

DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

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**DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
MEETING MINUTES
August 14, 2025**

Pursuant to Government Code section 11123.2, the Dental Board of California (Board) met by teleconference/WebEx Events on August 14, 2025, with the following location available for Board and public member participation:

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

Board Members Present:

Steven Chan, DDS, President item listed on the agenda.
Alan Felsenfeld, MA, DDS, Vice President
Lilia Larin, DDS, Secretary
Kevin R. Cheng, JD, Public Member
Robert P. David, Public Member
John Dierking, JD, Public Member
Joni Forge, DDS (remote participant)
Angelita Medina, MHS, Public Member
Rosalinda Olague, PhD(c), RDA
Yogita Thakur, DDS, MS
James Yu, DDS, MS

Staff Present:

Christy Bell, Interim Executive Officer
Ryan Blonien, Enforcement Chief
Jodi Ortiz, Chief of Licensing and Examination Division
Paige Ragali, Chief of Administration and Compliance
Tina Vallery, Chief of License and Program Compliance and Dental Assisting
Jessica Olney, Anesthesia Unit Manager
Wilbert Rumbaoa, Administrative Services Unit Manager
Brant Nelson, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist
Paul Corbin, Investigator
Jerry Fuhrman, Investigator
Ashley Grey, Discipline Coordinator
Mirela Taran, Administrative Analyst
Joseph Tippins, Investigator
Judie Bucciarelli, Staff Services Manager I, Specialist (Retired Annuitant), Board and Bureau Relations, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)

Dental Board of California
August 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Ann Fisher, Facilitator and Strategic Planner, Strategic Organizational Leadership and Individual Development (SOLID), DCA
Kristy Schieldge, Regulations Counsel, Attorney IV, Legal Affairs Division, DCA
Cesar Victoria, Television Specialist, Office of Public Affairs, DCA
Tara Welch, Board Counsel, Attorney IV, Legal Affairs Division, DCA

10:30 a.m., Thursday, August 14, 2025

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

The Board President, Dr. Steven Chan, called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Board Member Joni Forge, DDS, participated remotely and confirmed there were no individuals 18 years of age or older present in the room at her remote location in compliance with Government Code section 11123.2, subdivision (j)(4).

The Board Secretary, Dr. Lilia Larin, called the roll; 11 Board Members were present, and a quorum was established.

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

President Chan called for public comment on items not on the agenda. The Board received the following public comments.

Tooka Zokaie, representing with the California Dental Association (CDA), recognized Dr. Bruce Witcher, who tragically passed away, and affirmed how much he has impacted everyone and verbalized that the legacy that this Board will continue to have been based so much on the work that he did.

Ana Maria Quintana, Councilwoman for the City of Bell, thanked the Board in advance for voting to put the agenda item on foreign dental schools at the upcoming November meeting. She noted that they have been working on the subject matter for a while now and that the two foreign dental schools that were previously approved by the Board, State University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae Testemitanu” of the Republic of Moldova (SUMP) and De La Salle University School of Dentistry, became a pipeline where dental practitioners were allowed to come to the state of California and practice should they pass the required exams. Ms. Quintana stated that the bill is listed now for commentary, and it will be discussed in greater depth in November. She encouraged everyone to familiarize themselves and recognize that the lack of access to dental care in California communities is very much alive. Ms. Quintana added that the program came to an end in 2019, and to this date, they still have to solidify and create another program to address needs.

Caliph Assagai, California Association of Orthodontists representative, thanked the Board for their work with them over the last few months on addressing their issues with regard to ultrasonic scaling as resulting from new language in Senate Bill (SB) 1453 [(Ashby, Chapter 483, Statutes of 2024)]. He noted that they were able to meet with the Interim Executive Officer and Board staff to get all of their questions answered about the

requirement. He concluded that they look forward to working with the Board in the future on other issues.

Juanita Chávez commented that she agrees with Ms. Quintana's comments.

Due to technical difficulties, Dolores Huerta submitted written comment after the meeting, which has been added to the meeting materials.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion and Possible Action on May 14-15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Member Robert David requested an amendment to the meeting minutes on page 2, Agenda Item 3, fourth paragraph, to strike the text "David (for February 7th only)" in the "Nays" section and replace it with "None." Additionally, to strike the text "None" in the "Abstentions" section and replace it with "David".

Vice President Alan Felsenfeld requested an amendment to the meeting minutes on page 8, Agenda Item 15, first paragraph, to strike the text "p.m." and replace it with "a.m."

Motion/Second/Call the Question (M/S/C) (Yu/Medina) to approve the May 14-15, 2025 meeting minutes as corrected.

President Chan requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Chan called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Larin took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Felsenfeld, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Yu.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Dierking.

Absent: Forge.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 4: Board President Report

President Chan reported the unexpected and sudden passing of Dr. Bruce Witcher, a former Board Member and President of the Board. Board Members, past and present, and the entire crew of the Board who worked with Dr. Witcher, shared in their grief with Dr. Witcher's family. President Chan welcomed new Board Member John Dierking, who briefly introduced himself. President Chan announced Governor Newsom's recent appointment of Dr. Jaskiran Grewal to the Board. He voiced that he, alongside Vice President Felsenfeld, have had the benefit of weekly briefings with Interim Executive Officer Christy Bell. President Chan noted that on June 17, he attended, by Zoom, an all

DCA Board Leadership meeting where they gave briefings from all the different health care boards and bureaus. Regarding the Executive Officer search, he reported that the authority was delegated to the Executive Committee and that the Board has had an ongoing receipt of applications through DCA to the end of June. He added that the Board has extended its outreach for notice of the recruitment beyond DCA's notices through the American Association of Dental Boards across the country. President Chan shared that 37 to 38 applicants had been preliminarily assessed, and the Executive Committee is scheduled to have preliminary screening interviews on August 21. He communicated that on July 19, Ms. Bell and he offered testimony at the Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC) with former Dental Board Member Joanne Pacheco.

President Chan verbalized the establishment of two committees and appointments. The first one, the Fictitious Name Permits and Additional Office Permit Committee, will review all relevant statutes and regulations related to fictitious name and additional office permits and possibly propose amendments for legislation for clarity and purpose. He noted that he has appointed Board Member Yogita Thakur as Chair and Board Member James Yu as the secondary member of that committee. The second committee, the Dental School Approval Committee, was also created to review all statutory and regulatory elements for dental school requirements. He noted that he has appointed Board Member Kevin Cheng as Chair and Board Member Forge as the secondary member of the committee.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 5: Interim Executive Officer Report

Christy Bell reported that the Board is currently in the recruitment process for five vacant positions, which are all at various stages of the recruitment process. She stated that the return to office mandate that was set to go into effect July 1, 2025, has been delayed to July 1, 2026, and that Board staff are continuing their current telework schedules. Regarding the current strategic planning process, Ms. Bell noted that the external stakeholder survey closed on June 23, 2025, and that a total of 996 responses were received. Board members and Board management were interviewed and a survey went out to all staff; totaling 56 responses. She expressed that SOLID is currently drafting the environmental scan, which consists of summaries of individual responses to the questions. The Board Members should expect to receive this report mid-October before the November 5, 2025 strategic planning session. New staff members were introduced to the Board.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 6: Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on Proposed Regulations Agenda Item 6.a.i.: Update on Rulemaking to Amend California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Section 1005 Regarding Minimum Standards for Infection Control

Dental Board of California
August 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Brant Nelson provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. The Board received public comment.

Leslie Canham, certified dental assistant, registered dental assistant (RDA), certified in dental infection prevention and control, and authorized by the federal government as an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) outreach trainer, commented that on page 74 of the May 14-15, 2025 Board meeting materials, 8e, second to the last paragraph on the page states that non-critical surfaces and patient care items “shall” be cleaned and disinfected after every use with a registered hospital grade low-level disinfectant. Her concern was whether that means that you cannot use an intermediate level disinfectant and did that mean you have to buy two different products. She noted that it is going to be very confusing to the end user; many disinfectants that are used in dental practices today are intermediate level disinfectants. With the words “shall be” low level, she stated that is instructing dental practices to purchase an additional product that meets that low level, which is inferior to an intermediate level disinfectant. Ms. Canham expressed that she would like to add that to the notes so that it states “at minimum” an intermediate level disinfectant.

Mr. Nelson commented that the text has been approved and [the Board and DHBC] have reached consensus and emphasized the important fact that as we develop the text and these regulations, there will be an opportunity to insert and change things as we deem appropriate. He added that there will be a period of time when the language will come back, and we will have to look at it if there are lots of comments and we decide to do substantive changes.

Tara Welch clarified that the text is written, and once the rulemaking file is drafted and submitted, it will go through the public comment process. The Board will make an announcement about the 45-day public comment period. At that point, the Board will welcome public comments on potential changes to the text.

Agenda Item 6.a.ii.: Discussion and Possible Action to Reconsider Previously Approved Text, and to Consider Initiation of a Rulemaking to Amend CCR, Title 16, Sections 1021, 1028, 1028.4, 1028.5, 1030, and 1035, and Repeal Sections 1032, 1032.1, 1032.2, 1032.3, 1032.4, 1032.5, 1032.6, 1032.7, 1032.8, 1032.9, 1032.10, 1033.1, 1034, and 1036.01 Regarding Applications for Dentist Licensure and Fees
Mr. Nelson provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Kristy Schieldge apologized for bringing this back again and stated that there were some mistakes that were caught when the regulations package was undergoing internal departmental review. Therefore, staff and Regulations Counsel recommended bringing these back to clean up those mistakes.

(M/S/C) (Larin/Felsenfeld) to rescind the Board's prior February 6-7, 2025 motion approving prior text for this item, and instead approve the proposed regulatory text in Attachment 1 including the repeal of the forms incorporated by reference in Attachments 2 through 6. I further direct staff to submit the text to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency for review. If no adverse comments are received, authorize the Interim Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any non-substantive changes to the text and the package, and set the matter for a hearing if requested. If after the 45-day public comment period, no adverse comments are received, and no public hearing is requested, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to complete the rulemaking, and adopt the proposed regulations as noticed for CCR, title 16, for amendments to sections 1021, 1028, 1028.4, 1028.5, 1030, and 1035, and for the repeal of sections 1032, 1032.1, 1032.2, 1032.3, 1032.4, 1032.5, 1032.6, 1032.7, 1032.8, 1032.9, 1032.10, 1033.1, 1034, and 1036.01.

President Chan requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Chan called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Larin took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Yu.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 7: Report on Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Activities, which may include updates on DCA's Administrative Services, Human Resources, Enforcement, Information Technology, Communications and Outreach, as well as Legislative, Regulatory, and Policy Matters

Judie Bucciarelli provided a departmental update, which included the following.

Ms. Bucciarelli expressed that in January, Governor Newsom released his proposed 2025-26 State budget, which included a proposal to split DCA's oversight Agency, the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency into two state agencies – the California Housing and Homelessness Agency and the Business and Consumer Services Agency. After public hearings and review by the Little Hoover Commission and the Legislature, the Governor's Reorganization Plan was enacted on July 5, 2025. The new Business and Consumer Services Agency will be responsible for consumer affairs, licensing, and enforcement, and DCA would be among the eight departments in this new agency. The two new agencies will officially become operative on July 1, 2026. Ms.

Bucciarelli voiced that DCA is participating in multiple Agency workgroups on the logistics required to transition to the new agency and will continue to keep board and bureau leadership apprised throughout the year ahead. Additionally, on June 9, 2025, the Department of Finance (DOF) issued guidance for out-of-state travel in the upcoming fiscal year. Travel outside of California will be limited to essential travel that is required to conduct state business. She stated that DCA distributed a memo to all boards and bureaus on June 16, 2025 detailing the criteria for mission critical travel including but not limited to enforcement actions, revenue collection, statutory requirements, auditing, and litigation.

Ms. Bucciarelli reminded Board Members and staff of their collective responsibility to always work to minimize the cost to the State through responsible travel planning and scheduling. She added that DCA is reminding members and staff to evaluate if a rental car is always necessary versus ride-sharing services. Furthermore, Ms. Bucciarelli conveyed that the annual report is one of DCA's biggest projects. Staff work on this report throughout the year gathering information and statistical data in order to compile a comprehensive report about DCA's actions to submit to the Legislature. On behalf of the Director, she thanked Board staff for their efforts and contributions.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

At 12:00 p.m., the Board recessed for a break.

At 12:45 p.m., the Board reconvened.

Agenda Item 8: Budget Report

Wilbert Rumbaoa provided a report on the Board's budget for fiscal year (FY) ending in 2024-2025 and beginning of 2025-2026. Mr. Rumbaoa conveyed that unfortunately the Board did not get the books cleared out for FY 24-25, but the projected amount that it has spent for 24-25 is the appropriation of \$19.8 million. Of that amount, \$10.3 million was spent for personnel services, and \$8.5 was for operating equipment expenses. With that, the Board is reverting approximately \$1.7 million for FY 24-25. Additionally, Mr. Rumbaoa expressed that the Board loan of \$5 million was repaid as of June 30, 2025, and the approximate interest earned on that is \$160,000. Regarding revenues, the Board collected approximately \$20.7 million in revenues, with \$3.7 million being from initial licensing and \$15.1 from license renewals. For FY 25-26, the Budget Act was released on July 1, 2025, and the Board's budget for 25-26 is \$20.6 million and the projected revenue is \$19.082 million.

Secretary Larin asked whether they are going to hold off on the interest until the end of the year. Mr. Rumbaoa responded that the FY end was June 30, and therefore he does not have all the reports from DCA at this time. He noted that Board staff provided an estimate, but it was already repaid with interest.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 9: Dental Assisting Council Meeting Report

The Dental Assisting Council (DAC) Chair, De'Andra Epps-Robbins, provided a verbal report on the August 14, 2025 DAC meeting. Ms. Epps-Robbins advised the Board regarding DAC discussion of DAC meeting agenda items.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 10: Licensing, Certifications, Permits, and Examinations

Agenda Item 10.a.: Update on Dental Licensure and Permit Statistics

Jodi Ortiz provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 10.b.: Report on Commission on Dental Competency Assessment, Western Regional Examining Board, and Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CDCA-WREB-CITA)

Dr. Guy Champaine, Senior Advisor to CDCA-WREB-CITA, provided a verbal report on their activities.

Regarding the exam statistics, Secretary Larin inquired whether that is after the first exam or repeats. Dr. Champaine responded the pass rates he gave are initial pass rates and added that for the ultimate pass rate, about half to one and a half percent of candidates will not be successful after a second attempt. Secretary Larin asked whether American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. (ADEX) will continue to be the name of the exam. Dr. Champaine responded that the name of the examination remains the same as the ADEX exam.

Board Member John Dierking expressed that this speaks to the evolving exam and professional entry requirements in the interest of consumer protection.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 11.a.: Enforcement - Review of Statistics and Trends

Ryan Blonien provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

Board Member David asked why any investigations would take two to three or years. Mr. Blonien responded that several of the reasons could include waiting on a coroner report and death certificates, interviews with people involved, and attorneys not

scheduling as conveniently as Board staff would like. At times, cases have voluminous documentation with depositions that have to be reviewed by experts, which takes time.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. The Board received public comment.

Shari Becker asked for clarification on page 135 of the Board meeting materials referring to the complaint cases received. Regarding the 73 RDA complaints received, she asked what some of those complaints might have been and also what constitutes “Other”. Mr. Blonien responded that RDA complaints typically are working out of scope or exceeding their authority and that “Other” could be regarding a fictitious name permit, the wrong identified person, and somebody who does not have a license that the complaint is opened up on.

Agenda Item 12: Substance Use Awareness

Agenda Item 12.a.: Diversion Program Report and Statistics

Ms. Bell provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. Ms. Bell noted that the next quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2025, and that as of January 1, 2025, Premier Health Group has assumed the administration of the Diversion Program.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 13: Anesthesia and Sedation

Agenda Item 13.a.: General Anesthesia and Sedation Permits: Inspections and Evaluations Statistics

Jessica Olney provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 13.b.: Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendation from the Board's Anesthesia Committee Regarding Renewal of Moderate Sedation Permit Following Failure of Onsite Inspections and Evaluations

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

Vice President Felsenfeld, Chair of the Anesthesia Committee, noted that he and President Chan looked at the evaluations for this individual and noted that in each case, there were two evaluators. In the first one, there were two evaluators, and in the repeat evaluation, there were two evaluators. Each of the evaluators wrote notes about why this individual did not do well in the management of medical emergencies during anesthesia and each had different notes. Vice President Felsenfeld stated that if the Board’s ultimate goal is to take care of the people of California and give them the best the Board can, this case is not an example of that.

(M/S/C) (Felsenfeld/David) to adopt the Committee recommendation to deny renewal of C.S.'s Moderate Sedation Permit; if C.S. seeks to apply for a new Moderate Sedation Permit, C.S. shall submit for prior Board approval and successfully complete, prior to applying for a new Moderate Sedation Permit, remedial education of 24 hours in the administration of moderate sedation including recognition and management of medical emergencies in the administration of moderate sedation to dental patients in an outpatient setting, and submit to and pass an onsite inspection and evaluation.

President Chan requested public comment before the Board acted on the motion. There were no public comments made on the motion.

President Chan called for the vote on the motion. Secretary Larin took a roll call vote on the motion.

Ayes: Chan, Cheng, David, Dierking, Felsenfeld, Forge, Larin, Medina, Olague, Thakur, Yu.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 14: Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on Legislation Impacting the Board, DCA, and/or the Dental Profession

Agenda Item 14.a.: 2025 Tentative Legislative Calendar – Information Only

Mr. Nelson provided an overview of the 2025 Tentative Legislative Calendar, which is available in the meeting materials.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. The Board received public comment.

Ms. Quintana conveyed to the Board that they are still working on Assembly Bill (AB) 966 [(Carrillo, 2025)] and asked for direction from the Board as to who they can work with directly in order to advance and get insight on some of the provisions on the bill. She added that per the Board's meeting materials, it was noted that a letter was sent to the author highlighting some of the issues or concerns with implementation. Therefore, having a discussion in person and having the stakeholders fully involved, which includes the Board, would be of great use so that they can together find a solution on how to address the lack of dental care in California communities.

Agenda Item 14.b.: Legislation of Interest

Mr. Nelson provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. and went

over the fifteen bills, AB 485, AB 489, AB 667, AB 742, AB 873, AB 876, AB 966, AB 1130, AB 1307, AB 350, SB 351, SB 470, SB 641, SB 744, and SB 861.

AB 742

Ms. Bell noted the Board's position letter on this bill was sent in August.

AB 876

Ms. Welch noted that one of the legislative committee analyses indicates that the Osteopathic Medical Board is opposed to this bill, and this bill appears to expand the scope of nurse anesthetist practice to authorize nurse anesthetists to select and implement the modality of anesthesia administered to patients. She added that there may also be concern as to how this bill operates with Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 4170, subdivision (a), that prohibits drugs dispensed in a prescribers' office that are furnished by a nurse.

Board Member David posed a question to the Board Members and particularly the practitioners whether there is adequate access to dental anesthesia in California.

Board Vice President Felsenfeld conveyed that nurse anesthetists are an integral part of providing anesthesia at UCLA Medical Center and that they would like to be able to do it out in dental offices. He expressed that maybe this bill will give them the ability to come to a dental office being ordered by a dentist who does not necessarily have an anesthesia permit, which might in fact provide additional access.

Board Member Dierking asked whether the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) has taken a position on this bill. Ms. Welch responded that the last legislative committee analysis does not indicate that BRN has taken a position on this bill. She noted there were only two associations in support and quite a lot of opposition, including the California Medical Association, California Podiatric Medical Association, and the California Radiologic Society.

AB 966

Secretary Larin stated that back in the early 1970s, for 40 years, foreign dental graduates were accepted for examination in California, including herself and other members on the Board. She added that there was no oversight of the schools, and that all an applicant had to do was take the restorative technique exam, the national boards, and the state board. She added that she has not seen a lot of complaints towards graduates of international programs. She stated that in medicine, one in four physicians is a graduate of an international school; there are 1,800 medical schools approved globally. She said there is an access to care issue in California, and this bill is asking to extend Board approval until CODA accreditation is denied. She stated she voted for CODA to replace the Board to approve dental schools with the knowledge that CODA accreditation would only take three of four years, but it has been close to 10 years, and only two foreign dental schools have been CODA accredited. She would like to see that the two schools that are Board approved continue until 2030. She stated there is a

history of foreign graduates in California, and they have been here for many years, serving the population, addressing access to care, working in communities and federal qualified clinics, and taking Denti-Cal where most other national dental graduates do not. She stated that people think just having a dental assistant speak Spanish is enough, but it is not. She would rather have a patient go to the dentist than not go at all because they do not understand the dentist speaking to them. She stated 40% of the California population is Latino, but there is less than 10% of Spanish speaking dentists.

Ms. Bell indicated that the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) requirement is actually within a different statute. Therefore, if that is something that is a concern, this would become a much broader issue that would have to be tackled, and the Board would have to take a look at other relevant statutes to see how the Board would need to address it.

Board Member David encouraged Board staff to engage with the author.

AB 1307

Secretary Larin inquired if they are going to be supervised by another dentist. Ms. Bell responded that the dentists would only be employed at the federally qualified health centers, which she believes those are supervised dentists.

Board Member Thakur clarified that dentists who work at community health centers are not necessarily supervised and that they work under their own licensure.

Ms. Welch indicated that the bill is in the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee, and she hoped the representative of the bill, Arnoldo Torres, could shed some light on why the author pulled the bill. She stated Board staff worked really hard to get the bill to a good place where it would not tax the Board's resources, and provide consumer protection through additional requirements. She noted there is no supervision requirement in the bill because the dentists would already be licensed in Mexico and have to meet significant hurdles in practice to meet the bill's requirements. She urged the Board to consider a support position. She stated that for the bill to continue moving, it would have to get out of the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee, likely by January 2026. To do that, the bill likely would have to be amended, but Board staff had not heard anything about additional amendments. She reiterated Board staff worked closely with stakeholders to get the bill to a good place, but it was held up.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. The Board received public comment.

Francisco Leal conveyed to the Board that if AB 966 becomes law, it will allow the two schools that this Board previously approved, by way of an exhaustive evaluation process, to continue admitting, training, and educating American students so that they can graduate from these schools while the schools go through the CODA accreditation

process. He voiced that the reason for that is because they had been informed that CODA was a two to three year process, which is not true. Therefore, the prior legislation essentially cut off this pipeline because it was impossible for the schools to complete CODA in that minimal time frame. He noted the bill essentially allows the schools to apply through CODA and continue with the pipeline. Mr. Leal affirmed that this is a huge access to care issue and voiced that they have identified about 1,000, if not more, students who graduated from both schools in which many are working in poor communities taking dental care aid. He expressed that their goal is to ensure that pipeline continues, which is the essence of this bill. Mr. Leal emphasized that this problem is significant and is going to become even more onerous with the so-called big, beautiful bill that is going to further undermine the ability for the poor to get medical care.

Agenda Item 15: 2026 Meeting Dates

Ms. Bell led the discussion on the selection of Board meeting dates for 2026.

Ms. Bell proposed the following meeting dates for 2026: f

- February 5-6, 2026
- May 12-13, 2024; May 13-14, 2026
- August 13-14, 2026
- November 5-6, 2026

Board Member Yu suggested that for the May 2026 Board meeting, the Board meet on May 13-14 so that in would fall in line with CDA Presents.

Secretary Larin stated that she agrees with Board Member Yu.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. The Board received public comment.

Ms. Zokaie voiced that for the convention with the CDA Presents, she would recommend the May 2026 Board meeting to take place on May 12-13, so that way there is availability for individuals not to have overlap with the conference so that they can attend the meeting and have availability during the day.

Agenda Item 16: Public Comment on Future Agenda Items

President Chan requested public comment on this item. The Board received public comment.

Ms. Quintana, Councilwoman for the City of Bell, suggested that at the next Board meeting, the Board have a more extensive discussion on foreign trained dentist. She voiced Secretary Larin shared information on the history of foreign trained dentists and that Board Member David suggested that the Board should have a greater understanding and have staff involvement. Ms. Quintana stated that her

recommendation is that the Board allot an item for discussion so that the entire Board, especially since there are new Board members, can be on the same page and have a full and robust understanding of the history of these schools. She voiced that they will be presenting and will reach out personally to folks who are involved on AB 1307, as that involves foreign trained dentists.

Mr. Leal conveyed that he is not sure there is any material or any studies, either through CDA or through the Board, that really highlights the problem of access to care and the difficulties in providing care for undeserved communities. He believes that it is a problem and an issue that the Board at times has indicated to other members that it is not within their purview. He voiced that he firmly believes that this issue of access to dental care to the poor communities in California is squarely within the Board's purview and as a as a member of the public would like to see more emphasis and studies in connection with that for future agenda items.

Board Member David communicated that at the last Board meeting, he suggested to include at a future Board meeting statistics on common threads on disciplined licensees. He inquired whether Board staff could be directed to bring the Board data and information on that at the next Board meeting. Ms. Bell responded that the Board does not collect discipline based on where a dentist went to school and that it would require Board staff to look at every complaint and look up the educational route that was submitted for licensure. As the Board receives over 5,000 complaints a year, it is not something that is easy to extract. Board Member David noted that he was referring to licensees who receive discipline. Ms. Bell responded that Board staff will look into what it would entail to pull that data.

Agenda Item 17: Recess Open Session

President Chan recessed Open Session at 2:27 p.m.

Agenda Item 18: Convene Closed Session

At 2:42 p.m., the Board convened Closed Session

Agenda Item 19: Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(c)(3), the Board will Meet in Closed Session to Deliberate and Vote on Disciplinary Matters, Including Stipulations and Proposed Decisions

The Board convened in Closed Session to discuss disciplinary matters.

Agenda Item 20: Adjourn Closed Session

President Chan adjourned Closed Session at 3:22 p.m.

Agenda Item 21: Reconvene Open Session

President Chan reconvened Open Session at 3:31 p.m.

Agenda Item 22: Board President's Report on Closed Session Items

President Chan provided a verbal report regarding Closed Session items. He reported that the Board had two cases of disciplinary actions and voted to reject the stipulated settlements and proposed counter offers on each of them.

President Chan requested public comment on this item. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 23: Adjournment

President Chan adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.