



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DENTAL HYGIENE EXAMINING COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024
9:00 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Johnston, II, RDH, Chair
Charlene Meagher, RDH, Vice-Chair
Hollie Reese, RDH
Robin Roderick, RDH

STAFF PRESENT

Trina Crawford, Executive Director
Bruce Bronoske, Jr., Dental Program
Administrator
Kitty Einert, Program Manager
Cassandra Gerard, Administrative Assistant
Elizabeth Geisler, Deputy Project Director

MEMBERS ABSENT

Daniel Liestman, Public Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Camille Luke
Barbi Lynch
Melissa Johnson
CJ Whitfield
Jennifer Zbaraschuk
Paula Watson
Colleen Gaylord

OPEN SESSION

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The business meeting of the Dental Hygiene Examining Committee (committee) was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Michael Johnston, II, RDH, Chair.

1.1. Introductions

The committee members and staff were introduced.

- 1.2. **Public Comment** – The public had an opportunity to provide comments. Individuals that would like to comment during this time were asked to limit comments to two minutes. Individuals were also asked to identify themselves and who they represent if applicable. Comments from the public in attendance were also accepted after each agenda item when applicable.

No public comments were made.

1.3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

1.4. Approval of the July 19, 2024, regular meeting minutes – Ms. Roderick requested to amend the description of Item 2.7 from Peninsula College to Olympic College.

The July 19, 2024, regular meeting minutes were approved as amended.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – The committee elected officers for the 2025 calendar year.

Mr. Johnston nominated Ms. Reese for the Chair position. Ms. Reese nominated Ms. Roderick as Vice Chair. A motion to approve was made, seconded and the committee voted all in favor of Ms. Reese as Chair and Ms. Roderick as Vice Chair.

3. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2025 – The committee selects representatives for the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments/Western Regional Examining Board/Counsel of Interstate Testing Agencies (CDCA-WREB-CITA) Dental Hygiene Exam Review Committee; the Central Regional Dental Testing Services (CRDTS) Steering/Executive Committees; the CRDTS Dental Hygiene Exam Review Committee; the Dental Collaboration Committee; the Dental Educational Outreach Committee; American Association of Dental Boards (AADB) representative, the Meet-Me-Call Participant and the Legislative Liaison(s).

The committee determined Ms. Roderick will represent the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments/Western Regional Examining Board/Counsel of Interstate Testing Agencies (CDCA-WREB-CITA) Dental Hygiene Exam Review Committee. Ms. Reese will represent the Central Regional Dental Testing Services (CRDTS) Steering/Executive Committees; the CRDTS Dental Hygiene Exam Review Committee. Ms. Roderick will represent the Dental Collaboration Committee. Ms. Reese will represent the Dental Educational Outreach Committee. Ms. Reese will represent the American Association of Dental Boards (AADB). Mr. Liestman will represent the Meet-Me-Call Participant. Ms. Reese and Ms. Roderick will represent the Legislative Liaison(s) as needed. A motion was made to accept the representatives as stated. The motion was seconded, and the committee voted all in favor.

4. SETTING 2025 MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS – The committee set meeting dates and locations for 2025.

A motion was made for the meeting dates to be held on April 18, 2025, July 18, 2025, and October, 2025 in conjunction with WDHA House of Delegates meeting. The motion was seconded, and the committee voted all in favor.

5. HEALTH AND ENFORCEMENT LICENSING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (HELMS)
– Elizabeth Geisler presented on the health care enforcement and licensing management system to the committee.

Ms. Geisler, HELMS Business Deputy Project Director, gave an introduction of HELMS to the committee. She explained the project is to replace legacy systems that handle credentialing, licensing, and enforcement activities. The next release is scheduled for February 14 – 19, 2025. Licensees will not be able to renew or create new applications during that time. The committee asked questions and discussed methods of communicating the change with stakeholders. Ms. Geisler provided resources for additional information.

6. PROGRAM REPORT

6.1 Committee Member Terms and New Appointments – Kitty Einert, Program Manager reviewed the expiration dates of the committee member’s terms and shared an update on new appointments to the committee.

Ms. Meagher and Mr. Johnston’s terms are expiring after two consecutive terms on the committee. Two new professional members have been appointed as of November 1, 2024. In 2025, three vacant positions will be available including a public member position. Ms. Einert will encourage those applicants that were not appointed this year to apply next year.

6.2 Licensing Data – Kitty Einert, Program Manager presented the dental hygiene licensing data.

Ms. Einert shared as of September 2024, there are 6,162 active dental hygienists. The application process timelines are updated weekly for all dental professionals on the Washington State Department of Health webpage.

6.3 Disciplinary Statistics – Kitty Einert, Program Manager stated the information was not available and this item will be moved to the April 2025 agenda.

6.4 Interim Operating Budget – Trina Crawford, Executive Director presented the dental hygiene interim operating budget.

Ms. Crawford shared the July 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024 budget status report. The fee increases have helped decrease the budget deficit. License renewal rates are lower than anticipated, which may impact the budget. No fee changes are suggested. The committee asked for the percentage of decreased license rates for review at the next meeting.

6.5 Rules Update – Kitty Einert, Program Manager updated the committee on rules in progress.

The Secretary has adopted WAC 246-815-145 pertaining to health equity continuing education requirements for dental hygienists.

An amendment to WAC 246-814-020 is being considered to include Silver Diamide Fluoride to practices authorized in school-based and school linked program settings for dental hygienists and dental assistants. Also being considered is an amendment to the requirement that dental assistants and their supervising dentists, as well as dental hygienists coordinate with established local oral health coalitions by participating in oral health coalition meetings that may be held in the geographical region.

Effective October 2024, the Secretary is considering adding a new section of rule which creates a new interstate compact for dental hygienists and gives member states the discretion to charge a fee for granting compact privileges. Mr. Bronoske Jr. informed the committee that Catharine Roner-Reiter, supervising staff attorney, has been appointed as the Washington State representative for the compact.

6.6 School Based Sealant Guidelines – Kitty Einert, Program Manager shared an update on school based sealant guidelines.

Ms. Einert shared The Washington School Based Guideline Workgroup is in the process of updating and revising “The Washington State School-based Sealant and Flouride Varnish Program Guidelines”. Ms. Roderick will participate in the workgroup once the guidelines are drafted and ready for review.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Educational Outreach – Hollie Reese, RDH

Ms. Reese shared her participation in the Educational Outreach Committee. During the last meeting, the committee briefly discussed topics for the October 10, 2024 Educational Outreach Committee Retreat and newsletter articles. Mr. Bronoske gave examples of recent topics and encouraged suggestions for future articles.

7.2 Central Regional Dental Testing Services (CRDTS) Annual Meeting – Michael Johnston, RDH

Mr. Johnston shared that CRDTS recently completed an occupational analysis survey. CRDTS is expected to merge with State Resources for Testing and Assessments (SRTA) before the end of the year. There have been no significant changes to the competency or scoring of their dental hygiene exam.

7.3 CDCA-WREB-CITA Annual Meeting – Robin Roderick, RDH. Charlene Meagher, RDH

Ms. Roderick shared the annual CDCA-WREB-CITA meeting coincided with three other organizations to form the Dental Testing and Regulatory Summit. The event included panels from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and educators. Ms.

Meagher shared the state caucus demonstrated a line-by-line analysis of the CSG and AADB compacts. She explained some of the different language and terms used by each compact and compared the number of commissioners needed from each state. The committee discussed the states that are subscribed to each compact and the exams they have accepted.

7.4 American Association of Dental Administrators (AADA) Annual Meeting – Kitty Einert, Program Manager

Ms. Einert listed the department staff members that attended the annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. They attended presentations on digital imaging, ethics, dental artificial technology, and dental workforce issues. The department staff also observed roundtable discussions on licensure of foreign trained dentists, universal licensure issues, and unlicensed practice.

7.5 CLEAR Annual Meeting – Bruce Bronoske Jr., Dental Program Administrator

Mr. Bronoske Jr. summarized the presentations he attended at the annual meeting which focused on health equity and inclusion and the challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence.

7.6 College Accreditation Update – Kitty Einert, Program Manager

Ms. Einert shared Peninsula and Olympic College have submitted their applications and are waiting accreditation for dental hygiene programs. A volunteer from the committee may be needed to participate in a site visit.

8. CONSENT AGENDA – CORRESPONDENCE

The following item(s) and any additional correspondence received or sent is for the committee's information. If separate discussion is desired on an item, a single motion by a committee member will place the specific item(s) on the regular business agenda. If there is no motion, there will be no discussion.

No consent agenda items were presented.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Committee members discussed placing the following items on a future agenda:

- Jurisprudence Exam Review
- Bylaws
- Business plan
- Disciplinary Statistics
- Dental Therapy Update
- Percentage of Reduction in Dental Hygiene Licensure
- Introduce New Committee Members

- Update on HELMS progress

3. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m. on Friday, October 25, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2025. Updated meeting information will be posted to the dental hygiene webpage.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kitty Einert, Program Manager

Approved By:

Michael Johnston, II, RDH, Chair