



DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

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DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DENTAL ASSISTING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES February 5, 2026

Pursuant to Government Code section 11122.5, subdivision (a), the Dental Assisting Council (Council) of the Dental Board of California (Board) met in-person with additional public participation available by teleconference/WebEx Events on Thursday, February 5, 2026, with the following location available for Council and public member participation:

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

Members Present:

Jeri Fowler, RDAEF, OA, Chair
De'Andra Epps-Robbins, RDA, Vice Chair
Jessica Gerlach, RDA, OA
Lilia Larin, DDS
Cara Miyasaki, RDA, RDHEF, MS
Rosalinda Olague, RDA, PhD(c)
Carie Smith, RDAEF, OA

Staff Present:

Bryce W.A. Docherty, MPA, Executive Officer
Christy Bell, Assistant Executive Officer
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
Juan Pitta, Investigator
Mirela Taran, Administrative Analyst
Joseph Tippins, Investigator
Alex Cristescu, Television Specialist, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
David Bouilly, Facilitator and Strategic Planner, Strategic Organizational Leadership and Individual Development (SOLID), DCA
Tara Welch, Board Counsel, Attorney IV, Legal Affairs Division, DCA

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

Council Chair Jeri Fowler called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.; seven members of the Council were present, and a quorum was established.

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

There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion and Possible Action on November 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes Motion/Second/Call the Question (M/S/C) (Smith/Gerlach) to approve the November 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

Chair Fowler requested public comment before the Council acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

Chair Fowler called for the vote on the motion. Ms. Mirela Taran took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Epps-Robbins, Fowler, Gerlach, Larin, Miyasaki, Olague, Smith.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed and the Minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 4: Council Chair Report

Chair Fowler reported that it is her hope to make 2026 the year of remarkable positive changes that benefit dental assistants and the dentistry profession as a whole. She stated that at the November 6, 2025 Council meeting, the formation of two working groups was announced to review the statutes and regulations related to duties of the dental assisting profession. Council Member Rosalinda Olague and Council Member Jessica Gerlach were assigned to the Dental Assistant (DA) and the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Working Group while Council Member Carie Smith and Chair Fowler were assigned to the RDA in Extended Functions (RDAEF) Working Group. Chair Fowler noted that Board staff chose to work with the DA and RDA working group first and voiced that they would be presenting their report at the February 2026 Council meeting. Additionally, she noted that Board staff will soon be working with the RDAEF Working Group with the goal of presenting that report at the May Council meeting.

Chair Fowler requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 5: Executive Officer Report

Bryce Docherty congratulated Council Member Olague and Council Member Lilia Larin on their recent reappointments to the Board and election as Board Vice President and

President, respectively. Mr. Docherty noted 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, he met with Anthony Lum, Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC) Executive Officer, at Board headquarters to discuss ongoing strategic alliance and tradition of attending each other's board meetings. On December 9, he and Board Member Steven Chan attended the DCA quarterly Board Leadership meeting hosted by former and now retired DCA Director Kimberly Kirchmeyer. On December 17, 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 and January 8, he attended DCA Executive Officer Onboarding workshops at DCA headquarters. With an extensive background in legislative advocacy in and around the State Capitol, Mr. Docherty stated that he has been spending a considerable amount of time assessing the status of Board positions and priorities on several legislative matters, many of which affect RDAs, dental assistants, and those in extended function. 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. He has been working with Assembly Member Juaquin Arambula of Fresno to author a Board-sponsored cleanup bill, some of which applies to dental assisting.

Chair Fowler requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 6: Update on Dental Assisting Examination Statistics

Tina Vallery provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Chair Fowler requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 7: Update on Dental Assisting Licensing Statistics

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

Chair Fowler requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 8: Update and Discussion on Registered Dental Assistant and Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions Educational Programs and Courses Application Approvals and Re-Evaluations

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

Chair Fowler requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 9.: Update, Discussion, and Possible Recommendation to the Board on Legislative Proposal to Amend Business and Professions Code (BPC) Sections 1684.5,

1741, 1750, 1750.1, and 1752.4 Regarding Dental Auxiliaries – Dental Assistant and Registered Dental Assistant Duties Working Group

Council Member Gerlach and Ms. Vallery provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Council Member Cara Miyasaki noted that on page 41, fourth bullet down talks about the certificate of completion and voiced that she noticed that in the next agenda item 10(a) of the meeting packet, it references the certificate for the continuing education (CE) course providers and that they have to mention the authority of which the course has been approved. Since there are different pathways, she wonders whether it would be a good idea to mention which pathway on the certificate that the student graduated from. Ms. Vallery responded that the legislative proposal in agenda item 10 is intended as the cleanup bill that Mr. Docherty had mentioned in his report, and that bill is going to be handled separately from this proposal.

Council Member Miyasaki conveyed that for a manner of consistency if we are asking for certificates of completion with all the information, as one is saying to state the pathway that the student went through and the other one does not, request that. Ms. Vallery responded that she is certain that the CE that Council Member Miyasaki is referring to has to do with the virtual infection control course, and because that course is being proposed to only be accepted not for licensure, that is why that provision was added to that particular course requirement. Ms. Miyasaki stated that she does not want to apply that provision to all of the other courses because it would not be necessary.

Council Member Miyasaki noted that on page 43, under the fourth bullet where it references chairside supervision, she wonders whether it was a good idea to have a definition of what chairside supervision actually is. She added that some dental offices have closed rooms, and some have open bays where there may be four pediatric chairs in a row. Ms. Vallery responded that they discussed that as part of the working group, and they felt that each of those particular items were long-standing items. They merely moved them into a section where each one describes the role of the dentist. Therefore, they felt it was sufficient with what it had in it. Council Member Olague added that she interprets it as the dentist has to be chairside. Council Member Gerlach stated that she believes they were going to discuss some type of description or definition saying that it would be at the specific chairside of the patient. Ms. Vallery responded that on page 54 of the meeting materials, section (b) has three duties that are listed for chairside and added that these were just moved into this section to order them in the highest level of supervision to the lowest. So, these are existing chairside responsibilities. Ms. Vallery noted that there are only three duties listed that require the chairside supervision. Therefore, she believes that with the three duties listed, it was very clear what that meant and what it entailed.

Council Member Smith voiced that for clarification, referencing line number one, a dentist tries in a patient's appliance and then he has to sit at the chairside while the assistant tells the patient how to clean it and when to wear it. She expressed that seems

unrealistic in a dental office if the dentist has to stay at the chairside while the assistant delivers the instructions of how to care for it, how to clean it, when to wear it, and when not to wear it. Ms. Vallery responded that this is existing language, and because there was mention of the dentist being directly involved in the care with the patient in this particular procedure, that is why it was placed into this section. The only other two sections are direct supervision and general supervision, which do not require the dentist to be with the patient. Therefore, they felt this was the appropriate place to put it since there is direct involvement with the dentist.

Council Member Olague voiced that she believes the stakeholders were in agreement with this.

Council Member Larin agreed with Council Member Smith that the dentist does not need to be there during the instructions and requested that be removed.

Tara Welch noted on page 55 of the meeting materials, paragraph (12) of BPC section 1750.1, new subdivision (c), was proposed to be stricken and was the duty proposed to be a chairside duty under subdivision (b)(1). She stated that paragraph (1) under subdivision (b) could be stricken from chairside duties, unstrike paragraph (12) under subdivision (c), and the duty would continue to be a direct supervision duty.

(M/S/C) (Epps-Robbins/Miyasaki) to recommend to the Board the legislative proposal in Attachment 1, as revised during this meeting to strike, on page 54, paragraph (1) from BPC section 1750.1, subdivision (b), and restore paragraph (12) under subdivision (c), for submission to the California State Legislature to amend BPC sections 1684.5, 1741, 1750, 1750.1, and 1752.4 regarding dental auxiliaries.

Chair Fowler requested public comment before the Council acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

Chair Fowler called for the vote on the motion. Ms. Taran took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Epps-Robbins, Fowler, Gerlach, Larin, Miyasaki, Olague, Smith.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 10: Update, Discussion, and Possible Recommendation on Legislative Proposals

Agenda Item 10.a.: Legislative Proposal 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

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

Council Member Smith noted that on page 79 of the meeting materials, paragraph (6) states, "Passage of a written examination administered by the board, or its designee". She inquired whether that means that we are allowing permission to move testing from the Board to a non-Board designee, such as the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB). Mr. Docherty responded that this was a change that came back from legislative staff in which they felt that the way the current language was written was confusing. He stated that if you read the section as it pertains to existing law, it reads "Passage of a written examination administered by the board. The board shall designate whether the written examination shall be administered by the Board." Mr. Docherty stated the section as currently read is an exam administered by the Board if the Board designates that they can administer the exam. Therefore, the Board does have the option to allow a designee to administer the exam.

Ms. Vallery expressed that previously the EF exam had a clinical and practical, and with the elimination of that, the Board no longer administers those exams; the administrator of the written exam is PSI.

Council Member Miyasaki inquired whether the term "supervising licensed dentist" is to be used throughout the document. She mentioned that on page 77, [BPC section 1750.1,] subdivision (b) states, "A dental assistant may perform the following duties under the direct supervision and pursuant to the order, control, and full professional responsibility of a licensed dentist" and asked whether that should be "supervising licensed dentist." Ms. Vallery responded that the changes that are being made to that legislative proposal are proposed to be part of either the sunset bill or after this bill would go into effect. She added that this language was previously approved, and discussions had not happened at that time about changing the term. Therefore, if this goes into effect in 2027, the change to the term would not go into effect until or unless the legislative proposal the Council went over and agenda item 9 gets approved and becomes law.

(M/S/C) (Smith/Larin) to recommend to the Dental Board of California for submission to the California State Legislature the legislative proposal in Attachment 1 to amend Business and Professions Code sections 1621, 1628, 1633, 1635.5, 1638.1, 1724, 1750.1, 1753, 1753.5, 1754.5, and 1755, and repeal Business and Professions Code section 1632.6 regarding dentistry.

Chair Fowler requested public comment before the Council acted on the motion. The Council received public comments.

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Tooka Zokaie, representing California Dental Association (CDA), shared that Assembly Bill (AB) 873 (Alanis, 2025) is very similar to what is being proposed and noted that if this moves forward and with Arambula as the author of this proposal, then CDA is also supportive of that change happening and pulling back on AB 873. She noted that CDA continues to work with the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and expressed that CDA is supportive of this proposal as well. They do not want it to be duplicative with AB 873, so that would be pulled back.

Shari Becker, representing the Alliance, noted that the Alliance, in regard to page 85 of the meeting materials, would still like to express their concerns with the 8-hour infection control course being offered in a total virtual setting with the hands-on clinical experience [BPC section 1755, subdivision (b)(3)], possibly as an option to be eliminated. She conveyed that the Alliance still supports that hands-on option with the infection control 8-hour course.

Chair Fowler called for the vote on the motion. Ms. Taran took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Epps-Robbins, Fowler, Gerlach, Larin, Miyasaki, Olague, Smith.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 10.b.: Recommendation on 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

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

Ms. Welch noted Board staff recommended the Council revise the legislative proposal in Attachment 1, page 4 of the handout, page 98 of the meeting materials, to strike the entire third paragraph [beginning with “A petition under this section . . .”]. She stated that whole paragraph would be incorporated on page 3 of the handout, page 97 of the meeting materials, in new subdivision (c), paragraphs (1) through (3). Ms. Ragali added that subdivision (k) [on page 4 of the handout, page 98 of the meeting materials] would be relettered as subdivision (j).

(M/S/C) (Miyasaki/Epps-Robbins) to recommend to the Board the legislative proposal in Attachment 1 to amend Business and Professions Code 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,

as revised during this meeting on page 98 of the meeting materials to strike the whole third paragraph and to reletter subdivision (k) as subdivision (j).

Chair Fowler requested public comment before the Council acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

Chair Fowler called for the vote on the motion. Ms. Taran took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Epps-Robbins, Fowler, Gerlach, Larin, Miyasaki, Olague, Smith.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 11: Update and Discussion on Proposed Regulations

Agenda Item 11.a.: Update on Rulemaking to Amend California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 1005 Regarding Minimum Standards for Infection Control

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

Mr. Docherty stated the Board has a very robust regulatory package agenda for 2026. Starting in May, the Board will most likely have three regulatory packages for consideration and approval. In addition to their assertive legislative agenda, the Board also has a very assertive rulemaking agenda. Mr. Docherty stated that this year alone, the Board has the goal of publishing five rulemaking packages, which leaves it with potentially 10 rulemaking packages in 2027.

Chair Fowler requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 12: Adjournment

Chair Fowler adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.