



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

WASHINGTON DENTAL COMMISSION
DENTAL THERAPY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 15, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

Miryam Nossa, EFDA
Bryan Swanson, DDS
Mac Rainey, Public Member
Sonia Pal, DMD
Sarah Khan, DDS
Erich Jurges, 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
Mikala Lord, Policy Analyst
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General
Cassandra Gerard, Administrative Assistant
Britni McLucas, Health Services Consultant

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION – 12:04 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 13, 2024 meeting minutes

- There is a motion to approve the November 13, 2024 meeting minutes.
- The motion is moved and seconded.

2. DENTAL THERAPY CLINICAL EXAM REVIEW – The committee determines components/procedures and whether the exams meet licensure requirements.

- **CENTRAL REGIONAL DENTAL TESTING SERVICE**
- **CDCA/WREB/CITA**

- Dr. Swanson starts the discussion regarding local anesthesia components of the exam. The exam may include a live patient component, a written component, a combination of both, or neither.
- Dr. Pal suggests a written component for local anesthesia.
- Dr. Jurges states administering local aesthetic is an important component of providing safe quality care for patients and believes there should be a testing component on live patients.
- Dr. Swanson summarizes comments received from the Tribal Community (SITC), dental therapy educators, and local health jurisdictions.
- Many comments were opposed to requiring a live patient for the local anesthesia exam. Other comments stated a local anesthesia requirement for the exam would be redundant since it has already been completed in the competency-based education program. CODA requires dental therapy students to complete a competency examination in every area of their scope.
- Dr. Warren comments that dental therapy students are going through an accredited program which includes being supervised while administering injections daily.
- The committee discusses whether dental therapy students should be tested similarly to dental students.
- Dr. Warren shares details of the anesthetic procedure training and testing included in the Dental Therapy Program at Skagit Valley College. Every aspect of their scope requires a competency assessment tied to the education program.
- Ms. Einert shares some other states require an anesthesia component of the exam. She also shares all comments received were strongly supportive of both the CRDTS and CDCA/WREB/CITA exams.
- Ms. Flaig representing the Washington State Dental Association, shares their revised position of being in support of the written exam as a sufficient way to evaluate anesthetic competency.
- Mr. Narvaez comments there is a movement away from exams requiring live patients. He adds testing on a live patient would be standalone for this profession.
- Dr. Warren comments that a live patient component would cause an additional clinical day to be added to the exams and may result in an unnecessary cost to the college.
- The committee agrees to recommend a local anesthesia portion of the exam. Dr. Swanson will bring this forward to discuss at the next Washington Dental Commission business meeting.

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

- Ms. Einert reviews the changes made in response to comments received.
- Ms. Einert explains the 560-hour requirement was removed from the active practice definition.
- The committee discusses the minimum requirement of hours to be considered for active practice and maintaining consistency with other dental professions.

- Mr. Bronoske Jr. explains how the Commission's recommendations are sent to the Secretary's office as part of the rulemaking process. He emphasizes the importance of completing the rules before dental therapy students graduate this year.
- Dr. Warren comments that dental therapists may have limited opportunities for employment which may make obtaining active practice hours more challenging.
- Dr. Pal recommends a requirement between 560 hours or 10 hours a week for active practice hours.
- Dr. Hogan comments that the hour requirement was discussed at previous meetings. The goal was to align all active practice definitions for consistency among dental professions. She also notes dental hygiene went through the process recently to remove their active practice hour requirement.
- Ms. Einert shares a request that was received to add an indirect supervision definition to the rule language.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. explains adding an indirect supervision definition will align with other states' rules. Dental therapists will not be allowed to delegate to auxiliary personnel under indirect supervision.
- Ms. Carter states indirect supervision is not a term used in the rule language and suggests it should not be included in the definitions.
- The committee decides not to include indirect supervision in the definitions section.
- Ms. Einert shares limited conditions will remain in the definitions section despite receiving a request to remove it.
- Ms. Einert reviews the graduation date and expanded function education requirements that were added to the approved educational programs section.
- Ms. Einert shares a comment received regarding other forms of verification for licensure without exam. She will research what options are available for adding the proposed language to the rules.
- Ms. Einert shares a comment received regarding renewing temporary limited licenses.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- No correspondence received at this time.

5. FUTURE BUSINESS

- The committee will continue working on the dental therapy rules, practice plan agreement, and jurisprudence exam.

6. ADJOURN

- The meeting is adjourned at 1:01 PM.

Submitted by:

Kitty Einert, Program Manager
Washington Dental Commission

Approved by:

Bryan Swanson, DDS, Chair
Washington Dental Commission

Signature

Signature

Date

Date