DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
MEETING MINUTES
May 13-14, 2026

In accordance with Government Code section 11123, subdivision (a), the Dental Board of California (Board) met on May 13-14, 2026, at the following location:

Hilton Anaheim
777 W. Convention Way (Fourth Floor, Huntington Room)
Anaheim, CA 92802

Board Members Present:
Lilia Larin, DDS, President
Rosalinda Olague, RDA, Vice President
John Dierking, JD, Public Member, Secretary
Steven D. Chan, DDS
Kevin R. Cheng, JD, Public Member
Robert P. David, Public Member
Alan L. Felsenfeld, MA, DDS
Joni Forge, DDS
Jaskiran K. Grewal, DDS
Angelita Medina, MHS, Public Member
Ram M. Vaderhobli, MS, DDS
James Yu, MS, DDS

Board Members Absent:
Yogita Thakur, MS, DDS

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
Wilbert Rumbaoa, Administrative Services Unit Manager
Brant Nelson, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist
Monica Ackerson, Investigator (May 14, 2026)
Kaycee Hunter, Investigator (May 13, 2026)
Bernice Santa Ana, Investigator (May 14, 2026)
Mirela Taran, Administrative Analyst
Tom Tortorici, Investigator (May 13, 2026)

Bryce Penney, Television Specialist, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
Kristy Schieldge, Regulations Counsel, Attorney IV, Legal Affairs Division, DCA (Remotely)
Kenneth Swenson, Interim Board Counsel, Attorney III, Retired Annuitant, Legal Affairs Division, DCA
Tara Welch, Board Counsel, Attorney IV, Legal Affairs Division, DCA (Remotely)

10:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum
The Board President, Dr. Lilia Larin, called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

The Board Secretary, John Dierking, called the roll; 12 Board Members were present, and a quorum was established. Board Member Yogita Thakur, MS, DDS, was absent.

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. Evelyne Vu-Tien, representing the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry (CSPD), stated that on May 8, 2026, they submitted a formal letter to the Board outlining their concerns and recommendations regarding implementation of pediatric moderate sedation permit requirements and possible modifications under Senate Bill (SB) 501 (Glazer, Chapter 929, Statutes of 2018) due to their opinion of diminished access to care for pediatric special needs and increasing population of pediatric children. She noted that CSPA understands that their suggested recommendations may not be under the purview of the Board. However, they would like to bring awareness to the letter and would like to respectfully ask the Board to refer the letter to the Access to Care Committee to evaluate the issues outlined in the letter, which include the age requirement, as well as recognition of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited residency training, the flexibility for the PEARS (Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition and Stabilization) versus Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) training, to open up the skill set and greater workforce availability for Registered Dental Assistants (RDAs) to participate, and opportunities to reassess the current site visit and fee structure to consolidate the fees.

Shari Becker, representing the Dental Assisting Alliance (Alliance) inquired on the status of the second RDA appointment to the Board.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion and Possible Action on February 5-6, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
Motion/Second/Call (M/S/C) (David/Yu) to approve the February 5-6, 2026, 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 Larin took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Vaderhobli, Yu.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Absent: Thakur.
Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 4: Board President Report
President Larin reported that she and Vice President Rosalinda Olague continue to hold weekly meetings with Executive Officer Bryce Docherty to review Board operations, discuss ongoing initiatives, and stay informed on important regulatory and operational matters affecting both the Board and the public. Additionally, they have been working to refine the Board's committee structure and improve committee function in order to encourage greater Board Member participation, strengthen collaboration, and enhance the effectiveness of committee work.

President Larin stated that planning is underway for upcoming Board meetings and opportunities to further strengthen stakeholder engagement and collaboration. In April, she attended the American Dental Association lobby day meetings in Washington, D.C., and participated in discussions with members of Congress and the Senate focused on key issues impacting the dental profession and patient access to care, including student debt, insurance reform, and the need for stronger oral health representation at the federal level. President Larin conveyed that the Executive Committee also participated in a virtual meeting with representatives from the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) to review updates regarding the dental examination process and upcoming changes to the examination structure and administration. Additionally, Dr. Larin noted that she authored the President's Message for the Board's May newsletter. President Larin thanked the Board Members, Mr. Docherty, and Board staff for their continued dedication and for embracing new initiatives related to committee structure and function.

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

Agenda Item 5: Executive Officer Report
Executive Officer Bryce Docherty reported that Board staff in conjunction with DCA Strategic Organizational Leadership and Individual Development (SOLID) have met several times to develop the action plan and action plan tracker to assist the Board in

monitoring the progress of completing the approved Dental Board of California 2026-2029 Strategic Plan. These operational documents include several worksheets that identify 14 strategic objectives and 42 tasks to be completed within the four-year period to successfully accomplish the four strategic goals adopted by the Board. These documents are intended to outline and measure the Board's progress. Further updates will be provided to the Board as these tasks are completed. Mr. Docherty disclosed that the current Board staff vacancy percentage rate is about 10%, which previously included eight vacant positions. However, last week, one of those vacancies was filled by Christina Hietbrink, joining Board staff as a Management Services Technician in the Dental Assisting and Examination Unit. Three of the vacancies are the result of staff promotions, including two internal promotions, and three of the vacancies were the result of retirement. He added that the Board is actively recruiting staff to fill the vacant positions.

Mr. Docherty also reported that over the past quarter, the Board has continued to prioritize improvements in communication, transparency, and accessibility to better serve its licensees, stakeholders, and the public. Several key initiatives have been implemented to expand outreach, enhance user experience, and modernize interactions with the Board. With regards to an expanded social media presence, the Board has launched a new Facebook page, complementing its existing social media presence on X. This expanded platform allows the Board to reach a broader audience and engage more proactively in public-facing events. Recent examples of postings include participation in Dental Assistants Recognition Week in March and National Smile Month in May and June. These social media channels offer real-time updates and improved visibility for Board activities. Mr. Docherty stated that there have also been a number of website enhancements to clarify and ease of use. The Board's website has been refreshed with clearer language, improved organization, and new visual application widgets designed to simplify navigation for licensing applicants. These updates aim to reduce confusion, streamline access to information, and create a more intuitive experience for all the users. To enhance language accessibility and translation integration, a new Google Translate feature has been added to the top of the Board's website, allowing visitors to view content in nearly 150 different languages with a single click. This enhancement reflects the Board's ongoing commitment to accessible communication and serves as an important step in ensuring that the public it protects can readily access essential information and services. He noted that the Board has also added new Contact Us and email subscription features. To further strengthen communication with applicants, licensees, stakeholders, and the public, the Board has introduced an updated Contact Us and new Join our Email List subscription option. These tools provide a more direct and efficient way for the public to reach the Board, receive timely updates, and stay informed on key announcements, regulatory changes, and outreach efforts.

Mr. Docherty conveyed that the May issue of the Board Matters biannual newsletter was recently released and successfully distributed announcing the Board's new President and new Executive Officer among many other items. This biannual communication vehicle continues the Board’s efforts to keep stakeholders informed of leadership updates and organizational priorities. He indicated that the Dental Unit has fully transitioned from mailing hard copy communications and that all correspondence is now issued electronically. This modernization ensures faster delivery, improved tracking, and reduced administrative costs. Mr. Docherty reported that the Board now offers courtesy email notifications for renewals. In April, the Board implemented courtesy email notifications for license renewals. This added communication channel helps ensure licensees receive timely reminders and are less likely to miss their renewal deadlines. He stated that the Board has also implemented the Psychological Services Incorporated (PSI) testing updates for the dentist and dental assistant Law and Ethics Examination. PSI's examination process has been updated to collect examinee’s email addresses and phone numbers. This enhancement allows for more efficient communication regarding exam scheduling, location changes, or testing site closures, improving the overall experience for candidates. Mr. Docherty noted that as part of the Board's paperless project, a secure online portal for enforcement complaints has been established. The Enforcement Unit now accepts dental records submissions through a secure online portal. This improvement reduces the need for mailing large physical documents and provides a more efficient and accessible way for the public to file complaints.

Mr. Docherty affirmed that since the last Board meeting in February he has attended the DCA Board President’s Training with President Larin and the DCA Board Member Orientation Training (BMOT) along with several members of the Board. Additionally, he met with leadership from the California Association of Orthodontists (CAO), government relations advocates with the Service Employees International (SEIU) united health workers, and advocates and members of the California Dental Assisting Alliance. Lastly, he recognized Board Members Steven Chan and Jaskiran Grewal on their highly esteemed achievements.

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

<u>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</u>

Assistant Executive Officer Christy Bell provided a departmental update, which included the following.

Ms. Bell noted that all new Board Members must file Form 700 with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) 30 days after their appointment and annually on April 1st of every year thereafter. Additionally, Board Members must file a Form 700 leaving office statement within 30 days of leaving the Board. She reported that this spring, DCA relaunched the Enforcement Academy training program, which had not been held since the COVID-19 pandemic. This 4-day training program offered DCA Board and Bureau enforcement staff an overview of the enforcement process, investigations, complaint intake, and formal discipline, as well as learn best practices and make connections with other programs. Their March session included staff participation from over 20 different boards and bureaus, and they are planning additional academies in August and October 2026. Ms. Bell stated that DCA's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Executive Steering Committee recently selected 15 employees from throughout DCA to participate as members of the inaugural DEI Subcommittee. This subcommittee will meet bimonthly to develop and implement multiple initiatives and goals to promote positive organizational impact. The first meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for July 31, 2026, and DCA will continue to highlight their milestones and accomplishments.

Ms. Bell provided updates on the Governor's Reorganization Plan, Board Member Orientation (BMOT) 2026 training dates, and re-appointment information.

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

<u>Agenda Item 7: Report on Purpose Statement and Objectives of Standing and Special Needs Committees</u>
President Larin 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.

<u>Agenda Item 8: Dental Assisting Council Meeting Report</u>
Dental Assisting Council (DAC) Chair, Jeri Fowler, provided a verbal report on the May 13, 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.

<u>Agenda Item 9: Budget Report</u>
Administrative Services Unit Manager Wilbert Rumbaoa provided a report on the Board's budget for fiscal year (FY) 2025/2026. Mr. Rumbaoa conveyed that the Board's appropriation is currently $20.6 million. Of that $20.6 million, the Board is projected to spend $18.9 by the end of the FY. $7.3 million will be spent on personnel services, and $12.5 million will be for operating equipment and expenses. He conveyed that the Board is projected to revert approximately $1.7 million at the end of the FY, and that currently the Board is projected to receive approximately $20.4 million in revenue for the year. Additionally, he noted that the Board currently has 14.8 months in reserve for the Board's budget.

President Larin asked whether the Board has another loan. Mr. Rumbaoa responded that there is no loan and that the loan was repaid in FY 2024-25. He stated that the

Board received approximately $131,000 of interest based off of that loan and that there is no projected loan for the next FY.

Board Member Robert David asked whether the Governor's four day in-person return to office mandate is going to take effect as of July 1st. Mr. Docherty responded that negotiations are still ongoing and we will not have a final answer until the 2026-2027 State Budget is adopted by the Legislature and signed by Governor Newsom.

Board Member Ram Vaderhobli noted that on page 45 of the meeting materials, the *Other Regulatory Fees* shows $417,000 while the *Year to Date* collections through February shows $293. Mr. Rumbaoa stated that the Board anticipates that more students will pass their ADEX exam, graduate, and apply for licensure. Dr. Vaderhobli stated that in regards to revenues, he anticipates it will bypass the budget. Mr. Rumbaoa responded that revenues are projections and that it is based on a couple of different factors including graduation season.

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

<u>Agenda Item 10: Licensing, Certifications, Permits, and Examinations</u>
<u>Agenda Item 10.a.: Update on Dental Licensure and Permit Statistics</u>
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. The Board received the following public comment.

Tooka Zokaie, representing the California Dental Association (CDA), stated that CDA just recognized a clinic in South Lake Tahoe that has hired two new dentists, which have student loan repayment programs that require them to work in high need areas. She reported that these grant programs do increase access to care to the point where new clinics are able to hire individuals much easier because these programs help support students offset the cost of education as well. Ms. Zokaie stated with the dental school placements of students, CDA has a program for community-based clinical education. She added that they have 25 new clinic partnerships between dental schools and community clinics and are learning about what the challenges are to placing these clinics in even higher need areas that are more rural and at a further distance from the dental school. Ms. Zokaie conveyed that CDA is interested in seeing more dental school leaders engaged in these initiatives.

<u>Agenda Item 11: Anesthesia and Sedation</u>
<u>Agenda Item 11.a.: General Anesthesia and Sedation Permits: Inspections and Evaluations Statistics</u>
Ms. 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: Enforcement
Agenda Item 12.a.: Review of Statistics and Trends
Enforcement Unit Chief Ryan Blonien provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Board Member Chan noted that on the complaint cases on page 71 of the meeting materials from FY 2024-2025 to the current time it shows over a thousand more complaints and inquired whether there are any trends that have been seen. Mr. Blonien responded that via social media if a person says something controversial, it seems that the reflex action is to find what that person does for a living and then file complaints. Therefore, a lot of those complaints were from a controversial stance that a person made and then the Board got a plethora of complaints on that person.

Board Member David asked why the Board gets involved if an individual simply makes a public facing controversial statement. Mr. Blonien responded that the Board does not always do so but any individual has the ability to file and online complaint with the Board.

Board Member Vaderhobli noted on page 70 of the meeting materials it states that between January 1, 2026, and March 31, 2026, there were 1,356 complaints closed without referral for investigation and noted that this represents approximately 81% of the complaints that the Board has received. He asked what are the primary reasons that these complaints are being closed at the intake stage. Mr. Blonien responded that if the Board receives 300-500 complaints because a dentist in California supported something loudly that other groups do not support, that action can result in a sudden onset of complaints and cases that that represents a statistical anomaly in that the Board does not monitor First Amendment rights and only pursues cases resulting in actualized patient harm.

President Larin inquired how many sworn and nonsworn officers the Board has and asked for clarification on the responsibilities of both roles. Mr. Blonien responded that the sworn peace officers have gone through the formal law enforcement post certification process, the Police Academy, and that most of them have police department experience. He expressed that in the Board’s Sacramento office there are five sworn peace officers while in the Orange office there are six sworn peace officers and added that they handle the most serious matters, which include the criminal cases, unlicensed cases, cases that are high-profile in the media, and the cases that involve multiple agencies and multiple jurisdictions. Mr. Blonien noted that for the nonsworn special investigators, there are four in the Sacramento office and four in Orange office and stated that they handle the quality of care cases and the advertising cases.

Board Member Joni Forge inquired whether a sworn officer and an unsworn officer work together or separately on a case. Mr. Blonien responded that they can work together and often do.

President Larin asked what steps Board Members should take if they hear word of an individual working as a non-licensed dentist. Mr. Blonien responded that the whole Board Enforcement Unit has been taking extra efforts to address those complaints and noted that they have to gather evidence and have to be able to have a substantiated case to prosecute in order to move forward.

Mr. Docherty noted that of the 36 different boards and bureaus, the Board is the only one that has its own sworn peace officers.

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

<u>Agenda Item 13: Substance Use Awareness</u>
<u>Agenda Item 13.a.: Diversion Program Report and Statistics</u>
Ms. Bell provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. Ms. Bell stated that the next quarterly meeting is anticipated to be scheduled for July 2026.

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

At 11:49 a.m., the Board recessed for a break.

At 1:34 p.m., the Board reconvened.

<u>Agenda Item 14: Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on Proposed Regulations</u>
<u>Agenda Item 14.a.: Status Update on Pending Regulations</u>
Legislative and Regulatory Specialist Brant Nelson provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

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

Ms. Becker, representing the Alliance, inquired when the public can expect the 45-day public comment period to begin and how would the public be notified. Mr. Nelson responded that at this point this particular item is still going through DCA review at the Budget Office and that Board staff is going to move forward with it and do the actual notice once they get approval. He stated that a public notice will go out on the Board’s website as well as via email to individuals on the Board’s mailing list.

Anthony Lum, Executive Officer of the Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC), thanked the Board for their collaborative effort on these infection control regulations.

Agenda Item 14.b.: Discussion and Possible Action to Reconsider Previously Approved Text, and to Consider Initiation of a Rulemaking to Amend CCR, Title 16, Sections 1021, 1028, 1028.4, 1028.5, 1030, and 1035, and Repeal Sections 1032, 1032.1, 1032.2, 1032.3, 1032.4, 1032.5, 1032.6, 1032.7, 1032.8, 1032.9, 1032.10, 1033.1, 1034, and 1036.01 Regarding Applications for Dentist Licensure and Fees
Mr. Nelson provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

(M/S/C) (Chan/Felsenfeld) to rescind the Board's prior August 14, 2025, motion approving prior text for this item, and instead approve the proposed regulatory text in Attachment 1 including the repeal of the forms incorporated by reference in Attachments 2 through 6, and further direct staff to submit the text to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency for review. If no adverse comments are received, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any non-substantive changes to the text and the package and set the matter for a hearing if requested. If after the 45-day public comment period, no adverse comments are received, and no public hearing is requested, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to complete the rulemaking, and adopt the proposed regulations as noticed for California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 16, for amendments to sections 1021, 1028, 1028.4, 1028.5, 1030, and 1035, and for the repeal of sections 1032, 1032.1, 1032.2, 1032.3, 1032.4, 1032.5, 1032.6, 1032.7, 1032.8, 1032.9, 1032.10, 1033.1, 1034, and 1036.01.

Board Member Vaderhobli asked for clarification that if applicants do not click on the expedited processing option, then that would mean that they cannot disclose it. Mr. Nelson responded that the Board is making a modification that says whether the applicant is seeking expedited processing of their application based on immigration status pursuant to Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 135.4. If the answer is yes, in order to receive expedited review of an application, the applicant shall indicate whether any of the following statements apply to the applicant. Ms. Ortiz added that when they select the option that they are a refugee asylee, it pushes their application to the top of the list, and the Board expedites their application. Regulations Counsel Kristy Schieldge reinforced that an applicant would only be required to answer yes if the applicant wanted to have their licensure expedited, and this regulatory amendment would not change the law and the underlying concept of expediting an application.

President Larin inquired how much faster is the expedited license compared to a regular license. Ms. Ortiz responded that the Board's goal with any license is to license someone within 30 days depending on whether they have supplied all of the documentation that is necessary. Therefore, it is very dependent upon the applicant and what they provide to the Board at the time that they submit their application. If all necessary documentation is not received, Board staff will issue the applicant a deficiency letter letting them know of the incomplete application. Ms. Ortiz also noted that military spouse applications are also subject to expedited review.

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, Vaderhobli, Yu.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Absent: Thakur.
Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 14.c.: Discussion and Possible Action to Consider Initiation of a Rulemaking to Amend CCR, Title 16, Section 1066 Regarding Vaccine Administration Updates

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

(M/S/C) (Felsenfeld/Chan) to approve the proposed regulatory text in Attachment 1 and direct staff to submit the text to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency for review. If no adverse comments are received, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any non-substantive changes to the text and the package, and set the matter for a hearing if requested. If after the 45-day public comment period, no adverse comments are received, and no public hearing is requested, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to complete the rulemaking, and adopt the proposed regulations as noticed for CCR, title 16, section 1066.

President Larin asked how many dentists have applied to prescribe and administer influenza and COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). President Larin also inquired whether a permit was required to administer each type of vaccine. Ms. Schieldge responded that dentists do not have to get a separate permit but can administer vaccinations in any setting as long as they meet the requirements in CCR, title 16, section 1066. Since there is no permit required, the Board does not have information on how many dentists are administering these vaccines.

Board Member Chan requested clarification and noted the proposal only described influenza and COVID-19 vaccines and nothing else. Ms. Schieldge stated the statute at Business and Professions Code section 1625.6 limits the vaccine administration to influenza and COVID-19 to persons that are 3 years of age or older; that is the scope.

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

Ms. Zokaie, representing CDA, expressed that in January 2021, DCA issued the waiver that temporarily allowed dentists to serve as volunteer vaccinators at mass vaccination sites, but it was expanded in March 2021 to even include California dentists with expired licenses. She added that CDA had a sponsored bill passed that would permanently codify the 2021 waiver to expand dentist scope of practice to include the administration of flu and the COVID-19 vaccines. Ms. Zokaie stated that as of October 2022, California had 34 registered sites with dentist vaccinators who provided 3,253 COVID doses. However, this data likely does not include the dentists who were vaccinating at federally qualified health centers since the vaccine had been available. She stated that CDA has made a commitment to both monitoring vaccination rates for COVID-19 and the flu and has advocated for the ability of dentists to be able to participate as vaccinators.

Regulations Counsel Schieldge reiterated her statement that dentists can "independently" administer vaccine per BPC section 1625.6 and in accordance with the Board's regulation at Section 1066.

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, Vaderhobli, Yu.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Absent: Thakur.
Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

<u>Agenda Item 15.: Presentation on Initiatives to Increase Access to Oral Health Providers – *California Dental Association (CDA)*</u>
Ms. Zokaie, Senior Health Policy Analyst, CDA, provided an overview on initiatives to increase access to oral health providers.

Board Member David inquired that of the total percentage of Medi-Cal dental visits in California, what percentage are provided by Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and community clinics. Ms. Zokaie responded that she does not have that number but can follow up with the Board. She added that what they have been doing is working with the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) and noted that HCAI is working on a dental payer portal. Over the next year they will be developing a series of metrics that are looking at private versus commercial or public payers with the medical program utilization and cost to care. Ms. Zokaie stated that with the portal individuals can also see who is going to the emergency department for dental services and whether it is more medical or commercial patients or uninsured. She conveyed that when we look at those numbers, we can also see by county what is going on there as we do see a significant number of individuals going to the emergency department for dental issues. Ms. Zokaie affirmed that even if we do not have that actual number, it is something HCAI is investigating.

President Larin inquired why Assembly Bill (AB) 350 (Bonta, 2025) did not move forward. Ms. Zokaie responded that it has stalled on the Senate Floor, perhaps related to cost of implementation.

President Larin inquired whether in the past the Board allowed foreign dentists to become hygienists. Ms. Zokaie responded that about eleven states have bills that do all licenses for dental professions.

President Larin noted efforts by the American Dental Association (ADA) at the federal level related to oral health and asked whether those efforts have any effect here in California. Ms. Zokaie responded that ADA, CDA, and dental societies locally all work together, mostly focused on state-level advocacy. She stated that they have seen two big changes federally to the oral health policy infrastructure. Ms. Zokaie noted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) elimination of the federal Office of Oral Health in April 2025. Ms. Zokaie noted that has significantly cut oral health funding to different states but not California. California was not one of the funded states from the division of oral health at the CDC. It had its own funding mechanism primarily through California Prop 56.

President Larin asked whether California has oral health leadership at the federal level that is missing right now. Ms. Zokaie responded that at the moment, California does not currently have an oral health leader at the CDC.

President Larin asked for clarification on whether the CDC is monitoring vaccination rates performed by dentists. Ms. Zokaie responded that CDA Foundation was and that they had a grant with the Office of Oral Health as well to monitor and look at vaccine administration that ended in 2022. She noted that there were 34,000 vaccinations given by dentists in 34 registered.

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

Dr. Vu-Tien, representing herself, commented that in terms of the safety net, the California Health Care Foundation in 2022 was only able to gather medical information. Therefore, 44% of medical care was being provided at FQHCs. She noted that if you take a look at dentistry quoted by the Healthforce Center at UC San Francisco (UCSF), 50% of children will utilize medical dental services annually, and for adults it drops to about 24%. Dr. Vu-Tien expressed

Mr. Lum, DHBC Executive Officer, expressed that both the Board and the DHBC's mission is consumer protection. He noted that in reviewing AB 1952 (Berman, 2026), it requires the DHBC to evaluate the education of internationally trained dentists where it has no knowledge and no resources in reviewing these qualifications, making it difficult for the DHBC to be able to license these individuals based on consumer protection. Mr. Docherty interrupted Mr. Lum, thanked him for his comments, and stated that AB 1952 will be discussed by the Board under Agenda Item 22.

Agenda Item 16: Recess Open Session Until May 14, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.
President Larin recessed Open Session at 2:53 p.m.

Agenda Item 17: Convene Closed Session
At 3:07 p.m., the Board convened Closed Session.

Agenda Item 18: 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 19: Adjourn Closed Session
President Larin adjourned Closed Session at 4:06 p.m.

8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 14, 2026

Agenda Item 20: Reconvene Open Session – Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum
President Larin called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Secretary Dierking called the roll; 12 Board Members were present, and a quorum was established. Board Member Yogita Thakur, DDS, MS, was absent.

Agenda Item 21: Board President's Report on Closed Session Items
President Larin provided a verbal report regarding Closed Session items. She reported that the Board voted to reject two stipulated settlements of accusations, voted to adopt a stipulated settlement for issuance of a probationary license as revised during the meeting, voted to adopt a proposed decision on a petition for reduction of penalty, and voted to reject a proposed decision on a petition for early termination of probation and decide the case on the record, including the transcript or upon an agreed statement of the parties, and upon such written argument as the parties may wish to submit.

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

Agenda Item 22: Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on Legislation Impacting the Board, DCA, and/or the Dental Profession

Agenda Item 22.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. Board Member David provided an update from the Legislative and Regulatory Committee.

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

Agenda Item 22.b.: Legislation of Interest

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

i. 2026 Legislative Consent Calendar for Board Consideration – Staff Recommendation SUPPORT

(M/S/C) (David/Dierking) to adopt the 2026 Legislative Consent Calendar with SUPPORT positions on each bill listed under Items A through H.

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, Vaderhobli, Yu.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Absent: Thakur.
Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

ii. 2026 Legislative Consent Calendar for Board Consideration – Staff Recommendation WATCH

Mr. Nelson continued the report.

Board Member James Yu commented on AB 2668. He stated it is good to increase the requirement to become an acupuncturist. He stated that right now, physical therapists are fighting for approval to apply needling techniques to patients with only 30 hours of training, instead of 3,300 hours.

(M/S/C) (Grewal/Cheng) to adopt the 2026 Legislative Consent Calendar with WATCH positions on each bill listed under Items A through U.

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, Vaderhobli, Yu.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Absent: Thakur.
Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

<u>iii. 2025-2026 Two-Year Legislation for Information and Board Consideration</u>
Mr. Nelson continued the report.

Board Member Joni Forge inquired why the Board was watching a bill if it was dead. Mr. Nelson responded that bills indicated with a WATCH (DEAD) indication means from this point forward, the Board will no longer watch the bill. The status of the bill is being memorialized in the meeting materials.

Board Member David inquired why the Board's opposition to AB 1307 was withdrawn. Mr. Nelson responded that the Board took the opposition position at a previous Board meeting, but the Board went neutral because there were changes to the bill that remedied what the Board wanted.

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

<u>iv. 2026 Priority Legislation for Discussion and Board Consideration</u>
<u>AB 1760</u>
Mr. Nelson continued the report.

Mr. Docherty commented on AB 1760. He noted the Board's proposed amendments to BPC section 1628 would eliminate a duplicative malpractice coverage requirement for dental candidates who provide the in-person practical component of the exam. Going forward, the malpractice coverage would be provided by the administrator of the exam. He believes due to the reference to malpractice coverage, AB 1760 was double referred to the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development and Judiciary Committees.

<u>AB 1952</u>
Mr. Nelson continued the report.

(M/S/C) (Larin/Dierking) to support AB 1952.

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

Mr. Lum, DHBC Executive Officer, conveyed that the DHBC is opposed to AB 1952 unless it is amended. He reported that they believe there is potentially a huge consumer protection risk to license internationally trained dentists (ITDs) as dental hygienists. Mr. Lum added that both dental and dental hygiene boards use CODA as the standard for dental education and training for ITDs seeking licensure in California. According to Mr. Lum, AB 1952 forces the DHBC to accept an evaluation completed by an unfamiliar third-party agency using criteria unknown to the DHBC to deem an applicant's foreign dental education and training to be equivalent to a United States dental hygiene degree. Mr. Lum expressed that this is problematic and not part of the currently accepted standard to vet applicants for licensure. He also added that there is no required dental hygiene clinical work experience contained in the bill to obtain a California dental hygiene license. From the ITDs he has spoken to, they receive little to no education or training in dental hygiene or periodontal care unless they specialize. According to Mr. Lum, without a clinical component requirement, it will put many patients at risk, thus compromising consumer protection. He stated that the dental hygiene clinical exam administered by ADEX is performed on mannequins, which is incredibly different than working on live patients. Additionally, according to Mr. Lum, the bill includes most of the requirements to obtain the California dental hygiene license except for one vital component, which is to complete a CODA accredited dental hygiene program. Mr. Lum also stated that this is where the education, training, and clinical experience competencies are completed and adhering to specific accepted California standards that the ITDs will not have. He noted that the ITDs once licensed will take dental hygiene jobs away from existing licensed dental hygienists and especially new graduates who have worked diligently and tirelessly to become dental hygienists. According to Mr. Lum, ITDs have a goal to be licensed dentists, and are only using dental hygiene as a placeholder until they can practice in California as a licensed dentist.

Mary McCune, on behalf of CDA, noted that asking ITDs to complete the equivalency of a dental hygiene program that is CODA accredited is not a big step and is something that they have already been doing. Ms. McCune stated that there are significant clinical components for this pathway and that there are about 50 hours of coursework that is required to go through this pathway. She added that this is something that has been coming up for their members for many years, probably over the past decade and noted that for a lot of ITDs who come to the United States, dentistry is not the only career path that they are seeking. According to Ms. McCune, having something that these ITDs can still apply their clinical expertise and contribute to patient care, hygiene is something that clearly fits within their skill set. Ms. McCune added that even if this is a placeholder for eventually getting into an International Dental Program (IDP) or some other dental licensure pathway, that shouldn't detract from increasing access to care in California.

Dr. Vu-Tien, on behalf of CSPD, expressed that pediatric dental offices also utilize dental hygienists for injections as well as subgingival scaling. According to Dr. Vu-Tien, with the staffing shortage as well as the dire need for greater access to care for pediatric dental patients, dental hygienists play a vital role in offices.

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, Vaderhobli.
Nays: Yu.
Abstentions: None.
Absent: Thakur.
Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

AB 2625
Mr. Nelson continued the report.

(M/S/C) (Felsenfeld/Grewal) to watch AB 2625.

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, Vaderhobli, Yu.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Absent: Thakur.
Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

At 9:49 a.m., the Board recessed for a break.

At 10:05 a.m., the Board reconvened.

SB 936
Mr. Nelson continued the report.

(M/S/C) (David/Grewal) to support SB 936.

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, Vaderhobli, Yu.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Absent: Thakur.
Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

<u>SB 1311</u>
Mr. Nelson continued the report.

Tara Welch, Board Counsel, read a written statement into the record advising the Board that SB 1311 would remove Board oversight over the online infection control course, reduce the number of hours of the existing online infection control course from 8 hours to six, and does not include the Board's AB 1760 amendments for online infection control course didactic and laboratory instruction, course provider qualifications, or written examination and certificate of completion requirements. As such, Ms. Welch opined that it is unclear whether dental assistants using the online infection control course in SB 1311 would be properly instructed in infection control practices, which raised consumer protection concerns. She noted SB 1311 also may confuse dental assistants who later seek to perform coronal polishing or apply for RDA and registered dental assistant in extended functions (RDAEF) licensure in that all other infection control course requirements for additional duties or licensure require an 8 hour infection control course, not a six hour infection control course or DANB certification. Ms. Welch further noted that these individuals would have to take a new Board-approved 8-hour infection control course to perform coronal polishing or obtain RDA or RDAEF licensure. Ms. Welch further opined that this likely would create an additional burden on performing additional duties and obtaining licensure and frustrate the movement toward access to care. Since SB 1311 also would impact three other licensing practice acts, Ms. Welch advised that the Board may wish to take a support if amended position on SB 1311 to include the Board's proposed amendments to BPC section 1755 in AB 1760 to resolve these issues.
Mr. Docherty added the bill is an example that two things can be true. He stated SB 1311 creates an optional online infection control program for unlicensed dental assistants, which is a class of providers that the Board does not regulate. The Board's authority rests with the supervising physician. He noted AB 873 also attempted to create

an online infection control program. The Board requested voluminous amendments to that bill. CDA, the sponsor of AB 873, was willing to entertain those amendments and took additional Board-requested amendments that are not contained in the Board-sponsored bill (AB 1760). The Board's concerns with AB 873 regarded the Board being required to oversee an online infection control program. If the Board was required to do so, there were a host of downstream things the Board needed to make sure were in place, similar to the requirements for the 8-hour infection control courses.

Mr. Docherty further noted SB 1311 is authored by Senator Wahab, the Chair of the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee, and is a byproduct and manifestation of all the concerns the Board raised last year related to a Board-approved online infection control course and subsequent stakeholder discussions. Mr. Docherty also stated that that this bill is Senator Wahab's solution to establish an online infection control course for unlicensed dental assistants, while also , keeping the Board's 8-hour infection control course whole. In one instance, Board staff felt the Board could support SB 1311.
Mr. Docherty further stated the Board will continue to pursue the changes in AB 1760 that strengthen the Board's provisions to BPC section 1755 with regard to the Board's 8-hour course. Lastly, he noted that if someone does take the online course as an unlicensed dental assistant and later wants to become an RDA or RDAEF, they will still be required to take the Board's 8-hour infection control program.

(M/S/C) (David/Medina) to support SB 1311.

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

Melodi Randolph, on behalf of the Dental Assisting Alliance, stated that they are opposed to SB 1311 unless it is significantly amended and that their concerns include removal of the Board from the regulatory process, replacement of course requirements with written exam only, elimination of hands-on training, and inconsistency between pathway options. She expresses that this bill would create multiple pathways to infection control certification that are not aligned or consistent and that ironically the practical portion of the RDA examination was eliminated in 2018 largely because of concerns regarding inconsistencies between testing locations and procedures. Yet, according to Ms. Randolph, the Board is considering certification pathways that vary significantly in both educational rigor and competency validation. Ms. Randolph expressed that one proposed pathway would eliminate all education and hands-on training requirements for infection control certification, allowing dental assistants to become certified based solely on passing a written exam. However, according to Ms. Randolph, answers to this national examination can be easily found on the internet and only successfully passing a written test does not demonstrate that an individual can competently and safely perform critical infection control procedures in a clinical setting. Also, according to Ms. Randolph, AB 1760 already includes substantial revisions to infection control certification that directly address concerns related to the current coursework structure and as a result, according to Ms. Randolph, the provisions proposed in SB 1311 are unnecessary. She noted that they respectfully urge the Board to change its position from support to oppose unless amended.

Ms. Becker, representing the Alliance, concurred with Ms. Randolph's comments.

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

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Felsenfeld, Grewal, Larin, Medina, Olague, Vaderhobli.
Nays: Dierking, Forge, Yu.
Abstentions: None.
Absent: Thakur.
Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

SB 1445
Mr. Nelson continued the report.

(M/S/C) (David/Medina) to support SB 1445.

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, Vaderhobli, Yu.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Absent: Thakur.
Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 23: Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Dates
Mr. Docherty reiterated that the Board places a high priority and importance on increasing access to care to all types of oral health professionals. He stated that in November of last year the Board heard a presentation by HCAI on their overall workforce development programs and healthcare cost data collection efforts. The Board invited HCAI back to present again at the February 2026 Board meeting, specifically on the California loan repayment program and scholarship programs for oral health professionals.

Mr. Docherty added that on May 13, 2026, the Board heard a presentation by the CDA on their efforts to increase access to care for oral health consumers. At its upcoming meeting in August, the Board will hear a presentation from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) *Smile, California*. The goal and intent of this specific Medi-Cal program is to meet patients where they are by bringing mobile oral health services into underserved communities. The Board can anticipate learning how their program was constituted, its strategic objectives, the nature of the work, and how the Board and *Smile, California* can work together in partnership going forward. Mr. Docherty indicated that future meeting dates are listed on the Board's website and that the next meeting will be on August 12 and 13 in the hearing room at Board headquarters in Sacramento, California. Additionally, the Board's last meeting of the year will take place on November 5 and 6 in Sacramento, California. Specific location has yet to be determined.

President Larin requested a future agenda item related to adding a retired status licensure category.

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

<u>Agenda Item 24: Adjournment</u>
President Larin adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.