



**Examination Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 7, 2011**
Sportsmen's Lodge, 12825 Ventura Blvd.
Studio City, CA 91604

Members Present:

Stephen Casagrande, DDS, Chair
Huong Le, DDS, Vice Chair
Luis Dominicis, DDS
Rebecca Downing, Public Member
Judith Forsythe, RDA
Steven Morrow, DDS
Thomas Olinger, DDS

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer
Kim Trefry, Enforcement Chief
Dawn Dill, Dental Assisting Program Manager
Teri Lane, Supervising Investigator I
Jocelyn Campos, Enforcement Coordinator
Adrienne Mueller, Enforcement Analyst
Sarah Wallace, Legislative and Regulatory Analyst
Karen Fischer, Associate Analyst
Linda Byers Executive Assistant
Kristy Shellans, DCA Senior Staff Counsel
Greg Salute, Deputy Attorney General

Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum:

Dr. Stephen Casagrande, Chair called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and established a quorum.

EX 1 – Approval of the August 11, 2011 Examination Committee Meeting Minutes

M/S/C (Morrow/Forsythe) to approve the August 11, 2011 Examination Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously. There was 1 abstention.

EX 2 – Dental Assisting Program Examination Statistics

Dr. Olinger commented that the first time pass rate of 77% for the Registered Dental Assistant Examination is a great improvement. Dr. Morrow stated that the repeat candidate statistic of only 55% is dismal and he suggested setting a limit as to how many times a candidate can take and fail an exam without remediation. Dr. Casagrande stated that the cost of the exam and travel to take the exam is probably deterrent enough. Dr. Dominicis stated that many of the English as a Second Language (ESL) candidates must repeat because of the language barrier. He does not want to put up obstacles. Mr. DeCuir stated that within the next year or two an occupational analysis will be done to compare what is on the examination to what is actually being done in an office setting. He suggests waiting until the analysis is complete before making any changes.

Earl Johnson DDS, California Orthodontic Association stated that the California Orthodontic Assistant (OA) examination is new but he is concerned about the low pass rate and that the exam might not be fully tuned. Mr. DeCuir stated that he went out to bid on a contract to review the OA exam. The bid was awarded last week. Dr. Johnson asked if it was awarded to a different vendor and Mr. DeCuir replied yes.

EX 3 – Update on RDA Practical Examination Dates and Sites

Dawn Dill, Dental Assisting Program Manager reported that at the August 2011 Examination Committee meeting Ms. Forsythe asked staff to look at alternate testing sites in Southern San Diego County and north of Sacramento. Ms. Dill ran a geographical survey of the August 2011 examination candidates to determine appropriate test locations. The data showed that the existing examination sites in San Francisco, Santa Maria and Pomona accurately reflect the geographical testing needs of examination candidates.

Dr. Casagrande stated that we should think out of the box to secure a Sacramento site. He suggested using smaller sites with multiple test dates or possibly a facility such as Carrington College. Ms. Dill stated that our pool of examiners is not large enough to add more dates and sites. Every examiner is working every Examination on the 2012 calendar. Mr. DeCuir stated that we will look into Sacramento and San Diego sites.

Dr. Lori Gagliardi, California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT) commended staff for securing the Pomona site but feels that there is still a need for additional dates and sites in Sacramento and San Diego to accommodate all the candidates.

EX 4 – Update on Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Written Examination

Mr. DeCuir reported that at the last meeting Tracy Montez of Applied Measurement provided some statistics. She was asked to provide further clarification on those statistics which was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. DeCuir stated that in order to provide a comprehensive, current examination an occupational analysis needs to be done to insure that what is being tested reflects the duties being performed in dental practices.

EX 5 – Update on Orthodontic Assistant Written Examination

Mr. DeCuir reported that the bid for this contract was awarded the week of November 1, 2011. Work on this is expected to begin in January 2012.

EX 6 – Cost Analysis of RDA Practical and RDAEF Examinations

Mr. DeCuir reported that on the previous report we were only reporting direct costs but the information provided in the report for this meeting includes prorated and overhead expenses which gives a more realistic cost estimate. There was discussion surrounding the costs for various sites and the number of candidates tested at these sites. Staff will review the possibility and cost effectiveness of contracting with different facilities.

EX 7 – Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) Statistics and Update

Dr. Dominicus reported that WREB will examine approximately 2,450 candidates by the end of December which will conclude the 2011 exam cycle. Currently 37 states accept WREB results for their licensure. The 2011 pass rate remains the same as last year at 82.5%. There were a total of 7 examination appeals of which 5 were denied. Candidates receive their examination scores within a week now that the exam is scored electronically. The next WREB Board meeting is in January 2012. Dr. Morrow stated that at the last Loma Linda Examination he was asked to encourage California Dental Board members to become WREB examiners.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.