

**Committee on Dental Auxiliaries**

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**Committee on Dental Auxiliaries  
Public Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2008  
South San Francisco, California**

A public meeting of The Committee on Dental Auxiliaries (COMDA) was held May 14, 2008 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in South San Francisco. 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 1:15 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Committee Secretary William Baker called the roll and a quorum was established.

**Members Present:**

Judith Forsythe, RDA  
William Baker, Public Member  
Rochelle Bache, RDAEF  
Debra Diaz, RDA  
Marlene Jacobus, RDH

**Members Absent:**

Rita Weisberg, DDS

**Staff Present:**

Lori Hubble, Executive Officer  
Lorie Kiley, Program Analyst  
Traci Napper, Staff Analyst  
Tina Vallery, Administrative Analyst  
Don Chang, DCA Legal Counsel

**2. Approval of March 5, 2008 meeting minutes**

M/S/C (Bache/Diaz) to approve the March 5, 2008 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Forsythe reported her attendance at the May 2008 California Dental Association (CDA) convention held in Anaheim, CA. She reported on plans to meet with Executive Officer of COMDA, Lori Hubble on June 10, 2008 to tour COMDA's new facilities and review the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) written examination. She expressed thanks to Lori Hubble for planning COMDA's move and her diligence in taking care of the issues that arose, namely the phone problems. She also expressed her apologies to the public for any inconveniences the move may have caused.

**4. Report of the Executive Officer**

Ms. Hubble reported attending the RDH examiner orientation on March 8, 2008 at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and administering the Extended Functions (EF) examination on May 3, 2008 at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She also reported her attendance at the May 2008 CDA convention in Anaheim and some improvements that will be made for the 2009 convention. Ms. Hubble reiterated the problems that arose due to COMDA's relocation and that staff worked hard to solve the problems quickly. Ms. Bache made mention of COMDA's improvement in the telephone response time. Ms. Hubble reported on the status of filling vacant staff positions. She reported that COMDA is still working on firming up a location for the October 2008 southern Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) examination.

## **5. Budget Report**

Ms. Hubble reported meeting with Cynthia Rust, DCA Budget Analyst, to review COMDA's current financial condition concluding that they are in good shape. Ms. Hubble reported that funds are available for needed printers, chairs, and other office equipment and that these purchases will be made for staff.

## **6. RDA Program**

### **6a. Practical examination statistics**

### **6b. Written examination statistics**

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

### **6c. Status report on applications for approval of programs and courses**

Ms. Kiley noted the increased number of schools needing approval today was in preparation for a six-month delay until COMDA's next meeting, which is scheduled in November. She commented that the increased number of pending applications was due to receiving many new applications in the last couple of months. Ms. Kiley also mentioned that some of the pending applications are the result of application deficiencies. She reported that she sent out deficiency letters and to date has not yet received any responses.

### **6d. Approve/Deny RDA Programs – Full Approval**

M/S/C (Bache/Baker) to recommend full approval to the Board for the following RDA Program(s):

- Western Career College, Sacramento

The motion carried unanimously.

### **6e. Approve/Deny pit and fissure sealant courses**

M/S/C (Bache/Baker) to recommend approval to the Board for the following pit and fissure sealant course(s):

- College of San Mateo
- Shasta Trinity ROP
- Concord Career College, San Bernardino
- Concord Career College, North Hollywood
- Concord Career College, Garden Grove
- California Dental Certifications
- San Joaquin Valley College, Rancho Cordova
- San Joaquin Valley College, Fresno
- San Joaquin Valley College, Visalia
- San Joaquin Valley College, Bakersfield

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kiley reported an address correction on the Evaluation Results form in the meeting binder for College of San Mateo. The incorrect address was 1110 Alondra Blvd, Norwalk, CA 90650. The correct address is 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94402.

### **6f. Approve/Deny radiation safety course applications**

M/S/C (Bache/Diaz) to recommend approval to the Board for the following radiation safety course(s):

- Orange County Dental Careers
- High-Tech Institute
- Centinella Valley Adult School

The motion carried unanimously.

## **6g. Approve/Deny ultrasonic course**

M/S/C (Bache/Jacobus) to recommend approval to the Board for the following ultrasonic course(s):

- California Dental Certifications
- The motion carried unanimously.

## **7. RDH Program**

### **7a. Examination statistics**

Chairperson Forsythe called attention to item 7a. This was an informational item only.

### **7b. Update on development of RDH combined Law and Ethics examination.**

Ms. Hubble made mention of hiring a retired annuitant, Kathy Mulvaney, to assist in the revision and scrambling of the law and ethics examinations. She reported having a future meeting with Office of Examination Resources (OER) to facilitate combining the law and ethics examination and to begin discussions on getting approval for computer based testing of the law and ethics examination through Psychological Services Incorporated (PSI).

## **8. Legislation update and possible action**

### **8a. AB 2637 (Eng) Dental Auxiliaries- relating to the expansion of Dental Assisting (DA), RDA and EF duties.**

Mr. Baker raised a concern regarding the language in the bill that pertains to unlicensed dental assistants who are in a dentist's employment 120 days or more that must complete courses in basic life support, a course of at least 8 hours in infection control, and a course in the California Dental Practice Act. He expressed concern that "dentist's employment " be clarified as some assistants may work in a practice that employs multiple dentists.

Gayle Mathe, CDA, noted Mr. Baker's concern.

- M/S/C (Bache/Jacobus) It is the recommendation of the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries to support AB 2637 with technical amendments that support the discussions today.
- The motion carried unanimously.

### **8b. AB 2210 (Price) Dentistry Emergency Services- relating to providing emergency medical care consistent with his/her dental education and emergency training.**

- M/S/C (Diaz/Bache) It is the recommendation of the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries to support AB 2210.
- The motion carried unanimously.

## **8c. Any other bills of interest**

### **SB 853 (Perata)– relating to the resurrection of the Dental Board of California (DBC) and the abolishment of COMDA, also creating a separate Dental Hygiene committee consisting of 9 members.**

It was discussed that if SB 853 were to pass it would abolish COMDA. It was also mentioned that this bill lacks representation for the Registered Dental Assistants and it would be of no benefit to the consumer.

- M/S/C (Bache/Baker) It is the recommendation of the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries to oppose SB 853.
- The motion carried unanimously.

## **9. Regulations**

### **9a. Update on 1079.2 – clinical practice requirements for licensure of a Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice.**

The revised regulation was modified to include that RDH services in all settings, including public health settings, educational programs may apply the hours they practice towards the 2,000 hours of clinical practice requirement for licensure as an RDHAP.

### **9b. Review and Adoption of Proposed language to the California Code of Regulations Sections 1070.6 and 1070.7 relating to Teaching Methodology.**

Ms. Blade explained that the language is currently in regulation but is not enforced. The language exists in AB 2637 with a reduction in hours.

### **9c. Review and Adoption of Proposed language for RDH courses relating to the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen and periodontal soft tissue curettage.**

M/S/C (Bache/Baker) It was voted to recommend to the Dental Board the adoption of the proposed language for RDH courses relating to administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen and periodontal soft tissue curettage subject to technical changes made by the Executive officer and Department of Consumer Affairs attorney.

The motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Galliano requested that the technical changes be submitted to CDHA for review.

## **10. Future agenda items and issues of interest**

Mr. Baker recommended that the chairperson of COMDA meet with the Dental Board to continue discussions regarding "Blue Sky". Ms. Forsythe stated that there may not be enough time to schedule a meeting but she would look into it.

## **11. Public Comment**

A dentist asked if the Committee checks the status of dental licenses for staff when reviewing and approving dental hygiene programs. He stated that there is a dentist at one of the community colleges that currently employs a dentist who does not hold a California dental license. Ms. Hubble responded by stating that the Committee does not inspect and review dental hygiene programs. She explained that COMDA accepts the Commission of Dental Accreditation approval of dental hygiene programs. She suggested that he direct his concerns to the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting of the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries adjourned at 2:33 p.m.