



**DENTAL ASSISTING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, February 24, 2011**  
**San Diego**

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:**

Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer  
Donna Kantner, Licensing & Examination Unit Manager  
Kim A. Trefry, Enforcement Chief  
Jocelyn Campos, Enforcement Coordinator  
Karen Fischer, Administrative Analyst  
Sarah Wallace, Legislative/Regulatory Analyst  
Linda Byers, Executive Assistant  
Kristy Shellans, DCA Senior Staff Counsel  
Greg Salute, Deputy Attorney General

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Ms. Judith Forsythe, Chair, called the committee meeting to order at 8:47 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

**DA 1 – Approval of the November 4, 2010 Dental Assisting Committee Meeting Minutes**

M/S/C (Dominicis/Burton) to accept the November 4, 2010 Dental Assisting Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**DA 2 – Update Regarding Course Approvals for Registered Dental Assistant (RDA), Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF), Radiation Safety, Coronal Polish, Pit & Fissure Sealants, Infection Control, Ultrasonic Scaler, Dental Sedation Assistant, and Orthodontic Assistant. (Information Only)**

Ms. Forsythe reported that the staff had supplied the committee with the list of approved, pending, withdrawn and denied courses per their request. Since May 6, 2010 when the Board delegated authority to staff to grant approval for these courses, the average length of time to process an application has gone from 7.5 months to 30-45 days. She commended staff on their efforts. Dr. Witcher asked staff to check the number of approved Sedation Assistant Courses; he believes the number should be nine. Guy Atchison representing the California Academy of General Dentistry commented that there are problems with regulations regarding CERP and PACE approved Continuing Education Courses as being listed as delinquent. Kristy Shellans, legal counsel, stated that she and staff may look at this internally but it is not on the agenda and therefore may not be discussed.

**DA 3 – Dental Assisting Forum (DAF) Report: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the DAF's Recommendation for Changes to the Current Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Examination Outline.**

Ms. Forsythe gave an overview of the last DAF meeting in January and what was accomplished. She stated that the minutes from that meeting are available on the Dental Board's website. M/S/C (Burton/Dominicis) to accept the Dental Assisting Forum's recommendation to consider changes to the examination outline to include Infection Control, Dental Radiation Safety, and preventative procedures after the current examination review is complete and ask staff to incorporate a review. The motion passed unanimously.

**DA 4 – Report on Southern Testing Sites for the Registered Dental Assistant Practical Exam**

Ms. Forsythe reported that staff is very close to securing a site for the exam. She explained that there are usually 170 applicants per session, 3 sessions per day and 2 days of exams so a fairly large space is needed.

**DA 5 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding CADAT's Request:**

**(A) To consider allowing Board-approved RDA programs to submit a written request to the Board staff to review/approve, as equivalent, a CPR provider utilized for RDA program graduate qualification for the exams;**

Lori Gagliardi, Director of Public Policy for CADAT, reported that all of the courses have a CPR requirement which has usually been taught by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or any other program approved by the Board. CADAT is asking the committee to recommend to the Board that they approve the attached list of CPR courses recognized through the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB). Kristy Shellans stated that the Board has the authority to approve a course if it is deemed equivalent but the Board has not developed any standards to determine if a course is equivalent or not. Ms. Shellans cautions against approving courses without some standards of equivalency being in place. Ms. Shellans recommends deferring this until some standards of equivalency are in place. Fran Burton asked how great the need is. Ms. Gagliardi stated that 1 student was denied licensure. Kristy Shellans stated that in order to determine criteria it must be done through regulation. Ms. Burton stated her concern that we already have many regulations in queue. Dr. Olinger motioned to eliminate the phrase "or equivalent." He would like only American Red Cross or American Heart Association to be acceptable. Kristy Shellans stated that right now that is the case because the Board hasn't clarified what "equivalent" is. M/S/C (Whitcher/Olinger) to have staff develop equivalency standards for CPR courses. The motion passed unanimously.

**(B) To consider approval of RDA programs to use CPR providers recognized by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) for certification; and**

Due to the motion in Agenda Item 5(A), to develop equivalency standards this item was not discussed or voted on.

**(C) To Consider Whether Board action is needed regarding the use of clinical hours for Coronal Polish, Pit & Fissure Sealants and Radiology in the school setting as clinical hours if not performed in an extramural facility**

Lori Gagliardi explained the differences in clinical hours and settings. CADAT would like a clarification regarding the counting of these hours toward clinical experience. Kristy Shellans commented that this is really a comment directed at the current rulemaking and that as such, if accepted, would require reopening the comment period. This could potentially push the date past the deadline. Dr. Olinger suggested dealing with this problem when and if it actually occurs, not hypothetically. M/S/C (Olinger/Burton) to not reopen the comment period to make changes for this request. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gagliardi asked if the Board would accept clinical hours as clinical hours no matter where they were. Dr. Morrow stated that all the Board can do is review applications after they have been submitted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The committee adjourned at 9:27 a.m.