



EXAMINATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 19, 2011
Embassy Suites SFO, 150 Anza Blvd.
Burlingame, CA 94010

Members Present:

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

Dr. Stephen Casagrande, Chair called the committee meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum established.

EX 1 - Approval of the February 24, 2011 Examination Committee Meeting Minutes

Dr. Morrow remarked that in the minutes for EX 4: Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) Statistics and Update, in the second sentence ".....given electronically." the word "given" should be changed to "scored." M/S/C (Downing/Dominicis) to accept the February 24, 2011 Examination Committee Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

EX 2 - Dental Assisting Program Examination Statistics

Dr. Casagrande reviewed the exam statistics and remarked that if one out of three candidates are failing the written exam, we still have to be vigilant in making sure that we're not putting up a barrier to the career ladder by making the exams too hard. Judy Forsythe commented that there has been an improvement since the last exam where there was a 50-52% pass rate. It was mentioned that further details will be discussed during the Dental Assisting Committee meeting. Dr. Morrow asked that pass/fail rates be broken down into first time pass/fail rates versus second time, third time rates for both the written and practical exams. Dr. Casagrande

requested a cost analysis of the RDA and RDAEF exams to see if there is a need to raise the fee for exams to cover our cost. Joan Greenfield, Dental Assisting Alliance, commented that she would like to see more contemporary questions on the written exam. Dr. Sunny Costigan suggested that we increase education as opposed to changing the examinations.

EX 3 - Calendar of Upcoming Dental & Dental Assisting Program Examinations

Dr. Casagrande reviewed the calendar of upcoming Examinations including the fact that instructions for taking the written Law and Ethics Exam online can be found on our website: <http://www.dbc.ca.gov/index.shtml> Tamara McNeely, CADAT, thanked staff for their diligence in securing the southern California testing site and for the new Dental Assisting website. She commented that many of the students who graduate from her program do not take the RDA exam even though they are qualified to do so because of the expense to travel to an exam site that is some distance away. She stated that many of them go to work as Dental Assistants. Joan Greenfield, Dental Assisting Alliance, stated that previous Boards required a clinical setting for exams that is not really necessary. Tamara McNeely, CADAT, stated that conference rooms in hotels can be used, all they need are tables to put the typodonts on and adequate lighting. Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer, stated that staff will look into alternative testing sites focusing on central and southern California.

EX 4 - Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) Statistics and Update

Dr. Dominicus reported on the WREB statistics. All WREB exams are scored electronically. Candidates are receiving their scores in 5-7 days. WREB has added 5 new examiners. WREB would like to see more board members become WREB examiners. Dr. Morrow stated that his school is working with WREB regarding radiographs and recordkeeping.

EX 5 - Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Portfolio Pathways to Licensure for Registered Dental Assistants

Dr. Casagrande reported that it will require legislation to make a statutory change in order to implement a program like this. Tamara McNeely, CADAT, stated that they have put together a task force and are asking that they be given time to do a task analysis on the feasibility of a Portfolio Pathway to Licensure. Dr. Casagrande recommended that President Bettinger appoint Ms. Forsythe as a liaison to work with the CADAT task force to develop recommendations to bring to the Board following their analysis on feasibility.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

The committee meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.