



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DENTAL HYGIENE EXAMINING COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025
9:00 A.M.
DRAFT**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hollie Reese, RDH, Chair
Robin Roderick, RDH, Vice-Chair
Joy Sykes, RDH
Daniel Liestman, Public Member
Camille Luke, RDH

STAFF PRESENT

Trina Crawford, Executive Director
Bruce Bronoske, Jr., Dental Program
Administrator
Kitty Einert, Program Manager
Debbie Gardner, Program Manager
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General
Lady Bah, Assistant Program Manager
Mikala Lord, Policy Analyst
Britni McLucas, Health Services Consultant
Sarah Rountry, Health Services Consultant
Cassandra Gerard, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT

Santiago Valdez
Kelly Mandella
Catrice Opichka
Colleen Gaylord
Richeal Cobler
Cheri Podruzny
Trish Flaig
Kristi Taylor

OPEN SESSION

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – The business meeting of the Dental Hygiene Examining Committee (committee) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Hollie Reese, 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 January 30, 2025 meeting minutes

The January 30, 2025 regular meeting minutes were approved as presented.

2. CENTRAL REGIONAL DENTAL TESTING SERVICES (CRDTS)

2.1 Sheli Cobler, Executive Director, presented the CRDTS and Southern Regional Testing Agency merger.

Ms. Cobler explained the CRDTS and SRTA merger finalized January 13, 2025. Both exams will be administered for candidates in 2025. A merged exam will operate based on the CRDTS governing documents, bylaws, and structure in 2026. Ms. Cobler shared exam results from 2025 will specify whether candidates completed the CRDTS or SRTA exam. Mr. Bronoske Jr. confirmed the SRTA exam is not approved by the committee.

2.2 Catrice Opichka, RDH, Director of Special Programs, will present the CRDTS CARE program.

Ms. Opichka shared a history of the CRDTS CARE program that provides remediation and re-education for dentists and dental hygienists. The program serves board mandated, dental practice referred, and self-referred individuals. Comprehensive learning plans are designed based on individual need assessments. The program provides one-on-one learning with CRDTS educators and supports distance learning. A post assessment is given to validate safe practicing competencies are met when an individual completes the program. CRDTS is preparing a non-patient local anesthesia program that will launch on July 1, 2025.

3. CREDENTIALING PRESENTATION – Britni McLucas, Deputy Credentialing Manager, Office of Health Professions, presented to the committee.

Ms. McLucas reviewed active and pending status counts of dental hygiene licenses. She shared the number of applications received and expired credentials in the past six months. The overall application processing time as of October 2024 was presented and possible reasons for delays in issuing licenses were discussed. The committee received the department's credentialing contact information.

- 4. CODA EDUCATION ACCREDITATION SITE VISITS** – The committee selected representatives for participation in 2025 on-site evaluations for Dental Hygiene programs.

A motion was made for Ms. Roderick as primary and Ms. Luke as secondary to attend the Peninsula College on-site evaluation on August 7-8, 2025. The motion was seconded, and the committee voted all in favor.

5. PROGRAM REPORT

- 5.1 Committee Member Terms and Recruitment** – Kitty Einert, Program Manager reviewed the expiration dates of the committee member’s terms.

Ms. Einert shared Ms. Roderick, Ms. Reese, and Mr. Liestman’s terms expire September 30, 2025. Ms. Einert will begin the recruitment process shortly.

- 5.2 Licensing Data** – Kitty Einert, Program Manager stated the dental hygiene licensing data was shared at Item 3.

- 5.3 Disciplinary Statistics** – Kitty Einert, Program Manager provided dental hygiene disciplinary statistics.

Ms. Einert shared the disciplinary report from October 2024 - April 2025. Currently ten active cases are being investigated or under legal review.

- 5.4 Interim Operating Budget** – Kitty Einert, Program Manager presented the dental hygiene interim operating budget.

Ms. Einert shared the July 1, 2023 – February 28, 2025 budget status report. Mr. Bronoske Jr. explained the recent increase in application fees was made in anticipation of the budget shortfall.

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

WAC 246-815 dental hygienist compact rules were drafted and approved. The rule package will be moving forward to the CR102 stage of rule making. The compact fees are set by the Secretary of Health and are currently under review and being determined.

Chapter 246-814 access to dental care for children rules, were amended and approved. WAC 246-814-020 proposed amendment adds silver diamine fluoride to practices authorized in school-based and school linked program settings for both dental hygienists and dental assistants. WAC 246-814-030 application process and documentation of training required to qualify for endorsement, proposed amendment would remove the requirement that dental assistants and their supervising dentists, as well as dental hygienists coordinate with established local health coalitions by participating in oral health coalition meetings that may be held in the geographical region.

6. 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.

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

- Bylaws
- Business plan
- Disciplinary Statistics
- Recruitment Update

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m. on Friday, April 18, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2025. Updated meeting information will be posted to the dental hygiene webpage.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kitty Einert, Program Manager

Approved By:

Hollie Reese, RDH, Chair