



*NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING – Notice is hereby given that a public meeting of the Dental Assisting Committee of the Dental Board of California will be held as follows:*

**NOTICE OF DENTAL ASSISTING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, August 11, 2011**

Upon Conclusion of Licensing, Certification and Permits Committee Meeting  
1625 North Market Blvd., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Hearing Room, S-102  
Sacramento, CA 95834

**DENTAL ASSISTING COMMITTEE**

Chair – Judith Forsythe, RDA, Chair  
Vice Chair – Bruce Whitcher, DDS  
Fran Burton, Public Member  
Luis Dominicis, DDS  
Huong Le, DDS  
Tom Olinger, DDS

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

DA 1 – Approval of the May 19, 2011 Dental Assisting Committee Meeting Minutes

DA 2 – Update Regarding Status of Dental Assisting Programs and Courses

DA 3 – Update on Examination Dates and Sites for the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Practical Exam

DA 4 – Update on Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Written Examination. Presentation by Tracy Montez, PhD, Applied Measurement Services

DA 5 – Update from Subcommittee Regarding the Survey of RDAEF Licensees for the Purpose of Analysis of Workforce and Barrier to Care Issues

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Public comments will be taken on agenda items at the time the specific item is raised. The Committee may take action on any item listed on the agenda, unless listed as informational only. All times are approximate and subject to change. Agenda items may be taken out of order to accommodate speakers and to maintain a quorum. The meeting may be cancelled without notice. Time limitations for discussion and comment will be determined by the President. For verification of the meeting, call (916) 263-2300 or access the Board's Web Site at [www.dbc.ca.gov](http://www.dbc.ca.gov). This Committee meeting is open to the public and is accessible to the physically disabled. A person who needs a disability-related accommodation or modification in order to participate in the meeting may make a request by contacting Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer at 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1550, Sacramento, CA 95815, or by phone at (916) 263-2300. Providing your request at least five business days before the meeting will help to ensure availability of the requested accommodation.



**DENTAL ASSISTING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 19, 2011**

Embassy Suites SFO, 150 Anza Blvd.  
Burlingame, CA 94010

**DRAFT**

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:**

Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer  
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 2:40 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

**DA 1 - Approval of the February 24, 2011 Dental Assisting Committee Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Whitcher stated that there was a typographical error in DA 2. In the fifth sentence the acronym "SERP" should be "CERP". Tamara McNeely of CADAT stated that in DA 5, Lori Gagliardi is listed as "Director of CADAT". Her title is "Director of Public Policy, CADAT". M/S/C (Whitcher/Burton) to approve the February 24, 2011, Dental Assisting minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**DA 2 - Update Regarding Approval of Dental Assisting Programs and Courses**

Ms. Sarah Wallace reported that at this time the approval or denial of applications received after January 1, 2011 for Registered Dental Assistant Educational Programs, Infection Control Courses, Orthodontic Assistant Permit Courses, Dental Sedation Assistant Permit Courses, and Registered Dental Assistant in extended Functions Programs, are being held until our new regulations become effective. We anticipate this date to be mid-summer.

**DA 3 - Update on Examination Dates and Sites for the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Practical Exam**

Ms. Forsythe stated that this item was previously discussed at length during the Examination Committee Meeting. A schedule of RDA Practical examination sites and dates for the remainder of the year was provided.

#### **DA 4 - Dental Assisting Forum (DAF) Report and Recommendations**

##### **(A) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the DAF recommended Scope of Responsibility as stated in the April 7, 2010 minutes**

Ms. Shellans, Legal Counsel, reviewed with the Board, Business and Professions Code 1742 pertaining to the scope and creation of a forum. Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer, suggested possibly holding this item for six months due to the fact that our Sunset Review may change all of this. Dr. Witcher suggested that the DAF focus on numbers 1, 3, 4, and 5. Bill Lewis, CDA, suggested amending the words in #3 from "Evaluating and updating" to "Reviewing and suggesting". M/S/C (Burton/Witcher) to accept the DAF recommended Scope of Responsibility and ask them to focus on #1, 3, 4, and 5, and amend #3 to read "Reviewing and suggesting" instead of "Evaluating and updating". The motion passed unanimously.

##### **(B) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Dental Assisting Forum Recommendation to Consider Adding Administration of Local Anesthesia as a New Allowable Duty for Registered Dental Assistants in Extended Functions Licensed after January 1, 2010**

There was lengthy discussion regarding the DAF's request that the Board consider the concept of initiating a rulemaking to add administration of local anesthesia as an additional certification, after post-secondary training, to the duties of the RDAEF licensed after January 1, 2010. Rosa Solorzano gave public comment stating that she feels that there is a growing need for RDAEF's to be able to administer local anesthesia. It takes a lot of time and dedication to become an RDAEF. She stated that she feels that people who go to such great lengths to become an RDAEF actually care about dentistry at a different level than the average dental assistant does. She further stated that they are not asking to be given a license to administer anesthesia but only to be further trained and get the same level of education that doctors and hygienists have for the sole purpose of making the dental community a better place. Dr. Bob Muckey, Sacramento dentist and former examiner for the Board, stated that he feels that one of the biggest barriers to care is fear of pain. He stated that he feels that patients are far less likely to experience any discomfort when they are being anesthetized and closely monitored by an RDH rather than having a busy dentist running in and out of the operatory. He stated that he has had the pleasure to work with 2 of the first RDAEF licensee's and feels that they are quite capable of being trained to provide local anesthesia. Dr. Muckey stated that he hopes the Board will be as foresighted now as it was when it granted local anesthesia to RDH's. Dr. Victor Savage, stated that he supports having auxiliaries perform local anesthesia. Joan Greenfield stated that as one of the schools that has been teaching the RDH local anesthesia certification for the past 28 years, there has not been a single enforcement issue regarding RDH's and local anesthesia. She stated that she believes that appropriately educated individuals, including RDAEF's are fully capable of performing this duty. Dr. Guy Acheson, stated that he is very concerned about allowing RDA's to administer local anesthesia. He supports expanding the duties of dental auxiliaries under direct supervision allowing thus expanding access to care. He stated that he looks forward to good evidence building to support the need for this. Katie Dawson, California Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) stated that CDHA has no position at this time. She stated that CDHA has many questions since this proposal is the first of its kind in the nation; CDHA would support a pilot study. She stated CDHA understands how popular this idea is among RDAEF's and dentists but is concerned that it may not be in the best interests of the public. CDHA would like to see the need and evidence to support adding this additional certification. Sun Costigan, DDS, stated that as a dentist with a small practice, many of her colleagues do not have practices big enough to support an RDAEF. She feels that this is more an access to care issue. Bill Lewis, California Dental Association (CDA), expressed his disappointment that after the lengthy process of developing AB 2637, changes are being proposed so soon. CDA concurs with other statements that there is a need for more extensive study. Elizabeth Delappe, RDAEF, stated that dental assisting has come a long way since she began practicing 26 years ago. She remarked that all they are asking for is the opportunity to educate themselves and pursue anesthetics. M/S/C (Burton/Dominicis) to table this issue until further research can be done and submitted to the committee at which time they will reconsider. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Witcher asked that when additional information is submitted, it be comprehensive and factual in nature and that in the absence of substantive evidence the committee will hold this issue.

**(C) Discussion and Possible Action to Consider the DAF's Request to Correct Prior Recommendation Regarding Changes to the Outline for the RDA Written Examination**

Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer, reported that he has contracted with Applied Measurements to review the RDA examination. Mr. DeCuir stated that we are beginning to put together the work groups. Anyone interested in participating in that can contact Mr. DeCuir or Denise Johnson, Assistant Executive Officer, at 916-263-2300. Mr. DeCuir stated that Section 139 of the Business and Professions Code dictates how we must put an examination together and how we update them. This request can be addressed during the review. M/S/C (Olinger/Dominicis) to accept the Dental Assisting Forum's recommendation to the Board to reconsider the Dental Assisting Forum prior recommendation and that upon review of the examination, the Board consider changes in the following content areas to exclude or reduce the quantity of questions for Infection Control, Dental Radiation Safety and preventative procedures. The motion passed with 11 ayes and 1 abstention. Tamara McNeely, CADAT, thinks the examination is fine the way it is. Karen Wyant, Dental Assisting Alliance (DAA), stated that after reviewing the examination it was found that over 50% of the questions had to do with Infection Control, an area which they are not required to be licensed in. Ms. Wyant stated that the DAA thinks it would be more appropriate for the examination to be weighted toward the duties that they are legally allowed to perform once licensed.

**(D) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the DAF Recommendation to Split the RDAEF Examination into two Separate Parts**

Judith Forsythe, Committee Chair, explained the two different components in the RDAEF Examination, one using a live patient and one using a manikin. She stated that DAF is recommending that the examination be split into two separate parts so that candidates who fail only one component of the exam are not required to retake both, only the failed component. From a psychometric perspective, can this be done? M/S/C (Whitcher/Burton) to study the issue of exam validity and psychometric aspects and ask for an opinion from DCA's Office of Professional Examination Services. The motion passed unanimously.

**DA 5 - Staff Update on the Possibility of Combining the Registered Dental Assistant and Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions Examinations.**

Ms. Forsythe stated that given the differences in the two examinations, she agrees with the recommendation from staff that combining the two examinations is not a feasible alternative.

**DA 6 - Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Feasibility of Conducting a Survey of RDAEF Licensees for the Purpose of Analysis of Workforce and Barrier to Care Issues**

Judy Forsythe reported that the purpose of the survey would be to try to determine what, if any, effect RDAEF's are having on access to care. M/S/C (Whitcher/Olinger) to forward this item to the full Board as part of the committee report and make a recommendation that a subcommittee be appointed to develop survey questions for the study. Joan Greenfield stated that she is in contact with all of her former students and could provide statistics for Northern California. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No additional.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The committee adjourned at 4:10 p.m.



## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	August 2, 2011
<b>TO</b>	Dental Assisting Committee Dental Board Members
<b>FROM</b>	Tanya Webber, Associate Governmental Program Analyst Dental Board of California
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item DA 2:</b> Update Regarding Status of Dental Assisting Programs and Courses

### Background

The Dental Board of California has not had statutory authority since January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year to approve the following: Registered Dental Assistant Educational Programs, Infection Control Courses, Orthodontic Assistant Permit Courses, Dental Sedation Assistant Permit Courses, and Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions Programs. Applications of the aforementioned courses and programs received prior to January 1, 2011, were reviewed and processed. Applications received after January 1, 2011 are being reviewed by Board staff, but the approval/denial of applications is being withheld until the new regulations become effective.

There are 18 applications that are continuing to be reviewed by staff and consultants until the new regulations become effective.

Registered Dental Assistant Program	8
Infection Control Course	6
Orthodontic Assistant Course	4

All other course applications, including those for Radiation Safety, Coronal Polishing, Pit and Fissure Sealants and Ultrasonic Scaling, are continuing to be reviewed and processed. There are 15 applications, which have all been reviewed by staff, and are pending a response from the course provider.

<b>COURSE</b>	<b># of Applications</b>
Radiation Safety Course	5
Coronal Polishing Course	6
Pit and Fissure Sealants Course	2
Ultrasonic Scaling Course	2

The following is a list of the approved and pending applications for dental assisting program and course providers. At this time, there are no denied applications.

**APPROVED PROGRAMS AND COURSES**  
(as of 8/02/11)

Provider	Application Received	Approval Date	RDA Program	RDAEF Program	Radiation Safety	Coronal Polishing	Pit & Fissure Sealants	Ultrasonic Scaling	Infection Control	Dental Sedation Assistant	Orthodontic Assistant
Dental Assisting Institute	5/17/11	5/27/11					X				
Health Quest Academy, LLC*	4/11/11	7/15/11					X				
Simi Valley Adult School and Career Institute*	5/6/11	8/2/11					X				
Dental Career Institute - Cypress	5/3/11	6/16/11				X					
Cerritos College*	3/22/11	7/1/11				X					
San Bernardino County ROP - Hesperia*	4/4/11	7/1/11				X					
Orange County Dental Careers	7/19/11	8/2/11				X					

**\*Note: The applications of these providers exceeded the average approval time due to deficiencies in their application.**

**PENDING PROGRAMS AND COURSES (as of 8/02/11)**

Provider	Application Received	RDA Program	RDAEF Program	Radiation Safety	Coronal Polishing	Pit & Fissure Sealants	Ultrasonic Scaling	Infection Control	Dental Sedation Assistant	Orthodontic Assistant
Make a Smile	4/4/11							X		
Four-D College - Victorville	4/8/11							X		
Charter College - Long Beach*	4/18/11			X						
Charter College - Long Beach	4/18/11							X		
Joel F. Brodsky DDS Inc.	4/18/11									X
Health Quest Academy LLC	4/26/11							X		
Dr. Ihab M. Hanna*	4/26/11				X					
Charter College - Long Beach*	5/6/11				X					
Valley School for Dental Assisting	5/6/11							X		
UEI College - Anaheim	5/13/11	X								
UEI College - San Marcos	5/13/11	X								
UEI College - San Bernardino	5/13/11	X								
Dental Courses For You*	5/17/11			X						
Southland Dental/Lin Dental Corp	5/18/11							X		
Stormberg, Dr. Kurt	6/1/11									X



La Clinica de la Raza*	6/2/11									
San Bernardino County ROP/Morongo	6/3/11									
UEI College - Gardena	6/6/11									
North-West College - Pasadena*	6/14/11									
North-West College - Pasadena*	6/14/11									
North-West College - Glendale*	6/14/11									
North-West College - Glendale*	6/14/11									
Riverside County Office of Education CTE/DA Program*	6/16/11									
Riverside County Office of Education CTE/DA Program*	6/16/11									
Riverside County Office of Education CTE/DA Program*	6/16/11									
Dental Specialties Institute, Inc.	6/21/11									
All Stars Orthodontics	6/21/11									
UEI College - Riverside	7/13/11									
Valley School for Dental Assisting*	7/13/11									
Dental Advantage	7/19/11									

Four-D College - Victorville	7/29/11									
Four-D College - Colton	7/29/11									

***\*Note: The applications of these providers have been reviewed by staff, and deficiencies have been sent. Staff is currently waiting to receive the provider's corrections to their deficiencies.***



## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	July 21, 2011
<b>TO</b>	Dental Assisting Committee Dental Board of California
<b>FROM</b>	Dawn Dill, Manager, Dental Assisting Program
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item DA 3 Update on Examination Dates and Sites for Registered Dental Assistant Practical Exam</b>

### Dental Assisting

Below is the schedule of RDA Practical examination for the remainder of the year.

Examination Date	Examination Location	Filing Period
August 6 and 7, 2011	UC, San Francisco	May 1 to June 1, 2011
August 13 and 14, 2011	Allan Hancock College, Santa Maria	
August 20 and 21, 2011	Carrington College, Pomona	
November 5 and 6, 2011	Carrington College, Pomona	Aug. 3 to Sept. 3, 2011
November 19 and 20, 2011	UC, San Francisco	

After the June 1, 2011 filing period closed and all applications had been cashiered, there were over 1,200 applicants for the August examinations. The San Francisco and Pomona sites have a maximum capacity of 480 each. Staff contacted Allan Hancock College and secured the Santa Maria site with an executed contract by July 15, 2011. Candidates were notified their application was complete and given the option to change to the Santa Maria site. Candidates had to be moved from the UC, San Francisco site to the Santa Maria site due to overcrowding. Currently we have 480 scheduled for San Francisco, 480 scheduled for Pomona and 281 scheduled for Santa Maria.

Staff will continue to look for alternate sites that could be used for future exams.



## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	July 18, 2011
<b>TO</b>	Dental Assisting Committee
<b>FROM</b>	Linda Byers, Administrative Assistant Dental Board of California
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item DA 4:</b> Update on Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Written Exam

Tracy Montez, PhD, will hand carry a report to be distributed at the Board Meeting.



## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	July 22, 2011
<b>TO</b>	Dental Assisting Committee, Dental Board of California
<b>FROM</b>	Denise E. Johnson, Assistant Executive Officer Dental Board of California
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item DA 5:</b> Update from Subcommittee Regarding the Survey of RDAEF Licensees for the Purpose of Analysis of Workforce and Barrier to Care Issues

### **Background**

During the May 20, 2011 meeting, the Board discussed the feasibility of conducting a survey of Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF) licensees for the purpose of analyzing the workforce. During the meeting, Ms. Joan Greenfield, Program Director for J Productions and Sacramento City College, commented that she was in contact with former students and could provide statistics for Northern California. Based on Ms. Greenfield's comment, the Board felt it would be most appropriate to send the survey out to the RDAEF educational programs to gather relevant survey data.

Dr. Bettinger, Board President, appointed Dr. Witcher and Judy Forsythe, RDA, to the subcommittee to develop the survey questions. The subcommittee worked with staff to develop the questions. On June 8, 2011, a survey letter was mailed to the Program Directors of three (3) RDAEF educational programs, asking the following seven (7) questions:

1. How many participants graduated per year since the inception of your program?
2. How many are currently practicing?
3. What type of practice (general dentistry, pedodontist, other specialist, etc.)?
4. Where are they practicing (private, private group, Community Health clinic, etc.)?
5. What duties they are performing and how often?
6. Have they identified any limitations to utilizing their extended functions? If so, please describe these.
7. Any additional information that you collect, but is not on this list would be appreciated.

The letter requested the Program Directors respond by July 11, 2011; to date, only one response has been received. Follow-up letters have been sent.

### **Action Requested:**

There is no action required at this time.