

UNAPPROVED

**BOARD OF DENTISTRY
MINUTES OF REGULATORY--LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Regulatory Advisory Panel Discussion on the
Education and Practice of Dental Assistants I & II**

January 5, 2017

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the Regulatory-Legislative Committee of the Board of Dentistry and the Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) was called to order on January 5, 2017 at 9:07 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Maryland Drive, Suite 201, Board Room 4; Henrico, Virginia.

PRESIDING: Bruce S. Wyman, D.M.D., Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: John M. Alexander, D.D.S.
Tonya A. Parris-Wilkins, D.D.S.
Tammy C. Ridout, R.D.H

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Augustus A. Petticolas, Jr., D.D.S.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM: With four members of the committee present, a quorum was established.

STAFF PRESENT: Sandra K. Reen, Executive Director
Kelley W. Palmatier, Deputy Executive Director
Christine M. Houchens, Licensing Manager

ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT: Lori Turner, CDA - VCU School of Dentistry
Cheryl Evans, CDA, BSHA - Fortis College
Angela Smith - J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Misty Mesimer, RDH - Germanna Community College
Richard Taliaferro, D.D.S. - Past-President, Virginia Dental Association
Trish MacDougall, RDH - President, Virginia Dental Hygiene Association
Vickie Brett - ECPI University
Michelle Green-Wright, RN - Virginia Dept. of Education

PANEL MEMBERS ABSENT: Tina Bailey, CDA - Virginia Dental Assistants Association

OTHERS PRESENT: Elaine Yeatts, DHP Policy Analyst

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE REVISIONS TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DENTAL ASSISTANT II REGISTRATION: Dr. Wyman opened the meeting, indicating the RAP is asked to address the regulatory changes needed to establish competency based education requirements for Dental Assistants II (DAII). He then asked each member of the panel to state their recommendations for revising the requirements.

Ms. Mesimer recommended that the DAI curriculum be changed to competency based requirements. She also recommended revising the regulations for Dental Assistants I to require certification in Infection Control in addition to the requirement for radiation certification. She requested that the Board provide more details on the content for the didactic courses on "dental anatomy" and "operative dentistry" to specify the topics that must be covered so there is consistency across programs.

Ms. Smith recommended revising the regulations to include minimum education standards for Dental Assistants I. She agreed with changing to a competency based curriculum and recommended that the Board define who can teach the DAI programs.

Ms. Evans noted that she agrees with all of the recommendations stated by Ms. Smith and Ms. Mesimer. She added that schools need to know the Board's required credentials for those who can teach the DAI program. She also noted that she supports a competency based curriculum.

Ms. Turner said the regulations should be revised to require Dental Assistants I to hold the Certified Dental Assisting credential available through the Dental Assisting National Board. She recommended that Dental Assistants II be required to have training in all the delegable procedures. She also encouraged that the clinical experience be overseen by someone other than an employer and that it should be completed at the school rather than an employer's dental office.

Dr. Taliaferro stated he supports a competency based curriculum and recommended having independent clinical examinations for each procedure, especially composites and amalgams.

Ms. MacDougall agreed with all the recommendations of the previous speakers.

Mrs. Green-Wright supported the recommendations for a competency based curriculum and added that students completing the dental assisting programs offered through the Department of Education could feed into the programs offered by community colleges for career advancement. She offered assistance in developing a competency based curriculum.

Ms. Brett also agreed with changing to a competency based curriculum, noting this is essential. She said she is concerned about the limited availability of DAI programs and questioned whether they should be restricted to schools with CODA accredited

programs.

Dr. Wyman questioned if there is a need for DAsII and if changing the regulations will lead to more training programs. He then said a universal approach to revising the regulations is needed and facilitated a discussion of the recommendations. There was general agreement that:

- There are dentists and dental assistants who have reported interest in having a DAII program in their area.
- The requirement that DAII programs be offered by an educational institution that maintains a CODA accredited dental assisting, dental hygiene or dental program should be maintained.
- The didactic dental anatomy and operative dentistry coursework should be two courses and the content of each course should be specified for uniformity across programs.
- Requirements to teach DAII programs should be addressed in regulation. Instructors should be at or above the DAII level and have appropriate experience.
- The clinical experience component of the program should be supervised by a dentist who has successfully completed a calibration exercise.
- All the delegable duties should be taught to every enrolled student.
- Competence in each delegable duty should be established by completing a clinical examination.
- There is concern about the lack of uniformity across programs when a dentist who employs a student also supervises and evaluates clinical competence.
- Education requirements for DAsI should be established. The need for training in infection control was stressed and DANB was identified as the source for this training. There was support for requiring that CDA certification by DANB be obtained over a specified period of time so that all DAsI would be required to hold the credential. Concerns about the need for and cost of such a requirement were raised. The possibility of using work force development grants for training current DAsI was noted.
- Requirements for clinical experience settings DAsII should be addressed for consistency across programs. Options identified included not for profit settings, clinics that operate in conjunction with the CODA accredited program, and a hybrid program for completion at the school and in dental offices.
- The Board could elect to undertake program accreditation and set the standards to assure consistency across programs.
- Objective competency assessment tools should be established for consistency across programs.

Dr. Wyman asked Ms. Reen to review the current regulations for the DAII program to identify the provisions where changes are recommended. During this review these additional items were also generally agreed to:

- The homework provision for laboratory training should be deleted. All training should be completed in the program's laboratory.
- Laboratory training should be mannequin based.
- The number of successful procedures required for the laboratory training in amalgam restorations and in composite resin restorations should be set for each class of restoration, with 12 required for Class I, 12 required for Class II, 5 required for Class III, 5 required for Class 4 and 5 required for Class V.
- The number of successful procedures for final impressions should be 4 and for the use non-epinephrine should be 2.
- The number of successful procedures required for the laboratory training in final cementation of crowns should be 5 and in final cementation of bridges should be 2.
- The number of hours for clinical experience should be reduced to a total of 120 hours and a required number of successful procedures should be set for each procedure.
- Strike the requirement for a practical examination at the conclusion of each module of laboratory training.

Ms. Reen said all the recommendations made today will be presented to the Regulatory-Legislative Committee for discussion. She said the ones addressing the DAII program requirements will be included in a discussion draft of the regulations which she will send to all the panel members for review in advance of the next meeting of the Committee. She invited their comments on the draft for the Committee's consideration.

NEXT MEETING: TBD

ADJOURNMENT: With all business concluded, Dr. Wyman thanked everyone for their contributions and adjourned the meeting at 12:12 pm.

Bruce S. Wyman, D.M.D. Chair

Sandra K. Reen, Executive Director

Date

Date