

APPROVED

**BOARD OF DENTISTRY
MINUTES OF EXAMINATION COMMITTEE and
CLINICAL EXAM ADVISORY PANEL
FEBRUARY 1, 2013**

TIME AND PLACE: The Examination Committee convened on February 1, 2013, at 9:40 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2nd Floor Conference Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233.

PRESIDING: Martha C. Cutright, D.D.S.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James D. Watkins, D.D.S.
Tammy K. Swecker, R.D.H.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

**OTHER BOARD
MEMBERS PRESENT:** Hebert R. Boyd, D.D.S.

**CLINICAL EXAM
ADVISORY PANEL:** Mark Crabtree, D.D.S., Virginia Dental Association
Marge Green, R.D.H., Virginia Dental Hygienists Association
Charles Hackett, Jr., D.D.S., Old Dominion Dental Society
Paul Wiley, D.D.S., VCU School of Dentistry

**PANEL MEMBER
ABSENT:** Kathleen White, Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA)

STAFF PRESENT: Sandra K. Reen, Executive Director, Board of Dentistry
Huong Vu, Operations Manager

**ESTABLISHMENT OF
QUORUM:** All members of the Committee were present.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES:** Dr. Cutright asked if the Committee members had reviewed the September 9, 2011 minutes. No changes or corrections were made. Dr. Watkins moved to accept the September 9, 2011 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

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**REVIEW OF
MATERIALS FROM
CALIFORNIA:**

Dr. Cutright asked all to introduce themselves and to state which organization they represent and their preliminary thoughts on the California portfolio exam. After introductions, Dr. Cutright stated that the goal of this meeting is to identify and discuss any issues related to developing a portfolio exam with the VCU School of Dentistry, modeled on the California exam.

Ms. Reen noted that the Code of Virginia would not need to be amended to undertake a portfolio exam, but regulatory action might be needed.

Ms. Green asked if the California Board plans to offer this exam to dental hygienists. Ms. Reen replied no. Ms. Green asked to incorporate a dental hygiene portfolio exam in the initiative and noted that there are six (6) accredited dental hygiene programs in Virginia.

Dr. Crabtree commented that the group needs to think about the value of having independent third party assessments and of assuring the anonymity of candidates in any exam format. He added that another dental school will be opening in Virginia at Bluefield College, which will have 10 chairs and will partner with dental practices to provide educational opportunities.

Ms. Reen noted that she was unsuccessful in getting a contact person at Bluefield College to invite participation on the advisory panel. She went on to state that the California Board has agreed to share their model because of their interest in having use of the model expand to allow for the mobility of candidates.

Dr. Crabtree asked if the Hammond and Buckendahl and the Ranney and Hambleton reports, referenced in the 2009 Comira report, could be obtained for the panel. He noted that the Hammond and Buckendahl report does not support the use of portfolio exams for dental licensure because the model does not provide an assessment of minimum skills that is administered independent of the training program. He added that the Ranney and Hambleton report identified several criteria for the success of a portfolio model, including administration by independent parties.

Dr. Watkins encouraged changing the standard for exams from establishing "minimal competency" to a more positive statement such as "proficiency."

Ms. Reen pointed out that the California model includes the

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participation of examiners from outside schools to strengthen the credibility of the process and ensure objectivity of ratings.

Ms. Reen went on to say that unlike the Virginia Board, the California Board approves dental schools and already has oversight. Dr. Wiley replied that he thinks the reference to approved schools is specific to the portfolio exam because all of the schools are CODA accredited. Dr. Watkins asked if the Board sends representatives to participate in the CODA site visits in Virginia. Ms. Reen replied that the Board does not have a policy requiring representation, but the invitations to participate are sent to board members. She added that three or four members have elected to participate. She also added that she checked California's web page, and Dr. Wiley's understanding about the relationship of the Board and the schools is correct.

Dr. Crabtree stated that the financial impact needs to be addressed and that an audit program would be needed. Dr. Watkins questioned whether the demand for the exam would be worth the expense and resources required. Ms. Swecker stated her concern is that the number of students who may elect to take the exam would be very limited due to lack of mobility. Dr. Crabtree added the concern of who determines the qualification of the students to take the exam.

Ms. Reen noted that the cost to take the California exam is \$350 versus the regional exams, which cost well over \$1000 plus patient expenses. She commented that it appears, based on the discussion thus far, that Virginia may need a different model because of the difference in scale between one dental school in Virginia versus six schools in California.

Dr. Cutright asked the panel members to give their advice on how the Board should proceed.

Dr. Wiley said that the School wants to develop a portfolio exam because students are assessed as they work on patients of record over a course of treatment whereas regional exams are a snapshot. He added that a portfolio exam would:

- reduce the disruptions associated with regional exams,
- reduce the costs to students, and
- have students working with faculty, so the exemption from licensure would definitely apply.

He noted that failure of a section of a regional exam in the first attempt is rarely an indicator of a lack of competence because with very few exceptions the section is passed on the second attempt.

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Dr. Crabtree commented that it is not clear how the California schools are going to be audited by the Board. He said this is a very important factor in deciding if a portfolio is workable in Virginia.

Ms. Reen noted that California has not implemented their exam at this time because its regulations are not in effect. She asked the panel members to state how they think the Board should proceed.

Dr. Crabtree stated that the VDA currently has no policy on portfolio exams. He said if the Board wants to go ahead with the portfolio exam, the Board needs to ensure candidate anonymity and a separation between the school and the Board in the administration of the exam. He said the Board needs a study specific to Virginia, so the place to start might be with a request for proposals.

Ms. Green stated that psychometric validity needs to be addressed, adherence to national standards is necessary, and she agrees a study specific to Virginia is needed. She suggested exploring a partnership between the school and the regional examining agencies.

Ms. Reen noted that Workforce data, which was collected with the 2012 renewals, shows that about 46% of dentists in Virginia completed dental school in Virginia. She said she will provide the survey results at the next meeting.

Dr. Watkins said the Board should consider the feasibility of a portfolio exam and suggested that a modified proposal be developed for discussion.

Dr. Wiley stated that portfolio exam is good for all, Board-school-public, with accepting risks. He added that VCU cannot replicate the clinical experiences required by California before the portfolio can be attempted. He recommended taking a more global look at the portfolio model.

Dr. Hackett stated that there is not enough data to support implementation of the California model, so more information is needed.

Ms. Reen stated that it appears the consensus of the panel is that the California model will not work in Virginia. She suggested that the Committee meet to discuss the advice received for conducting a study and the need for an alternate model before convening another meeting with the Advisory Panel.

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Dr. Cutright said that a meeting of the Committee was in order and then thanked the Panel members for their participation. She asked that they stay tuned for more information from the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

With all business concluded, the Committee adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Martha C. Cutright, D.D.S.

Martha C. Cutright, D.D.S., Chair

3/8/2013

Date

Sandra K. Reen

Sandra K. Reen, Executive Director

3/8/2013

Date