



**Examination Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 5, 2010
South San Francisco, CA**

Members Present:

Stephen Casagrande, DDS , Chair
John Bettinger, DDS,
Luis Dominicus, DDS
Rebecca Downing, Public Member
Judith Forsythe, RDA
Thomas Olinger, DDS

Members Absent:

Huong Le, DDS, Vice Chair

Staff Present:

Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer
Teri Lane, Acting Enforcement Chief
Nancy Butler, Supervising Investigator 1, Northern California
Dawn Dill, Dental Assisting Unit Manager
Donna Kantner, Licensing & Examination Unit Manager
Lori Reis, Complaint & Compliance Manager
Jocelyn Campos, Enforcement Coordinator
Karen Fischer, Administrative Analyst
Sarah Wallace, Legislative/Regulatory Analyst
Kristy Schieldge, DCA Senior Staff Counsel
Greg Salute, Deputy Attorney General

Dr. Steve Casagrande, Chair called the committee meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.. Roll was called and a quorum established.

EX 1 – Approval of the February 25, 2010 Examination Committee Meeting Minutes

M/S/C (Downing/Dominicus) to approve the February 25, 2010 Examination Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

EX 2 – Registered Dental Assistant Practical and Written Examination Statistics

Dawn Dill, Manager of the Dental Assistant Unit reported that the pass rate for the RDA written examination from January 1-April 23, 2010 was 52%. She also looked at the exam results for candidates taking the new exam in April; and the pass rate rose to 58%. Dr. Casagrande expressed concern that the pass rate is still too low and he asked if and when another revision would take place. Ms. Dill responded that there is a continual line item analysis every time the examination is given. She indicated that as of April 23, 2010 there were only 722 people who had taken the new exam. She feels that this sample is too small at this time to reflect how well the new examination is testing. Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer added that Dr. Tracy Montez, the Board's consultant for the RDA examination had recommended that the Board leave the examination intact for one year before making any changes to it.

Board member Judy Forsythe, RDA suggested that improvements be made to the examination outline that is posted on the Board's website. She will work with staff to make the website more user friendly for examination candidates.

Dr. Lori Gagliardi, CADAT, commented that the examination outline posted on the Board's website is not very user friendly. She is looking forward to having a dialog between educators and the Board which will assist students in preparing for the examination.

Dr. Olinger, Board member, commented that it is difficult to interpret the RDA written examination pass/fail rates since we don't know the level of preparation and/or background of the candidates. Perhaps the failure rate represents candidates who, for many reasons, were not prepared for the examination. He would like to see pass/fail statistics from the schools that show how formally trained candidates are performing on the examination.

Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer reminded Board members that Dr. Tracy Montez (Applied Measurement), the consultant who developed the RDA examination indicated that there may be different outcomes for candidates who were on-the-job-trained and those who completed a formal educational RDA program. He will bring back to the Board, Dr. Montez's statistics regarding this level of preparation.

Earl Johnson, Orthodontic Association commented that he feels the questions on the examination don't relate to experience and/or the actual duties of a Registered Dental Assistant. He feels that the candidates who are on-the-job trained are at a disadvantage when preparing for and taking the exam.

Dr. Lori Gagliardi representing CADAT said that from an educators point of view, she likes that the RDA examination is comprehensive – testing the candidate's competency in all areas.

Dr. Steve Morrow, Loma Linda University Dental School expressed support that the Board was concerned about examination outcomes.

Pam Baldwin, Dental Assisting Forum (DAT) and educator, echoed Dr. Johnson's concerns about the examination. She feels RDA's should be tested only on RDA duties. She agrees that the outline on the Board's website is confusing.

Katie Dawson, CDHA and former dental assisting instructor is concerned about where on-the-job training (OJT) is being performed and by whom. She also expressed concern that the OJT examination candidates don't have the benefit of course curriculum.

EX 3 – Calendar of Upcoming Dental and Dental Assistant Examinations

There are no California clinical Dental Board examinations currently scheduled for 2010. Staff has not been unable to secure examination space from any of the dental schools. Staff will continue to work with the dental schools to seek availability of space for California's clinical board exam. The vast majority of applicants apply for licensure through the WREB examination. Law and Ethics examinations continue to be given at least monthly, with eleven examinations scheduled through the remainder of 2010.

RDA Practical Examinations are scheduled for August 7 and 8 at the University of Southern California; August 14 and 15, and November 13 and 14 at the University of California, San Francisco; and November 20 and 21 at the University of California, Los Angeles. There are no central California locations scheduled.

There was discussion about the difficulty staff has encountered securing space at dental schools in order to administer a practical examination. Dr. Steve Morrow, Loma Linda Dental School and Dr. Tom Andresano, University of the Pacific and CALAOMS both commented that schools are

running programs 24/7 and do not have space available because it is being used by their own students for pre-clinical and clinical labs and/or faculty for professional continuing education programs. Dr. Olinger suggested that legislation may have to be introduced to require state dental schools to accommodate the Dental Board examinations.

Dr. Lori Gagliardi, CADAT expressed concern that her students graduate in May and have to wait until August to be tested; and wait until the fall to be licensed. She suggested developing a portfolio-type format for dental assisting programs. Dr. Casagrande agreed that if students graduate from a CODA approved dental assisting program and have demonstrated competencies in educational courses, they should be given a license. Dr. Casagrande feels that requiring RDAs who have graduated from a CODA approved dental assisting program to take a state examination is an unnecessary impediment to licensure. Kristy Schieldge, Legal Counsel noted that any further discussion on this topic would need to be agendaized for a future meeting. Dr. Casagrande asked staff to research what needs to be done to develop a portfolio-type pathway to licensure for registered dental assistants and to put the item on a future Committee agenda.

There is an RDAEF Examination scheduled for May 15 at the University of California, Los Angeles. Staff has been contacted by Sacramento City College and the Expanded Functions Dental Assistant Association regarding scheduling an examination for late August or early September. Due to the addition of approved programs and the changes in the examination there is not a set schedule of examinations for 2010. Staff is currently working on setting dates and locations for the RDA Practical Examination in 2011.

EX 4 – Update Regarding a Request to Review Licensure by Residency Requirements for Individuals Wanting to Take the California State Dental Examination – Information Only

Dr. Earl Johnson, Orthodontic Association, submitted a written request for the Dental Board to consider changes to current statute concerning the eligibility requirements of foreign trained dentists to be examined for a dental license. He contends that dentists who are trained at non-CODA approved dental schools but have been accepted into a CODA approved graduate specialty program in the United States and complete the program should be allowed to take the California Dental examination.

At the February 2010 Board meeting, Dr. Casagrande, Chair of the Examination Committee, formed a subcommittee and asked Drs. Olinger and Le to research what other states are doing. Dr. Le was not present for this meeting. This item was tabled for a future meeting.

Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.