

Committee on Dental Auxiliaries

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**Committee on Dental Auxiliaries
Public Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2008
Culver City, California**

A public meeting of The Committee on Dental Auxiliaries (COMDA) was held March 5, 2008 at the Radisson Los Angeles Westside in Culver City. Due notice had been sent to all known interested parties.

1. Call to order/Member roll call

Chairperson Judith Forsythe called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone. In the absence of Committee Secretary William Baker, Vice Chairperson Rochelle Bache called the roll and a quorum was established with the following members present:

- Judith Forsythe, RDA
- Rochelle Bache, RDAEF
- Debra Diaz, RDA
- Marlene Jacobus, RDH
- Rita Weisburg, DDS

2. Approval of January 23, 2008 meeting minutes

M/S/C (Diaz/Bache) to approve the January 23, 2008 open meeting minutes as presented with no corrections. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Forsythe reported her attendance at the February Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) examination at USC. She welcomed Lori Hubble to her new position as Executive Officer of COMDA.

4. Report of the Executive Officer

Mrs. Hubble reported being sworn in as Executive Officer on February 6, 2008. She also reported attending the February RDA examination at USC where she met with Chairperson Forsythe. She reported attending a Psychological Services Incorporated (PSI) site demonstration in Santa Clara on February 13, 2008. That day she was able to briefly meet with Sonia Merold Chief of Examination Resources to discuss developing the combined Law & Ethics computerized examination for the Registered Dental Hygienists (RDH) and Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice (RDHAP). She reported attending a meeting on February 23, 2008 with select Dental Board staff as well as a representative from the Attorney Generals office regarding the enforcement budget constraints. She reported challenges finding locations to hold the upcoming

RDA and RDH exams and negotiations with Universities are going well. She reported that she is in the process of filling position vacancies at COMDA with a new appointment beginning April 1, 2008. She also reported that the Dental Board graciously donated computer monitors and 2 color printers to the COMDA staff.

5. Budget Report

Mrs. Hubble reported no budget issues at this time.

6. RDA Program

- 6a. Licensing statistics
- 6b. Examination statistics
- 6c. Written examination statistics

Chairperson Forsythe called attention to items 6a-6c. These were informational items only.

6d. The committee discussed the high number of pending applications for approval of programs and courses. Lorie Kiley, COMDA staff, reported that she would send out a letter asking the schools of their intention to move forward with their pending RDA program or course approval applications.

6e. M/S/C (Bache/Weisberg) to recommend full approval to the Board for the following RDA Programs:

- San Joaquin Valley College, Sacramento
- Maric College, Bakersfield
- Maric College, Fresno

The motion carried unanimously.

Maric College, Modesto was withdrawn at this time.

6f. Barbara Blade, with the Dental Assisting Alliance, gave historical background on the concept of Teaching Methodology and to urge COMDA to reconsider the 60-hour Teaching Methodology course for all Board approved courses. The committee also heard comment from the public to consider State of California teaching credentials exempt from this requirement.

M/S/C (Bache/Weisberg) to further review and discuss this issue at the next COMDA meeting.
The motion carried unanimously.

The committee recessed at 1:54 p.m. and reconvened at 2:03 p.m.

7. RDH Program

- 7a. Licensing statistics
- b. Examination statistics

Chairperson Forsythe called attention to items 7a & 7b. These were informational items only.

7c. The committee discussed the progress of 1079.2 Clinical Practice Requirements for licensure of RDHAP.

7d. Update on request for regulations governing approval of RDH courses relating to the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen, administration of local anesthetic agents, and periodontal soft tissue curettage.

7e. Update on development of RDH combined Law and Ethics examination.

Chairperson Forsythe called attention to items 7d & 7e. These were informational items only and there were no comments.

8. Discussion and possible action of COMDA's sunset date

Legal counsel Lavonne Powell explained the need for legislation to extend COMDA's sunset date. The committee solicited from the associations an alternate bill that they can use to extend COMDA's sunset date should there be a political issue with the current bill. JoAnn Galliano, CDHA, stated that alternative bills are available to COMDA if the need should arise.

9. Proposed clean-up legislation

The committee had discussions with members of the public on the effects of removing the fee exemptions for school and course approvals.

10. Legislation update and possible action

Chairperson Forsythe called attention to AB1545 and AB2637. Mrs. Hubble discussed the bills further. Gayle Mathe, CDA, called attention to AB2210, which allows dental professionals to provide care in declared emergency situations.

11. Proposal from Alliance relating to special categories for licensure

Barbara Blade, Dental Assisting Alliance, requested that the committee remove this item from the agenda, as they are now working with CDA on a new concept.
M/S/C (Bache/Weisberg) to table this item. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Future Agenda Items

- Teaching Methodology regulations

13. Public Comment

14. Adjournment

The meeting of the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries adjourned at 2:27 p.m.