that needs discussion into statute and then with the hopes of repealing the regulations

that have the allowable duties. Ms. Vallery voiced that there were no changes made to this section other than some very minor verbiage clarification added and reordering. Therefore, there should be no controversy.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. The Board received public comment.

Ms. McLearn, representing CDHA, commended the working group for a fabulous job in doing this major task.

(M/S/C) (Dierking/Medina) to move the legislative proposal in Attachment 1 for submission to the California State Legislature to amend BPC sections 1684.5, 1741, 1750, 1750.1, and 1752.4 regarding dental auxiliaries.

President Larin requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Larin called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Dierking took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Vaderhobli, Yu.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 25.c.: Legislative Proposal to Amend BPC Sections 1628.7, 1686, 1718.2, and 1718.3 Regarding Probationary Licenses, Petitions for Reinstatement, Termination, or Modification of Penalty, and Cancelled Licenses and Permits

Ms. Ragali provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

(M/S/C) (Yu/Cheng) to approve for submission to the California State Legislature the legislative proposal in Attachment 1 to amend BPC sections 1628.7, 1686, 1718.2, and 1718.3 to clarify the probationary license, petition for reinstatement, termination, or modification of penalty, and cancelled license and permit processes and requirements.

President Larin requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Larin called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Dierking took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Vaderhobli, Yu.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 26: Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on Legislation Impacting the Board, DCA, and/or the Dental Profession

Agenda Item 26.a.: 2026 Tentative Legislative Calendar – Information Only

Mr. Nelson provided an overview of the 2026 Tentative Legislative Calendar, which is available in the meeting materials.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

At 10:37 a.m., the Board recessed for a break.

At 10:47 a.m., the Board reconvened.

Agenda Item 26.b.: Legislation of Interest

Mr. Nelson provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. The Board received public comment.

Dr. Acheson stated that it is his understanding that Assembly Bill (AB) 873 (Alanis, 2025) was intended mainly to address unregistered dental assistants, specifically the ones that come in basically to learn on the job training, and the concern that they have an adequate education in infection control before they actually participate in working with patients. He expressed that this bill basically, as the way it is written, is merging all infection control requirements with this specific goal. Dr. Acheson noted that paragraph five of the bill states that the bill would instead make the employer responsible for ensuring that the dental assistant has successfully completed the course in infection control on or before 60 days from the date of first employment at the dental office. The bill would also authorize a dental assistant to comply with this requirement by taking a Board-approved course provided by a Board-approved registered dental assisting educational program.

Shari Becker, representing the Alliance, noted that regarding AB 873, part of the concern is regarding the 60 days that would be applicable to the unlicensed dental assistant to take the infection control course 60 days after employment. She added that the Senate Bill (SB) 1453 (Ashby, Chapter 483, Statutes of 2024) language did pass,

and it states “prior to exposure.” Therefore, she stated that the Alliance supports the language that was passed in SB 1453. Ms. Becker added that also of concern in AB 873 is the virtual option for the lab portion taking away any live hands-on lab. She indicated that the Alliance does not support the virtual option that is being offered in place of in-person.

Melodi Randolph, representing the Alliance, expressed a concern at the top of page 240 of the meeting materials regarding the increase in fees for approved courses. She communicated that currently the fee is \$300, and although they recognize that it is grossly insufficient to cover costs of approving these courses, to increase them to a maximum of \$8,000 per course is prohibitive for these course providers to pay that much money for approval. She noted that the cost of those fees would be transferred to the students taking the course and absorbed by the students, which therefore would impact the availability of courses as a lot of providers will either choose not to apply and pay that astronomically increased fee or pass that fee along to the students. Ms. Randolph expressed that they would support an increase, but a reasonable increase in the fees.

Ms. Zokaie, representing CDA, mentioned that considering the language of AB 873 and how that may change through a new vehicle of the new Board's cleanup language and with the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee, if the language will continue to be the 8-hour infection control course before exposure to blood and saliva, then CDA believes that is why the online course needs to be available and accessible and fully online because dentists want to be able to hire dental assistants and their teams to be able to train them in appropriate infection control and then be able to work with it being before exposure to blood and saliva. Ms. Zokaie noted that the course needs to be accessible, especially for rural dental clinics that may not have an in-person portion accessible to them.

Leslie Canham expressed that she supports Ms. Randolph's comments about the fee being exorbitant for an 8-hour infection control provider. As she is a standalone provider, it would be a cost she would pass on to the assistants, which would have an impact on the workforce shortage. As she travels to outreach areas and to rural areas to the training, she indicated that there is really no excuse not to reach out to the providers that do travel to the dental clinics and the offices that are in these outlying areas to get this training completed.

#### Agenda Item 27: Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Dates

Mr. Docherty provided a report on future agenda items and Board meeting dates for the rest of the year.

President Larin requested public comment on this item. The Board received public comment.

Ms. McLearan, representing CHA, applauded the Board for asking HCAI for details on how they incentivize dental practices in shortage areas. She noted that HCAI is currently doing their deep dive into the oral health workforce, including dentists, dental assistants, and dental hygienists. It is her understanding that their data will come from license renewal data. She suggested that the Board ask HCAI how it plans to track the unlicensed dental assistant population who also play an integral part in the delivery of oral care.

Agenda Item 28: Adjournment

President Larin adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.