



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

DENTAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Friday, October 23, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

Aaron Stevens, DMD, Chair
David Carsten, DDS, Vice Chair
Julia Richman, DDS
Kunal Walia, DDS
Karla Briggs, Public Member
Sonia Pal, DDS
Ronald Marsh, DDS
Brian Macall, DDS
Marlynne Fulton, Public Member
Bree Kramer, EFDA
Tiffany Bass, DDS
Karen Clements, DDS
John Liu, DDS
Lyle McClellan, DDS
Abhishake Banda, DMD, MD

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kathleen Elling, EFDA

STAFF PRESENT

Trina Crawford, Executive Director
Jennifer Santiago, Program Manager
Becky McElhiney, Assistant Program
Manager
Bill Kellington, Supervising Staff Attorney
Chris Gerard, Assistant Attorney General
(AAG)

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER – Aaron Stevens, DMD, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

- 1.1. The commission and staff introduced themselves.
- 1.2. The commission approved the agenda as presented.
- 1.3. The commission approved the September 11, 2020 Business Meeting Minutes as presented.

2. RULES HEARING

The commission received public testimony for proposed rules:

2.1. ESSB 1551 – Repeals AIDS education and training requirements for credentials filed as WSR 20-17-036 on August 10, 2020.

- Dr. Carsten moved to adopt the rules. Dr. Richman seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with none opposed.

2.2. New and modified sections for WAC 246-817-601 through 660 dental infection control filed as WSR 20-18-031 on August 27, 2020.

- Dr. Marsh moved to adopt the rules, Dr. Carsten seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with two opposed.

3. RULES

3.1. The commission discussed WAC 246-817-120 Examination content

- The commission discussed draft rule language.
 - Dr. Stevens expressed his support of the rule modifications.
 - Dr. Carsten moved to approve language for a CR-102. Dr. Richman seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with none opposed.
- The commission received a copy of response to Western Regional Examination Board (WREB).
- The commission received notice from WREB regarding 2021 examinations.

3.2. Emergency rule to allow for delegation of COVID-19 screening

- The commission discussed delegation for dental assistants.
 - Dr. Stevens shared that during the last business meeting, the commission chose not to include dental assistants because of concerns with the COVID-19 testing due to the variety of available tests, and the varied levels of invasiveness.
 - Dr. Liu inquired whether the commission could not address it and leave it up to the discretion of the provider. There are tests available to the public to administer themselves.
 - Mr. Gerard advised the commission to make some sort of affirmative statement in rule whether it could be delegated or not. One option would be to say testing could be delegated under close supervision and leave it to discretion of dentist. Another would be to categorize tests, which could be challenging due to the dynamic environment as more tests are developed.
 - Dr. Richman shared her opinion that the nasopharyngeal swab is invasive and it would be unlikely that dentist would choose to delegate these swabs. Nasal and salivary tests are becoming more widely available, so this may not be an issue.
 - Dr. Carsten stated that no matter what the test is, providers must have proper training and the dentist is ultimately responsible.
 - Dr. Liu suggested including a reminder that close supervision does not absolve the dentist of liability.
 - Ms. Santiago shared that language had been drafted regarding delegation to dental hygienists, including a requirement that it must be delegated to a hygienist that “has demonstrated necessary skills and competency”.
 - Dr. Stevens asked if dental assistants could be added to the rule referenced by Ms. Santiago.

- Dr. Liu expressed his support of Dr. Stevens' suggestion.
- Dr. Carsten asked whether this would apply to close supervision or general supervision.
- Ms. Santiago stated it applied to close supervision.
- The commission discussed comment received.
 - The Washington Dental Hygienists' Association (WDHA) submitted a comment asking the commission to consider allowing dentists to delegate COVID-19 screening to dental hygienists under general supervision instead of close supervision.
- The commission discussed draft rule language for emergency rule.
 - Dr. Stevens suggested updating the language to allow delegation of COVID-19 screening under general supervision for hygienists, and under close supervision for dental assistants and expanded function dental auxiliaries.
 - Dr. Liu moved to adopt the emergency rule language as amended. Dr. Carsten seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with none opposed.

3.3. WAC 246-817-420 Specialty representation

- The commission discussed a comment received from the Department of Health regarding whether the definition of group practice includes all general dentists or general dentists and specialists.
 - Dr. Marsh suggested adding "group practice" to the definitions section.
 - Dr. Liu shared that the committee acknowledges that there will be cost involved but feels accurate signs, business cards and stationery are important to protect the public from being misled.
 - The commission agreed to move forward with a cost/benefit analysis.
 - Ms. Santiago asked the commission if they approve item #2 as well as delayed implementation.
 - Dr. Liu expressed his support for a 6-month or 12-month delay for implementation.
 - Dr. Marsh shared his opinion that a delay of 12 months would be appropriate for implementation.
 - Ms. Santiago will draft language for discussion at the next business meeting.

3.4. The commission received an update on dental laboratory registration rules.

3.5. The commission received an update on rules in progress and list of priorities for rule modifications.

4. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

The commission discussed requests to be approved professional associations or educational organization to receive list and labels:

- The commission discussed a request from Xcel Seminars

- The organization had been previously approved by the commission.
- Dr. Liu moved to approve the request. Dr. Richman seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with none opposed.
- The commission discussed a request from Dr. Joshua Merrell.
 - Ms. Santiago has reached out to Dr. Merrell for more information.
 - Dr. Liu moved to disapprove Dr. Merrell's request. Dr. Clements seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with none opposed.

5. DENTAL ANESTHESIA COMMITTEE

- 5.1. Dr. Liu reported on the committee meetings held September 17, 2020 and October 15, 2020.
- The committee has had several webinars to discuss these rules and has made significant progress. There is another webinar scheduled for November 5, 2020. The committee hopes to have draft language to present at the December 11, 2020 commission business meeting.
- 5.2. The committee discussed WAC 246-817-701 through 790 Dental anesthesia rules.
- Ms. Santiago reminded the public that comments can be submitted to the committee for consideration at upcoming committee meetings.

6. DENTAL EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

- 6.1. Dr. Stevens reported on the committee meeting held on October 1, 2020.
- 6.2. The commission discussed the COVID-19 Resource list.
- The committee decided to provide a resource list directing providers to external sources of information rather than providing specific directives due to the dynamic situation of the COVID-19 situation and the related challenges with maintaining such a document.
 - The commission approved the resource list.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1. The commission received a copy of the approval letter to Gary Heyamoto, Washington Academy of General Dentistry (WAGD) as an approved group.
- 7.2. The commission received a copy of the response letter to Phil Harrington at Summus Medical Laser regarding delegating use of lasers to dental assistants for non-invasive and therapeutic treatment.
- 7.3. The commission received a copy of the response letter to Dr. Robert McCulloch regarding accepting continuing education hours for teaching at hygiene schools.
- 7.4. The commission received a copy of a letter sent to the Secretary of Department of Health from Dr. Vic Barry regarding license expiration dates.
- Dr. Richman shared that some of her dental assistants have experienced a delay in renewals being processed, which is likely due to a temporary backlog.
- 7.5. The commission reviewed information received from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

- Dr. Carsten expressed his opinion that it is important that the commission be familiar with these standards and its impact on the quality of practitioners. Dr. Carsten shared that there are currently vacant CODA positions available.
- There are no significant changes.
- The commission discussed nominating past commission members for the vacant CODA positions. Ms. Santiago will reach out to past commission members and see if there is any interest.
- Dr. Marsh stated that he would like information about international schools that are under consideration for approval, and the standards for approval.

8. PROGRAM REPORT – Becky McElhiney, Jennifer Santiago and Trina Crawford

- 8.1. The commission received the interim budget report.
- Ms. Crawford shared that the current spending is appropriate to reach the appropriate fund balance and that there are no major concerns. Billing units are slightly behind so some expenses have not posted yet, and costs have been saved on travel.
- 8.2. The commission acknowledged potential 2021 Legislation to add one additional public member to the Dental Quality Assurance Commission.
- 8.3. The commission discussed the Workforce Survey.
- The Department of Health (DOH) partnered with the Washington State Dental Association and Washington Dental Hygienists' Association to administer the survey. DOH will be meeting with the associations next week to discuss data.
 - Dr. Liu shared his experience with taking the DOH survey on prioritizing COVID-19 vaccine and seeing a report with interim vaccine guidelines the next day. Dr. Liu questioned whether the survey results were reviewed and used in the report, or if they would be used in a future report.
- 8.4. The commission received a copy of final guideline for approving groups for exemption.
- 8.5. The commission received a list of active committees.
- Ms. Santiago shared the Dental Collaboration Committee will be resuming meetings in the near future.

9. ADJOURN

The commission adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Submitted By:

Commission Approval By:

Signature on file

Jennifer Santiago, Program Manager

Signature on file

Aaron Stevens, DMD, Chairperson