



**DENTAL ASSISTING COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 28, 2013**

Holiday Inn on the Bay  
1355 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA, 92101

**Members Present**

Judith Forsythe, RDA – Chair  
Denise Romero, RDA – Vice Chair  
Anne Contreras, RDA  
Pamela Davis-Washington, RDA  
Teresa Lua, RDAEF  
Bruce Whitcher, DDS

**Members Absent**

Emma Ramos, RDA

**Staff Present**

Karen Fischer, Interim Executive Officer  
Kim Trefry, Enforcement Chief  
April Alameda, Dental Assisting Unit and Investigative Analysis Unit Manager  
Lori Reis, Complaint and Compliance Unit Manager  
Jocelyn Campos, Enforcement Coordinator  
Linda Byers, Executive Assistant  
Spencer Walker, DCA Senior Staff Counsel  
Greg Salute, Deputy Attorney General

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Judith Forsythe, Chair, called the Dental Assisting Council meeting to order at 1:43 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum established.

**DAC 1 - Approval of the December 3, 2012 Dental Assisting Council Meeting Minutes**

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) (Lua/Romero) to approve the December 3, 2012 Dental Assisting Council meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**DAC 2 - Update Regarding Status of Dental Assisting Programs and Courses**

April Alameda, Dental Assisting Unit Manager, stated that since the last Board meeting in December, 11 course applications have been approved and five (5) new course applications have been received. Currently, there are 30 course applications and eight (8) program applications pending.

**DAC 3 - Dental Assisting Program Licensure and Permit Statistics**

Ms. Alameda reviewed the statistics provided. Denise Romero asked that the Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF) statistics be separated into the first generation RDAEF's, those licensed prior to January 1, 2010 and second generation

RDAEFs. Dr. Witcher commented that the delinquency rate for Registered Dental Assistants (RDA) is down.

#### **DAC 4 - Review and Discussion of the Dental Assisting Program Examination Statistics**

Ms. Alameda reviewed the examination statistics noting that the pass rate for first time RDA candidates taking the written exam increased from 68% in 2012 to 74% in 2013. The Dental Board has put a contract in place to review and possibly update the Dental Sedation Assistant written examination. A final report from the vendor is expected in April of 2014. Staff continues to work with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) to begin the necessary process to review and possibly update the RDAEF written examination.

Guy Acheson, California Academy of General Dentistry, stated that he needed clarification regarding the statistics upgrading of RDAEF 1 to RDAEF 2. Ms. Alameda explained that RDAEFs licensed prior to January 1, 2010 had a specific scope of duties that they were allowed to perform. After January 1, 2010 there were additions made to the scope of duties. Any previously licensed RDAEFs had to take additional courses and an examination in order to perform the additional duties. The numbers one (1) and two (2) were an internal way of keeping track of who could perform which duties. There are not two (2) separate licenses. Staff agreed to show them separately on the statistics beginning at the next meeting. Teresa Lua, RDAEF, asked if another survey could be done to determine the direction in which RDAEFs are going. Ms. Fischer stated that she and staff will review the survey that was already done to see if the information is available before starting a new survey. Dr. Witcher commented that Denise Johnson, former Assistant Executive Officer, reviewed the survey and brought back answers to the Board a few meetings ago. The information being asked for may be found in her report.

#### **DAC 5 - Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Scheduling a Separate Dental Assisting Council Meeting Aside from the Board Meeting**

The California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT) requested the Dental Assisting Council consider scheduling a one-day public meeting in Sacramento. The council agreed. Staff will contact the Council to determine the best date.

#### **DAC 6 - Subcommittee Report and Possible Action Regarding the California Association of Dental Assisting Teacher's (CADAT) Proposed Regulatory Amendments to Radiation Safety Course Requirements**

Anne Contreras reported that the subcommittee and staff met several times to review CADAT's proposed amendments and held a teleconference with CADAT Director, Lori Gagliardi. A few provisions that required amendments were identified and a summary of the amendments was provided. April Alameda, Dental Assisting Unit and Investigative Analysis Unit Manager, reviewed the proposed changes with the Council which were:

- All references to "program" have been replaced with "course" as this language is relevant to the radiation safety course requirements and not program requirements.
- Staff recommended deleting the requirement in proposed Section 1014 (c)(4) for a course director to transmit to the Board on a form prescribed by the Board the name, last four digits of the social security number and, where applicable, license number of each student who has successfully completed the course.

- Staff recommended revising proposed Section 1014(d)(2) to specify that all faculty shall complete a two-hour course in teaching methodology prior to providing instruction, instead of specifying the components of the two-hour teaching methodology course.
- Staff recommended revising proposed Section 1014(e)(2) to specify that operatories shall be sufficient in number to allow a ratio of at least one operatory for every six students to maintain consistency with the remaining proposed language.
- Staff recommended the Council discuss the proposed provision in Section 1014(j) relevant to the courses providing notice of compliance of the new regulatory requirements and whether registered dental assisting programs should be required to submit a notice of compliance when the revised regulations become effective. This would ensure registered dental assisting programs are teaching the new course requirements that would become effective as a result of this proposal.
- Staff recommended the Council discuss the proposed language in Section 1014.1(i) relative to extramural dental facilities to ensure the language is clear and consistent with other provisions within the proposal.

There was discussion regarding the courses providing notice of compliance of the new regulatory requirements. Ms. Romero agreed that registered dental assisting programs should be required to submit a notice of compliance. The rest of the council agreed.

There was discussion about the proposed language relative to extramural dental facilities and whether the language was clear and consistent with other provisions within the proposal. Dr. Whitcher commented that the language is consistent with other provisions. He goes on to clarify that clinical instruction is allowed at an extramural facility whereas didactic and laboratory is not.

Denise Romero asked about the second staff recommendation regarding deleting the requirement for a course director to transmit to the Board on a form prescribed by the Board the name, last four digits of the social security number and, where applicable, license number of each student who has successfully completed the course, and why delete this requirement. Ms. Alameda asked what the purpose of this information would serve and stated that some of this information cannot be provided by the schools. The name being printed on the certificate of completion is adequate.

M/S/C (Contreras/Romero) to accept the revisions to the proposed language to amend California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Sections 1014 and 1014.1 regarding radiation safety course requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

Lori Gagliardi, CADAT Director, reviewed the most recent revisions proposed by CADAT that were passed out at the time of the meeting. These included:

- CADAT recommended deletion of provisional approval status for a non-programmatic course.

The Council agreed to the deletion.

- CADAT recommended deleting lines 19 through 23 on page 3 of 17, paragraph (d) after Course Faculty and Instructional Staff. Change the word “faculty” in line 24 to “faculty and instructional staff” and continue using the terms “faculty and instructional staff” consistently throughout the regulations or use the term “all instructors” in lieu of “faculty and instructional staff” throughout the regulations.

The Council agreed with this recommendation.

- CADAT suggested striking line 7 beginning with the word “the” through line 11 ending with the word “course.” on page 7 of 17 and replacing it with:

*A certificate or other evidence of completion shall be issued to each student who successfully completes the course and shall include the student’s name, the name of the course, the total number of course hours, the date of completion, and the signature of the course director or his or her designee. (Excerpt: B&P 1755(d))*

The Council discussed this previously and agreed.

- CADAT suggested replacing the word “program “ with the word “course” on line 34, page 7 of 17.

The Council agreed.

- CADAT suggested amending the lab instructor to student ratio of 1:14 on line 20, page 8 of 17, to the ratio of 1:6 to be consistent with all other language.

The Council agreed.

- CADAT suggested completing the sentence on line 27, page 10 of 17 with *shall provide evidence that each student enrolled has completed an 8-hour board approved course in infection control and a 2-hour course in dental practice act prior to radiographic exposures on a patient.*

Dr. Whitcher commented that the prior suggestion would probably be rejected as it is duplicative of existing requirements. Spencer Walker, Senior Legal Counsel agreed. Ms. Gagliardi requested clarification regarding the fact that CADAT suggests that the infection control course must be completed prior to taking any radiographs for public safety. Dr. Whitcher commented that there is an infection control element relative to radiation safety within the course itself. Ms. Forsythe directed everyone to line 30, page 6 of 17, for information regarding Infection Control Protocols. Dr. Whitcher commented that the aforementioned paragraph on page six (6) refers to Section 1005 which means that they must adhere to the standards of the Dental Practice Act (DPA). Dr. Whitcher stated that he is all right with the way it is written he just wants to be sure that we are not being duplicative.

Denise Romero stated that as a Radiology Instructor she would like to see an 8-hour Infection Control course either incorporated into or a prerequisite to Radiology courses. Dr. Witcher commented that if Infection Control were incorporated into the courses it would run beyond 32 hours. Teresa Lua stated that incorporated Infection Control curriculum would be preferable.

There was discussion about the pros and cons of making an 8-hour Infection Control course a prerequisite to, or incorporated into, a radiology course.

Lori Gagliardi commented that students are required to complete instruction in basic life support prior to performing procedures on patients; she asked why an 8-hour infection control course couldn't be required as well. Ms. Gagliardi suggested making the CPR course, the 8-hour Infection Control Course and the two (2) hour Dental Practice Act course all prior to exposing the public. The courses can be taken prior to or any time during the radiology course.

Teresa Lua commented that she feels that the 8-hour Infection Control, CPR and 2-hour Dental Practice Act should be taken prior to the Radiology Course.

- CADAT requested the addition of its latest proposed language; *provide evidence that each student enrolled has completed an 8-hour board approved course in infection control and a 2-hour course in dental practice act prior to radiographic exposures on a patient*, at the end of line 32, page 8 of 17

Dr. Witcher reminded the Council of the barriers they may be putting up. In some areas the infection control courses are only given once or twice a year.

There was extensive discussion surrounding CADAT's proposed language.

The council agreed to approve this portion of CADAT's language with the revision of striking all the text after the words "*...infection control.*"

- CADAT recommended inclusion of its originally proposed language: "*Consistent with Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 5, Subchapter 4, Group 3, Article 4, Section 30305(b)(4), deliberate exposure of an individual to the useful beam for training or demonstration purposes shall not be permitted unless prescribed by a physician or dentist*".

The Council agreed to approve this addition beginning with the word "*...deliberate...*".

M/S/C (Contreras/Lua) to adopt the regulatory proposal as amended and recommend that the Board move forward with promulgating regulations.

There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.