



**Examination Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 22, 2009  
San Francisco, CA**

**Members Present:**

Stephen Casagrande, DDS, Chair  
John Bettinger, DDS  
Luis Dominicis, DDS  
Huong Le, DDS  
Bruce Witcher, DDS

**Members Absent:**

None

**Staff Present:**

Cathleen Poncabare, Executive Officer  
Richard DeCuir, Assistant Executive Officer  
Dawn Dill, Licensing & Exam Unit Manager  
Sarah Wallace, Administrative Analyst  
Donna Kantner, Legislative & Regulatory Analyst  
Jocelyn Campos, Enforcement Coordinator  
Jessica Olney, Examination & Licensing Analyst  
LaVonne Powell, DCA Senior Staff Counsel  
Kristy Schieldge, DCA Senior Staff Counsel  
Gregory Salute, Deputy Attorney General

Dr. Suzanne McCormick, President, appointed Dr. John Bettinger to the Examination Committee.

Dr. Stephen Casagrande, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and established a quorum.

**EX 1: Examination Statistics**

Dr. Casagrande reported that the Dental Board held two dental licensure examinations in 2009. There were a total of 41 applicants who took the examinations. Dr. Witcher asked how many applicants took the restorative technique examination and Ms. Dill, Licensing and Exam Unit Manager, reported that all 41 restorative technique applicants took and passed that examination.

Dr. Casagrande reported that the Law and Ethics Examination was running well. Ms. Dill reported that the Board administers the exam monthly in Northern California and in Southern California.

**EX 2: Registered Dental Assistant Practical and Written Examination Statistics**

Dr. Casagrande reported that the RDA Practical Examination was held in February and April 2009. The average passing rate was 81%. He expressed concern that only half of the RDA applicants passed the written portion of the examination. Richard DeCuir, Assistant Executive Officer, reported that the Board awarded a contract to Applied Measures to research the examination process and to create a new RDA written examination. While developing the new examination, Applied Measures will take into account the new RDA duties and previous exam pass/fail rates. Mr. DeCuir anticipates the process will be complete by the end of the year.

Dr. Bettinger asked if data was collected regarding the primary language spoken by a candidate taking the RDA Written Examination. Donna Kantner reported that currently this information is not captured. Dr. Le questioned how long an applicant had to wait before re-taking the exam. Ms. Kantner responded that there is no waiting period for re-application and no limit on the number of times a candidate can take the exam. Once an applicant reapplies to take the exam, it could take a week or two before (s)he is registered in the testing system.

Joan Greenfield, Dental Assisting Alliance, commented that in the past, information was collected by COMDA regarding applicants who attended courses versus applicants that were trained on-the-job. Information is not available regarding whether or not an applicant who is trained on-the-job is taking seminars to help pass the examination. Ms. Greenfield observed that applicants trained on-the-job tend not to attend seminars and/or use study review manuals prior to taking the examination. Ms. Greenfield offered her assistance in developing the new RDA examination.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.