

**APPROVED**

**BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
MINUTES OF REGULATORY-LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 9, 2004  
Norfolk Marriot  
235 East Main Street  
Norfolk, Virginia**

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- CALL TO ORDER:** A meeting of the Virginia Board of Dentistry's Regulatory – Legislative Committee was called to order at 1:07 p.m.
- PRESIDING:** Michael Link, DDS., Chairperson
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Millard Stith, Jr.  
Jacqueline Pace, RDH  
Edward Snyder, DDS  
James Watkins, DDS  
Glenn Young, DDS
- BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None
- STAFF PRESENT:** Sandra K. Reen, Executive Director  
Howard Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Elaine Yeatts, Sr. Policy Analyst
- QUORUM:** With all members present, a quorum was established.
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** **Cathy Berard** spoke on behalf of the Virginia Dental Hygienists Association urging the Board to proceed cautiously on allowing expanded duties for dental assistants. She advised that the professional organizations, Virginia Dental Hygienists Association, Virginia Dental Association and Virginia Dental Assistants Association, should address such manpower issues.
- Marty Roberson** urged the Board to remove supra-gingival scaling from consideration as a duty that might be delegated to a dental assistant.
- Mark Crabtree** advised the Board that SB 187 which alleges that amalgams are a health hazard will be before the 2005 General Assembly. He urged the Board to oppose this legislation.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** On a properly seconded motion by Mr. Stith, the Committee approved the Minutes of the Regulatory-Legislative

Committee Meeting of July 29, 2004.

**COMMITTEE  
DISCUSSION**

**Dental Assistants:** Ms. Reen reviewed the information obtained on the education programs for dental assistants offered in Virginia. Dr. Link explained that the Board was looking into expanded duties for dental assistants in response to a petition for rulemaking from several dentists in a rural part of the state and a recommendation advanced by the Dental Workforce Task Force. Ms. Yeats advised that the Board will need to address public safety concerns such as those raised in public comment before allowing unlicensed assistants to perform duties currently restricted to licensees. Dr. Watkins advised that the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) is addressing the education standards that would need to be met to qualify for certification to perform expanded duties.

There was a general discussion about omitting consideration of supra-gingival scaling and emphasizing packing and carving amalgams as expanded duties.

The Committee directed Ms. Reen to get reports from Kansas and Vermont on implementation of expanded duties by dental assistants. The reports should include information on (a) why expanded duties for dental assistants was implemented, (b) the types of dental assistants recognized, (c) a comparison of duties that might be performed by each type of dental assistant and by dental hygienists, (d) the training requirements a dental assistant must meet to perform expanded duties, (e) the source for the training, and, (f) the legal mechanism for addressing credentials and for oversight/discipline of dental assistants performing expanded duties.

Ms. Reen advised that the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) has offered to poll states to identify anyone else working in this area. The Committee asked Ms. Reen to accept the offer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With all business concluded, the Committee adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

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Date

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Date