

**DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DENTAL ASSISTING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 15, 2024**

The Dental Assisting Council (Council) of the Dental Board of California (Board) met by teleconference/WebEx Events on Thursday, August 15, 2024, with the following location available for Council and public member participation:

Department of Consumer Affairs
1625 N. Market Blvd., Hearing Room #102
Sacramento, CA 95834

Members Present:

Cara Miyasaki, RDA, RDHEF, MS, Chair
Jeri Fowler, RDAEF, OA, Vice Chair
De'Andra Epps-Robbins, RDA
Jessica Gerlach, RDA
Rosalinda Olague, RDA, BA
Joanne Pacheco, RDH, MAOB

Members Absent:

Carie Smith, RDAEF

Staff Present:

Tracy A. Montez, Ph.D., Executive Officer
Paige Ragali, Chief of Administration and Compliance
Tina Vallery, Chief of Dental Assisting License and Program Compliance
Victor Libet, License and Program Compliance Unit Manager
Jessica Olney, Anesthesia Unit Manager
Rikki Parks, Dental Assisting Program Manager
Wilbert Rumbaoa, Administrative Services Unit Manager
Jerry Fuhrman, Investigator
Mirela Taran, Administrative Analyst
Joseph Tippins, Investigator
David Bouilly, Facilitator and Strategic Planner, SOLID, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
Bryce Penney, Television Specialist, Office of Public Affairs, DCA
Tara Welch, Board Counsel, Attorney IV, Legal Affairs Division, DCA

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

Council Chair, Ms. Cara Miyasaki, called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.; six members of the Council were present, and a quorum was established.

Dental Assisting Council
August 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion and Possible Action on May 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes Motion/Second/Call the Question (M/S/C) (Pacheco/Fowler) to approve the May 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

Chair Miyasaki requested public comment before the Council acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

Chair Miyasaki called for the vote on the motion. Ms. Mirela Taran took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Epps-Robbins, Fowler, Gerlach, Miyasaki, Olague, Pacheco.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: Smith.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed and the Minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 4: Executive Officer Report

Dr. Tracy Montez stated that Board staff have been working extremely hard on projects, as well as working on Senate Bill (SB) 1453 (Ashby, 2024), the Board's Sunset bill, and have continued negotiations on language and are looking forward to having this finalized soon. Additionally, the Board is continuing to fill vacancies. She voiced that the Board is going to have big November Council and Board meetings. At the November meeting, there will be action on the dental assisting workgroup regulations and discussion on infection control and all of the changes as a result of the Sunset bill.

Chair Miyasaki requested public comment on this item. The Council received public comment.

Due to technical difficulties, Mohlab Al Sammarraie was not able to provide her comment.

Agenda Item 5: Update on Legislation

Agenda Item 5.a.: Legislation of Interest

Dr. Montez provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

She verbalized that the bill of major interest is SB 1453. Since May, the bill was amended in June and again in July. She attended the California State Assembly Business and Professions Committee hearing and was very pleased that the California State Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee consultant

Dental Assisting Council
August 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

who is assisting the author of the bill (Senator Ashby), continues to work very closely with the Board on amendments. Dr. Montez reported that the Board had received what she hoped was nearly the final draft of the bill, which should be posted anytime. She reported that the Board is limiting its opportunities on amendments because of how late it is in the game but also because Board staff is very comfortable with what they are seeing. She summarized that the bill continued to be amended, but latest amendments appeared to be a 99% final version of the bill that should be posted soon, and it is continuing to move through.

Chair Miyasaki requested public comment on this item. The Council received public comment.

Dr. Sheetal Patil, representing the California Association of Orthodontists (CAO), disclosed that they have proposed amendments to SB 1453 and have concerns specifically affecting the orthodontic assisting permit requirements. They expressed their gratitude to the Board for their flexibility and efforts to streamline the licensing process for the orthodontic assistants, particularly their willingness to removing the six-month Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) work requirement before the orthodontic assistant application goes into the works. She voiced that there are a few concerns they still have in the process, one being when the six-month work experience requirement has been reduced. CAO requested that a three-month work experience requirement be met as they were facing some workforce shortages, and having the time requirements adds on hindrances in their applying for this permit. The other issue is that orthodontic assistants have a narrower scope of duty, and the ultrasonic scaling requirement in the examination was planned to be taken out because it is obsolete. Additionally, none of the orthodontists nowadays have an ultrasonic requirement. Dr. Patil thanked the Board on behalf of CAO in pursuing further and making the job requirements easier for the orthodontic assistant.

Agenda Item 6: Status Update on Pending Regulations

Dr. Montez provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Chair Miyasaki requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 7: Update on Dental Assisting Examination Statistics

Rikki Parks provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Ms. Parks noted that as Board staff were compiling the statistics, they discovered errors in the data, which had been corrected and posted to the Board's website.

Chair Miyasaki requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 8: Update, Discussion, and Recommendations on Dental Assisting Examination Items

Agenda Item 8.a.: Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Evaluate the Dental Anesthesia Assistant National Certification Examination for Use in the California Dental Sedation Assistant Permit Process

Dr. Montez provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Council Member Jeri Fowler expressed support for the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) examination evaluations and to see if the results would have the potential of the Board allowing that as a licensure pathway. She noted concern about having the Dental Anesthesia Assistant National Certification Examination (DAANCE) as the only examination pathway for dental sedation assistant permits.

(M/S/C) (Pacheco/Olague) to recommend to the Board that it approve the request to have OPES conduct a comprehensive review of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons' (AAOMS) DAANCE.

Chair Miyasaki requested public comment before the Council acted on the motion. The Council received public comment.

Dr. Bruce Whitcher, speaking in support of the motion, agreed with the plan to go ahead and review the exam. He voiced that the DAANCE was developed by AAOMS as a psychometrically sound and valid exam, and they contracted with applied measurement professionals to do an occupational analysis so the duties would be aligned with the content of the course. Dr. Whitcher noted California has some expanded duties in California that were not really addressed by the DAANCE, and those were incorporated in the Dental Sedation Assistant (DSA) course itself. Dr. Whitcher pointed out that Oregon and Washington recognize DAANCE, and he believed there are other states around the country that do so, as well. He noted the Council might be aware that the anesthesia organization sent a letter to AAOMS regarding the DAANCE course and their concerns about it.

Shari Becker, representing the Alliance, voiced support of the motion.

Chair Miyasaki called for the vote on the motion. Ms. Taran took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Epps-Robbins, Fowler, Gerlach, Miyasaki, Olague, Pacheco.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: Smith.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 8.b.: Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Evaluate the Dental Assisting National Board's Certified Orthodontic Assistant Examination for Use in the California Orthodontic Assistant Permit Process

Dr. Montez provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Council Member Fowler voiced support of OPES evaluating the Dental Assisting National Board's (DANB) Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA) examination and believes that the Orthodontic Assistant Permit (OAP) exam is a very good exam and would like to get access to care. She voiced that she is in support of having both exams available to allow more orthodontic assistants to practice in California.

(M/S/C) (Olague/Pacheco) to recommend to the Board that it approves the request to have OPES conduct a comprehensive review of the DANB COA Examination.

Chair Miyasaki requested public comment before the Council acted on the motion. The Council received the following public comments.

Ms. Becker, representing the Alliance, disclosed support of the examination.

Tooka Zokaie, representing California Dental Association (CDA), noted that they are in support of this review and look forward to the results.

Chair Miyasaki called for the vote on the motion. Ms. Taran took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Epps-Robbins, Fowler, Gerlach, Miyasaki, Olague, Pacheco.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: Smith.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 8.c.: Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Translate the Registered Dental Assistant General Written and Law and Ethics Examination

Dr. Montez provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Chair Miyasaki voiced that she has looked at the California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (BBC) statistics and noted that they translate their exam into four other languages being Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese, and that looking at the results, it looks like English has the highest passing rate with Chinese being second, Vietnamese being third, Korean being fourth, and Spanish last. She added that it does concern her that it has been over year that this exam has been translated into Spanish and believes that California needs to have access to care and also be able to have candidates pass the exam. Chair Miyasaki conveyed that she has had a conversation

with the DANB Executive Officer and that they actually started, she believes in March, their CDA exam in Spanish and outsourced their exam to a company that is well recognized in order to do this successfully. So far, their statistics have been equivalent, the English and the Spanish version have been equivalent. She noted that she would like to have translated exams and be able to help students who have yet to pass the exam, but she was torn because of the BBC translated exam pass rate statistics, with Spanish being the last.

Dr. Montez clarified that it is an ongoing process, and therefore there are multiple forms. This involves outsourcing to a vendor for the cost of this and ongoing costs. She added that every time OPES develops a new form of the exam, it then has to go through the adaptation process; that is done because the Board is not interested in testing memorization or recall. The Board wants to make sure to test on the most up to-date knowledge for competency at this time.

Council Member Joanne Pacheco, as a program director, disclosed that her educational institution in the Central Valley was very diverse. There are 26 different languages in her program alone, and the students learn in English and have no difficulties on the Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) exam given in English.

Chair Miyasaki voiced that as she looked at the information provided by OPES, one of the things emphasized is are the books given to the students available in the languages being talked about. She does not believe the programs in California use any textbook translated in different languages. She asked if maybe the Council can talk about taking this back a little bit and possibly getting some information from DANB about their successful exam and how they went about doing this before jumping into exploring further beyond to have the exam translated.

Council Member Pacheco commented that from an educator standpoint, there are publishers that do have the availability for the students with the eBooks to translate the information into their language.

Dr. Montez added that Chair Miyasaki, in her Council report provided to the Board, can share the comments that were offered by the Council Members pertaining to this agenda item.

Chair Miyasaki requested public comment on this item. The Council received public comment.

Ms. Becker, representing the Alliance, asked the DAC to consider not just the formal education pathway, but also the on-the-job training pathway where maybe they would not be using textbooks per se.

Ms. Zokaie, representing CDA, voiced support for translating the RDA written exam mainly because DANB is offering the radiation health and safety examination in

Spanish. Ms. Zokaie echoed what Ms. Becker stated about the other pathways to gain the education and knowledge in a different language before sitting for the written exam. She stated it offers more accessibility in support of the workforce trying to offer these pathways.

Agenda Item 9: Update from the Board's Access to Care Committee

Lilia Larin, Board Secretary, provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Board Member Yogita Thakur voiced that there are three other follow up things to consider: (1) how the data correlates to pass rates; (2) what path did these students who took the RDA test take – did they do a program or did they learn a job; and (3) are the students native English speakers. She noted that once the Committee knows the answers to these follow up items, the Committee would be able to tailor its recommendations further, correlate these responses, and with some statistical significance, test certain things further.

Dr. Montez verbalized the Committee is trying to collect information at this point and as the new pathway rolls out for the RDA, this will give the Committee different avenues and data collection to continue diving deeper and working with the parameters of the data the Board is allowed to collect and track.

Chair Miyasaki disclosed that it was nice to see the information in the data on how the test takers rated the Candidate Information Bulletin and that they found that the brochure was very valuable to them. She commended Board staff and the Access to Care Committee on working on clarifying the information in the candidate bulletin.

Chair Miyasaki requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 10: Update on Registered Dental Assistant and Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions Educational Programs and Courses Application Approvals

Ms. Parks provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Chair Miyasaki requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 11: Update on Dental Assisting Licensing Statistics

Ms. Parks provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Chair Miyasaki requested public comment on this item. The Council received public comment.

Dr. Patil noted the data available in the report on the ratio of registered dental assistants to dentists practicing in California and asked if there is data available for orthodontic assistant permit holders compared to orthodontists in California. Dr. Montez responded that it is something that Board staff can look into and potentially bring back to the Council. She reminded the public that this chart is merely address of record and not necessarily representative of where the licensees work. Dr. Montez added that if the Council chooses, Board staff could look into this.

Agenda Item 12: Adjournment

Chair Miyasaki adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.