



**Dental Assisting Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 5, 2010**  
**South San Francisco, CA**

**Members Present:**

Judith Forsythe, RDA, Chair  
Bruce Witcher, DDS, Vice Chair  
Fran Burton, Public Member  
Luis Dominicis, DDS  
Thomas Olinger, DDS

**Members Absent:**

Huong Le, DDS

**Staff Present:**

Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer  
Teri Lane, Acting Enforcement Chief  
Nancy Butler, Supervising Investigator 1, Northern California  
Dawn Dill, Dental Assisting Unit Manager  
Donna Kantner, Licensing & Examination Unit Manager  
Lori Reis, Complaint & Compliance Manager  
Jocelyn Campos, Enforcement Coordinator  
Karen Fischer, Administrative Analyst  
Sarah Wallace, Legislative/Regulatory Analyst  
Kristy Schieldge, DCA Senior Staff Counsel  
Greg Salute, Deputy Attorney General

Ms. Judith Forsythe, Chair, called the committee meeting to order at 3:39 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

**DA 1 – Approval of the February 25, 2010 Dental Assisting Committee Meeting Minutes**

M/S/C (Dominicis/Witcher) to accept the February 25, 2010 Dental Assisting Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**DA 2 – Consideration of and Possible Action Regarding the Board Accepting the Commission on Dental Accreditations (CODA) Findings for Approval of Registered Dental Assisting Programs Pursuant to Business & Professions Code, Section 1757(a)(1)(B)(4)**

Dawn Dill, Manager of the Dental Assisting Unit gave a short description of the issue, which was brought up by the California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT) on behalf of their membership. Dental Board Staff is asking for delegation of authority from the Board to accept CODA for dental assisting programs in California.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) is the only national accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. CODA provides the standards for dental, dental hygiene, and dental assisting education programs. Currently CODA accredited dental assisting programs in California are required to also seek course approval from the Board for their graduates to qualify for examination and licensure with education. CODA accreditation is accepted for applicants who were educated outside the State of California for the Registered Dental Assistant Examination.

Business and Professions Code, Section 1757(a)(4) states that the Board may, in lieu of conducting its own investigation, accept the findings of any commission or accreditation agency approved by the Board and adopt those findings as its own.

LaDonna Drury-Klein, representing CADAT stated that COMDA had always accepted the findings of CODA. Since the Board took over the Dental Assisting program July 1, 2009, CADAT is asking the Board to take the same position as COMDA had, and to put this decision on the record.

Kristy Schieldge, Legal Counsel expressed her concern about confidentiality requirements often imposed by private accrediting agencies regarding site visits and evaluations. She indicated that as a government (public) entity, the Dental Board would not be able to enter into such an agreement. Everything the Board does, must be done in public. Information the Board collects must be available to the public. She suggested staff seek clarification as to how much information the state would be able to disclose.

Fran Burton, Board member expressed concern that enough information had not been given to Board members to make a decision today. She requested further clarification of what CODA requires and what California requires and would like to see a side-by-side comparison. Judy Forsythe, RDA, Board member agreed.

Dr. Lori Gagliardi, CADAT, restated that the Board does have the authority to accept findings of outside agencies in lieu of it's own investigation. She reported that CODA requires a site visit every seven years; and requires submission of program documentation annually. These requirements exceed the Dental Board's requirements. She went on to compare CODA and California standards.

M/S/C (Burton/Olinger) to table this issue until the Board has had an opportunity to review further information. The motion passed unanimously.

Kristy Schieldge clarified that staff should prepare a side-by-side comparison of the CODA and California standards; research confidentiality and sharing requirements ( the initial review of the application should have site approval by DBC staff); research past practice with regard to program approvals under COMDA; and answer the question about process - if CODA approval accepted, would an application still be submitted? Ms. Schieldge reiterated that clarification of the partnership between CODA and the Board is paramount, because the issue has come up in the past. Make sure there is no barrier for the State to disclose information.

Dr. Lori Gagliardi asked whether the Board would be looking at the new CODA approved programs or the CODA programs already approved. Ms. Schieldge indicated that both new and formerly approved CODA programs could be reviewed because of the new requirements. There was no additional public comment.

### **DA 3 – Approval of Registered Dental Assisting Programs and Courses**

M/S/C/ (Dominicis/Whitcher) to ratify the approval of the following Orthodontic Assistant Course:

- (1) Downey Adult School - Downey

The motion passed unanimously.

M/S/C (Dominicis/Whitcher) to ratify the approval of the following Infection Control Courses:

- (1) Dentassist - Sacramento
- (2) Shasta Trinity ROP - Redding

- (3) Eden Area ROP - Hayward
- (4) Pasadena City College - Pasadena

The motion passed unanimously.

M/S/C (Olinger/Whitcher) to ratify the approval of the following Pit and Fissure Sealant Courses:

- (1) Galen College - Fresno

The motion passed unanimously.

M/S/C (Whitcher/Burton) to ratify the approval of the following Radiation Safety Course:

- (1) American Career College - Ontario

The motion passed unanimously.

M/S/C (Whitcher/Dominicis) to ratify the approval of the following Dental Sedation Assistant Courses:

- (1) Dr. John Scaramella – Newhall
- (2) Dr. John Lytle – La Canada
- (3) Dr. Larry Moore – Chino Hills
- (4) Dr. Ned Nix – San Jose
- (5) Dr. Richard Robert – South San Francisco

The motion passed unanimously.

Tamara McNeely, CADAT, asked that when the Board approves dental assisting programs and courses (as referenced above) that the date the application was submitted to the Board for approval be included in the information the Board receives. She is frustrated that it takes so long to get courses approved. Kristy Schieldge, Legal Counsel, said that this is not the appropriate time to discuss this issue because it has not been agendaized and asked that Ms. McNeely bring it up under the public comment period of the full Board.

#### **DA 4 – Dental Assisting Forum Update**

The Dental Assisting Forum (DAF) met in Sacramento on April 7, 2010. There was discussion about the DAF's role; and implementation of SB 853; public outreach for licensed and unlicensed dental assistants. A subcommittee was formed (Barbara Blade and Brenda Gyllenswan) to review regulations relating to four certification programs: pit & fissure, coronal polish, ultrasonic scaling, and radiation safety. The Committee will be looking into making the written examination outline more user friendly. The remaining DAF meetings will be held July 6, 2010 in Sacramento and November 3, 2010 in Los Angeles.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.