



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47852 · Olympia Washington 98504-7852

WASHINGTON DENTAL COMMISSION
DENTAL THERAPY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 13, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

Miryam Nossa, EFDA
Bryan Swanson, DDS
Mac Rainey, Public Member
Sonia Pal, DMD
Sarah Khan, DDS

MEMBERS ABSENT

Samantha Kofler, DDS
Tiffany Bass, DDS

STAFF PRESENT

Kitty Einert, Program Manager
Bruce Bronoske Jr., Dental Program
Administrator
Debbie Gardner, Program Manager
Lady Bah, Assistant Program Manager
Mikala Lord, Policy Analyst
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General
Cassandra Gerard, Administrative Assistant
Jane Zepp, Credentialing Supervisor
Britni McLucas, Health Services Consultant
Sarah Miczynski, Health Services Consultant
Sarah Rountry, Health Services Consultant

OPEN SESSION – 12:03 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Swanson, DDS Chair

1.1. Introduction of committee members and staff

- Ms. Einert introduces committee members and staff.

1.2. Approval of agenda

- There is a motion to approve the agenda.
- The motion is moved and seconded.

1.3. Approval of November 4, 2024 meeting minutes

- Mr. Rainey suggests changing the approval section to Dr. Pal.
- There is a motion to approve the amended November 4, 2024 meeting minutes.
- The motion is moved and seconded.

2. PRACTICE PLAN AGREEMENT – The committee and department review the draft of the Dental Therapy Practice Plan Agreement.

- Ms. Einert reviews the discussion and questions that took place at the last meeting.
- Ms. Einert explains the practice plan agreement is contingent on the rules and suggests moving forward with rule discussions.
- The committee agrees to move to the next agenda item.

3. DENTAL THERAPY RULES – The committee and department continue working on draft rules for Dental Therapy.

- Ms. Einert reviews [RCW 18.265.010](#) for dental therapy definitions of supervision.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. explains the dental therapy definition of general supervision came from [RCW 18.260.010](#) to maintain consistency between the professions.
- The committee discusses whether the definition of supervision needs to be modified.
- Ms. Brown asks if dental therapists are allowed to diagnose.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. refers to the statute that doesn't specifically address whether dental therapists are allowed to diagnose.
- The committee decides to discuss diagnosis further at a future meeting.
- Ms. Einert reviews [18.265.050](#) regarding the services and procedures a dental therapist may provide based on their education.
- Ms. Einert will research the scope of practice language used by other states and discuss how it can be incorporated in the practice plan agreement at a future meeting.
- Ms. Johnson representing the Washington State Dental Association comments on the difference in statute between dentistry and dental therapy regarding scope of practice. She advises it would be inappropriate to move beyond the dental therapy scope of practice specified in the statute.
- Ms. Einert shares how education is obtained is not defined in the statute and may need to be determined by the Commission or Secretary.
- Ms. Flaig with the Washington State Dental Association comments more time in-between meetings would help people review materials, provide constructive feedback, and attend the meetings.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- No correspondence received at this time.

5. FUTURE BUSINESS

- Discuss exam components with CWCA and CRDTS at the December 2, 2024 meeting.
- Discuss whether local anesthesia will be required for dental therapists.
- Amanda Saxton will share input on limited conditions at the next meeting.

- The committee will continue working on the dental therapy rules.

6. ADJOURN

- The meeting is adjourned at 12:37 PM.

Submitted by:

Kitty Einert, Program Manager
Washington Dental Commission

Approved by:

Bryan Swanson, DDS, Vice Chair
Washington Dental Commission

Signature

Signature

Date

Date