



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

PO Box 47852 · Olympia Washington 98504-7852

**DENTAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**Friday, June 14, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Carsten, DDS, Chair  
Bryan Swanson, DDS, Vice-Chair  
Ronald Marsh, DDS  
Sonia Pal, DMD  
Tiffany Bass, DDS  
Cheon Joo Yoon, DDS  
Rama Oskouian, DMD  
Joy McDaniel, DMD  
Sarah Khan, DMD  
Samantha Kofler, DDS  
Nisha Sharoff, DDS  
Marlynnne Fulton, Public Member  
Carolin Spice, Public Member  
McKinley Rainey, Public Member  
Miryam Nossa, EFDA  
Evelyn Harry, EFDA

**STAFF PRESENT**

Trina Crawford, Executive Director  
Bruce Bronoske Jr., Dental Program  
Administrator  
Debbie Gardner, Program Manager  
Sherri Stratton, Assistant Program  
Manager  
Adriana Barcena, Program Manager  
Kitty Einert, Program Manager  
Catharine Roner-Reiter, Supervising Staff  
Attorney  
Mikala Lord, Policy Analyst  
Heather Carter, AAG  
Jane Zepp, Credentialing Supervisor  
Ratna Craig, HELMS Project Director  
Liz Geisler, HELMS Business Deputy  
Project Director  
Scott Gadman, Compliance Officer

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**OPEN SESSION**

**OPEN SESSION – 10:03 a.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER – David Carsten, DDS, Chair**

**1.1. Introduction of commission members and staff.**

- Ms. Gardner introduces commission members and staff.

1.2. Public Comment - The public will have an opportunity to provide comments. If you would like to comment during this time, please limit your comments to two minutes. Please identify yourself and who you represent, if applicable, when the Chair opens the floor for public comment.

- Dr. Carsten opens the floor for public comment.
- No comments received.

1.3. Approval of agenda.

- Dr. Carsten requests amendments that include the addition of: Item 11.4 – The National Dental Examining Board of Canada exam update EFDA Committee; Item 13 – Aesthetics Interagency Workgroup.
- There is a motion to approve the agenda with requested amendments.
- The motion is moved and seconded.
- A vote is taken and unanimously passes.

1.4. Approval of the April 26, 2024, business meeting minutes.

- There is a motion to approve the April 26, 2024, business meeting minutes.
- The motion is moved and seconded.
- A vote is taken and unanimously passes.

## **2. HEALTHCARE AND ENFORCEMENT LICENSING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (HELMS) –**

Ratna Craig and Elizabeth Geisler will present to the Commission.

- Ms. Craig introduces herself as the new Project Director, and shares that she joined the HELMS project in January 2024.
- Ms. Geisler introduces herself as the HELMS Business Deputy Project Director, and shares that joined the project in March. She oversees the subject matter experts representing (Health Systems Quality Assurance) HSQA and partnering boards and commissions to ensure that business needs are met.
- HELMS will replace 16 legacy systems and transform the licensing and enforcement processes.
- The new system is an integrated modern solution to support business requirements, strengthen data security, provide greater analytics, and improve access to data for everyone at HSQA, partnering boards and commissions, licensees, and the public.
- HELMS will serve 500,000 healthcare professionals and nearly 12,000 facilities in Washington State and supports the Department of Health's critical role in assuring access to safe, quality healthcare for all Washington residents.
- The HELMS project has been structured into three major releases. The first release occurred at the end of April 2024, which included new applications for professional credentials. The second release, which is slated for December 2024, is focused on credentialing for both professions and facilities. The third release will be in September 2025, and will cover all enforcement activity, including inspections and investigations for professions and facilities.

- Ms. Craig and Ms. Geisler answer questions from commission members.

### **3. CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) FOR DISCIPLINARY PURPOSES** – Scott Gadman will present to the Commission.

- Mr. Gadman introduces himself, and shares that he is the compliance officer assigned to dental orders and the Commission.
- The compliance unit is requesting that the Commission consider a proposal to streamline the approval process for common CE courses included in legal orders with a preapproved list of the most frequently ordered CE topics. The four proposed topics include risk management, recordkeeping/documentation/charting, ethics, and infection control.
- Mr. Gadman answers questions from Commissioners and stakeholders.
- Dr. Carsten suggests having an annual review of preapproved CE courses by the Continuing Competency Committee.
- There is a motion to approve the matrix, including an annual review by the Continuing Competency Committee, with the preapproved CE courses for discipline.
- The motion is moved and seconded.
- A vote is taken and unanimously passes.

### **4. LEGISLATIVE AND RULES UPDATE**

#### **4.1. Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1576 (Chapter 297, Laws of 2023) – Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.**

- Dr. Carsten shares that the dentist and dental hygienist compact is now enacted.
- Nine states have joined the compact and additional states have pending legislation.
- Dr. Carsten shares that a Compact Commission will be forming with a representative from each state and stresses the importance of choosing the right candidate, since they will participate in the rulemaking process that decides how to enact the compact legislation across the country.
- Each state representative needs to be appointed by their licensing authority.
- Ms. Crawford shares that Washington is unique since dentists and dental hygienists have separate authorities, and so the law is written that the Secretary of the Department of Health and the Dental Commission must agree on who the commission designee is.
- Dr. Carsten shares that he has offered to represent the Commission. He suggested that both a dental hygienist and a dentist should be on the Commission, but Washington can only send one representative.
- Dr. Carsten feels strongly that a dentist should be appointed and opens the issue up for discussion.

- Dr. Pal shares Dr. Carsten's sentiments that a dentist would be the best fit due to the complexities in practice and terminology, and feels it is important to have working knowledge regarding the intricacies of practice.
- Melissa Johnson, Washington Dental Hygienists' Association (WDHA), shares that WDHA would like to suggest that the Secretary of Health send a Department of Health staff member, such as Ms. Crawford, as the appointee for Washington State. She states that due to the complexities of dental hygiene and dentistry being licensed by two different entities, the Department of Health has the expertise to know both professions. WDHA feels that a dentist would not have the breadth of knowledge for dental hygiene.
- Bracken Killpack, Washington State Dental Association (WSDA), shares that the new Compact Commission is a novel approach to licensure, so WSDA wants the emphasis to be placed on an individual with an understanding of the compact's origin. He feels that it would not be prudent to have the appointee perform on-the-job training and would prefer someone who has knowledge and experience with the compact, such as Dr. Carsten.
- Dr. McDaniel addresses Ms. Johnson's comments and asserts that Washington State law allows dentists to delegate duties to dental hygienists, so she feels that a dentist would be highly qualified to represent dental hygienists.
- Ms. Crawford states that dental hygiene has a separate practice act where they can go into nursing homes and long-term care settings that are not delegated by dentists, so they do have a practice act where duties are not delegated by dentists.
- Ms. Crawford shares that the compact enactment will require a thorough knowledge of licensure rules. With dental hygiene being very complex, a dentist may not know all the dental hygiene licensure complexities and how this could be integrated within the Department of Health's system. She feels that it is important for the appointee to understand how the compact enactment affects the requirements on the licensing side.
- Dr. Marsh makes a motion that Dr. Carsten is the Dental Commission's recommendation for the Compact Commission.
- The motion is moved and seconded.
- A vote is taken and unanimously passes.

#### 4.2. WAC 246-817-187 – Temporary practice permit – Military spouse eligibility and issuance.

- Ms. Gardner shares that a CR105 was created for expedited rulemaking to align the rule language with Second Substitute House Bill 1009 relating to military spouse licensing and employment.
- This will help remove barriers to temporary practice permits for military spouses.
- It is estimated that the CR105 form and rule language will be filed with the Code Reviser by the end of June.

4.3. WAC 246-817-135 – Dental licensure without examination – Eligibility and application requirements.

- Ms. Gardner shares that a CR101 was authorized by the Commission to clarify tax ID number and licensure without exam requirements for dental license applicants. WAC 246-817-160 (Graduates of nonaccredited schools) is part of this rule-making package.
- This will help clarify rule requirements pertaining to foreign-trained dentists and graduates of non-accredited schools or programs.
- It is currently in division review and anticipated to be filed with the Code Reviser by the July 26 business meeting.

4.4. WAC 246-817-190 – Dental assistant registration.

- Ms. Gardner shares that a CR101 was authorized by the Commission to add minimum age requirements for dental assistant registration.
- Updating this rule would prevent minors from applying for dental assistant registration.
- It is estimated that the CR 101 form will be filed with the Code Reviser before the July 26 business meeting.

**5. DENTAL THERAPY COMMITTEE** – Committee meeting held on May 2, 2024, and June 11, 2024 – Dr. Bryan Swanson, Chair.

- Dr. Swanson shares that the Dental Therapy Committee is continuing to work through the rulemaking process.
- The Committee plans to gather data pertaining to board exams for dental therapists in Washington State.

**6. EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL AUXILIARY (EFDA) COMMITTEE** – Committee meeting held on May 21, 2024 – Dr. Sonia Pal, Chair.

6.1. The Commission will review Missouri EFDA licensure standards to determine substantial equivalency to Washington State EFDA licensure standards.

- Dr. Pal shares that the EFDA Committee found substantial equivalency between the Missouri and Washington EFDA program requirements.
- There is a motion to approve Missouri as substantially equivalent to Washington State, with the proviso that all their EFDA permits are required (Restorative I, Restorative II, Fixed Prosthodontics, Removeable Prosthodontics) with the exception of the Orthodontic permit, and Missouri's EFDA program requirements must be reviewed by the EFDA Committee every six years.
- The motion is moved and seconded.
- A vote is taken and unanimously passes.

6.2. The Commission will review Idaho EFDA licensure standards to determine substantial equivalency to Washington State EFDA licensure standards.

- Dr. Pal shares that Idaho has a dental assisting program, but not an expanded function dental auxiliary program, so the EFDA Committee did not find

substantial equivalency between Idaho's dental assisting program requirements and Washington's EFDA program requirements.

- There is a motion to approve Idaho as substantially equivalent to Washington.
- A vote is taken and fails.
- The Commission determines that Idaho is not substantially equivalent to Washington.
- Dr. Pal makes a motion to have the EFDA Committee review substantially equivalent EFDA programs in other states every six years.
- The motion is moved and seconded.
- A vote is taken and unanimously passes.

**7. DENTAL ANESTHESIA COMMITTEE** – Committee meeting held on May 29, 2024 – Dr. Ronald Marsh, Chair.

- Dr. Marsh discusses the FAQs that were developed during the May 29, 2024, Dental Anesthesia Committee meeting.
- A motion is made to approve the FAQs as proposed to be adopted.
- The motion is moved and seconded.
- A vote is taken and unanimously passes.

**8. EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE** – Committee meeting held on June 6, 2024 – Marlynn Fulton, Public Member, Chair.

- Ms. Fulton shares that the Educational Outreach Committee recently discussed topics for the October 2024 retreat and welcomes input from the Commission, and states that topics for the next Newsletter were discussed.

**9. REGIONAL/NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS** – Commission may vote to approve sending commission and staff members to the following conferences.

9.1. Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS) – August 23-24, 2024, Kansas City, Missouri.

- Ms. Gardner shares that Dr. McDaniel will be representing the Commission, and she will be representing the program at this conference.

9.2. American Association of Dental Administrators (AADA) –September 25-26, 2024, Louisville, Kentucky.

- Ms. Gardner shares that Ms. Crawford, Mr. Bronoske, Jr., Ms. Einert, and herself will be representing the program at this conference.

9.3. CDCA/WREB/CITA – September 26-27, 2024, Louisville, Kentucky.

- Ms. Gardner shares that Dr. Pal will be representing the Commission, and Mr. Bronoske, Jr. and Ms. Slater will be representing the program at this conference.

9.4. American Association of Dental Boards (AADB) – September 28-29, 2024 – Louisville, Kentucky.

- Ms. Gardner shares that Mr. Rainey will be representing the Commission at this conference.

- Ms. Gardner asks the Commission to approve travel for commission members and program staff.
- A motion is made to approve travel for commission members and program staff to the four outlined conferences.
- The motion is moved and seconded.
- A vote is taken and unanimously passes.

## **10. PROGRAM REPORT**

### 10.1. Staffing update.

- Ms. Crawford shares that Mr. Bronoske, Jr. was promoted to an 18-month project position as Dental Program Administrator, and Ms. Einert will be the new Program Manager for dental labs, dental hygiene, and dental therapy.

### 10.2. Dental member recruitment.

- Ms. Gardner shares that the Governor's Office is processing the recruitment package for the current Eastern Washington dentist member vacancy.
- When Dr. Marsh and Dr. Carsten's terms end later this month, that will leave two more dentist vacancies. One of those vacancies will require an Eastern Washington dentist.
- Interviews were conducted recently, and the completed recruitment package has been sent to the Secretary's Office for approval.

### 10.3. List of active committees.

- Ms. Gardner shares that there are nine subcommittees. With Dr. Marsh and Dr. Carsten's terms ending at the end of June 2024, there are opportunities for commission members to join the various subcommittees.

## **11. OTHER**

### 11.1. Exception Decision Making Criteria Matrix.

- Ms. Crawford shares that the Secretary of Health is updating the exception application decision matrix, partially in response to the Blake decision.
- Ms. Roner-Reiter provides the Commission with an overview regarding the Blake decision.
- The Commission discusses the matrix.
- There is a motion to table a vote on the matrix until the next business meeting.
- The motion is moved and seconded.

### 11.2. Commission meeting dates for 2025.

- Ms. Gardner presents the proposed business meeting schedule for 2025.
- Dr. Marsh discusses the importance of in-person meetings and makes a motion to have four hybrid meetings per year instead of two.
- The motion is moved and seconded.
- Dr. Carsten invites comments from commission members and stakeholders prior to voting.

- After much discussion, Dr. Carsten suggests tabling the vote until the full complexities of more frequent in-person meetings can be examined.
  - Ms. Carter advises that the proposed dates should be voted on so Ms. Gardner can file them with the Code Reviser.
  - Dr. Carsten reminds the Commission that a motion is on the table and has already been moved and seconded and has Dr. Marsh restate his motion.
  - A vote is taken and passes.
  - There is a motion to approve the proposed business meeting dates for 2025.
  - The motion is moved and seconded.
  - A vote is taken and unanimously passes.
- 11.3. Correspondence from Dr. Megan Miller regarding radiation shielding, delegation of duties by dentists, and sedation CE language.
- Dr. Carsten shares that radiation WACs are in a different chapter than dental WACs, and the Commission does not have authority to change these rules.
  - Dr. Carsten has written an article that discusses why it is no longer necessary to use lead shielding due to advancements in technology.
  - Ms. Carter confirms that radiation WACs are written by the radiation safety program, which is part of the Department of Health. She suggests that dental program staff send Dr. Miller's question to their department.
  - Dr. Carsten states that Dr. Miller's question pertaining to delegation of duties was addressed at the Dental Anesthesia Committee meeting on May 29, 2024.
  - Dr. Miller asks a clarifying question about the language inconsistencies in WAC 246-817-773 regarding the terms physiology and physiological.
  - Dr. Carsten and Dr. Marsh discuss the language inconsistencies and determine is a typographical error.
- 11.4. The National Dental Examining Board of Canada exam update.
- Dr. Carsten explains that the National Dental Examining Board of Canada now utilizes a virtual Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) and informs the Commission of his experiences collaborating with Canada and his personal experiences with the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE), which is substantially similar to Canada's virtual OSCE.
  - There is a motion to accept the Canadian virtual OSCE protocol.
  - The motion is moved and seconded.
  - A vote is taken and unanimously passes.

## **12. ELECTIONS**

- 12.1. The Commission will elect the 2024-2025 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
- Dr. Carsten explains the election process and asks if there are any commission members that would like to be removed from the ballot. Dr. Yoon and Dr. Oskouian asked to be removed.
  - Dr. Swanson is nominated for Chair.



- The motion is moved and seconded.
- A vote is taken and passes unanimously.
- Dr. Pal is nominated for Vice-Chair.
- The motion is moved and seconded.
- A vote is taken and passes unanimously.

**13. AESTHETICS INTERAGENCY WORKGROUP** – The Commission may nominate a member to attend interagency monthly meetings.

- Dr. Carsten informs the Commission that a workgroup is being created to discuss aesthetic medicine concerning scope of practice and training requirements.
- The workgroup includes representatives from the Washington State Board of Nursing, Washington Medical Commission, Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, Dental Commission, Pharmacy Commission, and Cosmetology.
- The Commission discusses who should be nominated to represent the Commission at the monthly meetings.
- Dr. Carsten asks for stakeholder feedback concerning the workgroup.
- Valerie Bartoli, representing Washington Academy of General Dentistry, states that Dr. Timothy Hess, representing the University of Washington School of Dentistry, and Dr. Mark Drangsholt, Chair of Oral Medicine at the University of Washington School of Dentistry, would both like to volunteer for consideration to the Aesthetics Interagency Workgroup.
- Dr. Pal asks if Dr. Hess and Dr. Drangsholt will be able to attend and participate in the Aesthetics Interagency Workgroup.
- Ms. Carter advises that she does not know who convened the workgroup and does not know if the meetings are open to the public. She states that it involves multiple agencies, and it is not a Commission committee; the Commission just needs to choose a participant at this point.
- There is a motion to approve Dr. Carsten as the Commission representative for the Aesthetics Interagency Workgroup; this will be included in his pro tem appointment letter.
- The motion is moved and seconded.
- A vote is taken and unanimously passes.

**14. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

14.1. The Commission will acknowledge members whose appointment terms expire June 30, 2024.

- Mr. Bronoske Jr. thanks Dr. Carsten and Dr. Marsh for their hard work and dedication to the Commission over the past eight years.
- Dr. Marsh shares advice and insights with the Commission as he reflects on his time with the Commission.
- Dr. Carsten shares inspiring quotes with the Commission.

**15. FUTURE BUSINESS**

- No items were addressed by the Commission.

**16. ADJOURN**

- The meeting is adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

**Submitted by:**

Debbie Gardner, Program Manager  
Dental Quality Assurance Commission

**Approved by:**

Bryan Swanson, DDS, Chair  
Dental Quality Assurance Commission

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Signature

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