



**Dental Assisting Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 23, 2012**

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

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

**Staff Present**

Richard DeCuir, Executive Officer  
Denise Johnson, Assistant Executive Officer  
Kim Trefry, Enforcement Chief  
Teri Lane, Supervising Investigator I  
Sarah Wallace, Legislative and Regulatory Analyst  
Karen Fischer, Associate Analyst  
Linda Byers Executive Assistant  
Kristy Shellans, DCA Senior Staff Counsel  
Greg Salute, Deputy Attorney General

**Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum:**

Judith Forsythe, RDA, Chair, called the committee meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

**DA 1 – Approval of the November 7, 2011 Dental Assisting Committee Meeting Minutes**

M/S/C (Le/Witcher) to accept the November 7, 2011 Dental Assisting Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Forsythe reported that there are currently 34 pending applications.

**DA 3 – Update from Subcommittee Regarding the Survey of Registered Dental Assistants in Extended Functions (RDAEF) Licensees for the Purpose of Analysis of Workforce and Barrier to Care Issues**

Denise Johnson, Assistant Executive Officer, reported that since the last meeting, the survey was finalized and sent out to all 1,245 currently licensed RDAEF's. The Board utilized SurveyMonkey a web-based survey developer. To date the board had received 100 responses to the survey. The data was analyzed and Ms. Johnson gave a brief overview of those results. Dr. Olinger stated that the survey indicates that these RDAEF's are not seeking training in further duties. Dr. Witcher commented that this is probably due to the high cost of the training. Dr. Guy Atcheson, Academy of

General Dentistry, commented that he would like to see question 3 expanded upon to include the size of the practice. He feels that a larger group practice would utilize RDAEF's more than a smaller practice. Mr. DeCuir thanked Ms. Johnson for her efforts on this project. Dr. Earl Johnson, California Association of Orthodontists, commented that he would like to see each of the specialty components within the RDAEF license split out and given separately so that individuals could take only the portions that they would use within their practice instead of the time and expense incurred in having to take all of the courses to become an RDAEF. Dr. Atcheson commented that he agrees with what Dr. Johnson stated that practitioners would be more willing to subsidize the training of their assistants if they were in smaller modules so that they could choose just the specialty procedures they wanted them to take instead of having to take the entire RDAEF program in order to just perform one specialty procedure. He stated that the concept of smaller modules where students could expand their skill set as needed is more appealing to him.

#### **DA 4 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Possibility of Splitting the RDAEF Examination into Two Separate Parts**

Ms. Forsythe reviewed what the committee had discussed at the last meeting regarding the timeframe for abandonment of the application. Kristy Shellans, Legal Counsel, recommended that the Board develop a regulation so that applicants know that they cannot take the examination components more than a specified number of years apart. Dr. Dominicis stated that WREB places a 1 year limitation on retaking the failed portion of an exam. Ms. Forsythe stated that the WREB exam is given many times a year so there is ample opportunity for retakes. The RDAEF exam is only given a couple of times a year and 1 year might not be a sufficient timeframe.

M/S/C (Olinger/Whitcher) to recommend to the Board that they split the RDAEF examination into two components with a time limit of 2 years from the date of the prior failure and direct staff to begin the rulemaking process. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no public comment.

The Dental Assisting Committee meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.