



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

DENTAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Friday, June 25, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Abhishake Banda, DMD, MD
Kunal Walia, DDS

STAFF PRESENT

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

OPEN SESSION

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Aaron Stevens, DMD, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:31 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 April 30, 2021 Business Meeting Minutes as presented.

2. RULES HEARING

The commission held a rule hearing to accept comment on the proposed rules WAC 246-817-580 Novel coronavirus disease 2019 screening filed as WSR 21-09-040 on April 13, 2021.

- The public hearing commenced at 8:35 a.m.
- Melissa Johnson with the Washington Dental Association (WDHA) testified that WDHA supports adoption of the rules.

- A written comment from a dental hygienist has been submitted supporting the rules.
- Public hearing concluded at 8:40 am.
- Dr. Carsten moved to adopt the rules as proposed. Dr. Clements seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with none opposed or abstained.

3. RULES

- 3.1. WAC 246-817-581 COVID-19 vaccination delegation.
- Ms. Santiago shared that an emergency rule extension was filed on June 18, 2021, which will extend the rule through another 120 days.
 - The commission approved the rules for permanent rulemaking. To proceed, Ms. Santiago will need to submit reasons why the rule needs to be permanent and not only emergency.
 - Dr. Carsten shared his opinion that COVID-19 will be present for some time, and may become a seasonal issue like the flu.
 - Dr. McClellan stated that dentists are not authorized to administer flu vaccines, so if COVID will become seasonal like the flu maybe the commission needs to have broader conversations about vaccination administration.
 - Dr. Carsten shared that dental schools are teaching administration of the COVID vaccine. The Oregon Health and Science University intentionally avoid providing training for pediatric vaccinations in an effort to prevent scope creep.
 - Dr. Richman expressed her opinion that the broader conversations of vaccination administration in general is a larger topic and should be discussed at a future time.
 - Dr. McClellan suggested tabling this item until if the commission considers extending the emergency rules again.
 - There was a motion and second to approve the rule language as proposed. .
- 3.2. WAC 246-817-420 Specialty representation.
- A CR-103 was filed on June 2, 2021. The new rules will go into effect in July 2021.
- 3.3. The commission received a summary of rules in progress and list of priorities for rule modifications.

4. DENTAL ANESTHESIA COMMITTEE

- 4.1. Dr. Marsh reported to the commission on the committee meetings held on May 14 and June 18, 2021.
- The committee had very productive meetings, attendees discussed issues in depth. The committee had hoped to be ready to present the full proposed rules today, but some last-minute issues came up. The committee has another meeting scheduled for September 2021, and hope to present full proposed rules to the commission at the October 22, 2021 meeting. Dr. Marsh encouraged stakeholders to participate in the process and submit comments as early as possible.

- 4.2. The commission received copy of proposed rules for WAC 246-817-701 through 790 Dental anesthesia.

5. EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL AUXILIARY COMMITTEE

- 5.1. Ms. Kramer reported to the commission on the committee meeting held on May 26, 2021.
 - The committee reviewed the Pennsylvania expanded function dental assistant licensure training standards, and recommend approval. The only notable difference was radiographs.
- 5.2. The commission discussed whether the State of Pennsylvania expanded functions dental assistant as having substantially equivalent licensing standards to State of Washington expanded function dental auxiliary (EFDA).
 - Dr. Carsten moved to accept Pennsylvania as a substantially equivalent state. Ms. Kramer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with none opposed or abstained.
- 5.3. The commission discussed a recommendation to modify WAC 246-817-195 (4)(a)(ii) requirement of “placing and finishing amalgam restorations on a typodont and on clinical patients.”
 - Dr. Stevens shared his understanding that there were concerns with examination anonymity.
 - Colleen Gaylord with WDHA expressed her opinion that dental hygienists need to be clinically competent, so they need to practice on a patient.
 - Ms. Johnson expressed concerns that dental hygienists are expected to place amalgams on patients when they have not practiced on a patient. The examination issue is secondary to this one for WDHA.
 - Dr. Carsten stated that it has been removed as a core competency in many dental schools, and is no longer common; though the practice is still done in some clinics.
 - Ms. Kramer shared her experience that it was challenging to find patients to place amalgams on when she was in training.
 - Ms. Elling stated that a dentist would be on site to assist with amalgam placement if it came up.
 - Dr. Stevens shared his experience that he places amalgams more than composites.
 - Dr. Liu shared his opinion that this is a practice that is not done often enough to take limited curriculum time. Dentists who wish to train their EFDAs on this task can do so.
 - Dr. Richman shared her opinion that training EFDAs to place proper composites was more important than training on amalgams.
 - Dr. Joy McDaniel submitted a written comment: Maybe the commission could suggest decreasing the number of live patients vs. not doing the amalgams at all. There is a portion of the population, as someone else stated, due to insurance

coverage or personal choice who still place amalgams- it's important that they have the practical experience- real patient's preps are not the same.

- Ms. Santiago suggested changing the curriculum document to reduce the required number of amalgam placed, which would not require a change in the rules.
- Dr. Carsten shared his preference for updating the EFDA curriculum guideline document to reduce the number of amalgams to be placed.
- Dr. McClellan shared his experience that EFDAs mentor with a doctor, which determines the tasks they assist with and are trained to do. If the doctor placed more amalgams, then the concern would be a lack of experience placing composites. Dr. McClellan stated that composites are more difficult than amalgams, and that an EFDA trained on composites should be able to place amalgams.
- Ms. Kramer moved to open the rules to consider modification. Dr. Carsten seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with none opposed or abstained.
- Ms. Kramer shared that Dr. Walia will be the new chairperson as she would no longer be on the commission as of July 1, 2021.

6. DENTAL CONTINUING COMPETENCY COMMITTEE

- 6.1. Dr. Marsh reported to the commission on the committee meeting held on May 28, 2021.
- The committee has proposed continuing competency rule modifications. Currently, 63 hours of continuing education (CE) are required over the course of three years, and only 50% credit is permitted for online classes. The committee agreed that recorded, high quality webinars with participant interaction would be allowed for full credit. Transcripts for these classes would have to specifically say they were interactive, and include some kind of test taken at the end. This would create extra work for CE verification.
 - Public comments have been received and provided to the commission. Ms. Santiago shared that the commission could decide to vote to move forward with the rules as proposed, or take back to committee for further discussions.
 - Dr. Marsh shared his opinion that the committee is ready to adopt. Dr. Carsten agreed.
 - Dr. Carsten moved to approve the rule as proposed. Dr. Richman seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed with none opposed or abstained.
- 6.2. The commission received copy of proposed rule WAC 246-817-440 Continuing education.

7. DENTAL EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

- 7.1. Dr. Stevens reported to the commission on the committee meeting held on June 10, 2021.

- The committee has been working on the July newsletter, which will be published soon.
- 7.2. The commission discussed the 2021 commission retreat date.
- October 21, 2021 was suggested by the committee as a retreat date.
 - Dr. Marsh asked Ms. Santiago what she thought the chances of meeting in person was.
 - Ms. Santiago shared that there will be more guidance and information from the Department in July regarding in-person meetings. The committee also discussed having an alternative webinar training if in-person meetings are not possible.
 - Dr. Marsh suggested holding an in-person meeting in spring 2022 if not possible in fall 2021.
 - Dr. Stevens shared his opinion that an abbreviated webinar meeting would still be beneficial to the new commission members if an in-person option was not possible this fall. Dr. Stevens would be open to an in-person meeting in spring 2022 in addition to the abbreviated webinar if no in-person meetings can occur this fall.
 - Dr. Pal asked whether the commission would be meeting virtually through 2021.
 - Ms. Santiago shared that the timelines have not been determined yet, and more information should be available by July 30, 2021.
 - Dr. Pal shared her support for in-person meetings.
 - The commission agreed to an in-person retreat on October 21, 2021 or an abbreviated webinar retreat on that day if the commission cannot meet in person with an in-person retreat in spring 2022.

8. DENTAL INFECTION CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING

- 8.1. Dr. Carsten reported to the commission on the committee meeting held June 18, 2021.
- The committee has been working on updating the inspection checklist for dental investigators.
 - There were concerns regarding aligning with Labor and Industries requirements. The checklist is still in progress and will be presented to the commission after it is completed.
- 8.2. The updated infection control investigation checklist will be presented when complete.

9. OTHER

- 9.1. The commission reviewed 2021-2023 business plan.
- Ms. Santiago shared that this document reflects the business goals and objectives for the upcoming biennium. The one area that changed is section 3b, in which language changed from “eight in-person meetings annually” to “eight meetings annually” to give the commission the option to hold virtual meetings.

- Dr. Pal shared her opinion that virtual options would be valuable for members that may be unable to attend due to travel or other obligations.
 - Dr. Clements asked if stakeholders could participate virtually as well.
 - Ms. Santiago shared that what Dr. Pal described is a hybrid meeting, which can present logistical challenges depending on the location.
 - Dr. Carsten shared his experience with hybrid meetings and his opinion that technology has improved over the past 18 months, and that including stakeholders is advantageous. Dr. Carsten would support a hybrid approach.
 - Dr. Carsten moved to approve the business plan. Dr. Marsh seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with none opposed or abstained.
- 9.2. The commission discussed commission bylaws.
- Dr. Carsten suggested the commission change to rank voting for elections.
 - Dr. Stevens clarified that there are requirements for voting transparency in the Open Public Meetings Act that the commission is bound to.
 - Dr. Liu expressed concerns that ranked voting could become contentious, and would create more work for staff.
 - Ms. Santiago will draft options for possible changes to the voting process for the commission to consider at a future meeting.
- 9.3. The commission discussed 2022 commission meeting dates.
- Dr. Richman moved to accept the meeting dates. Dr. Marsh seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with none opposed or abstained.
- 9.4. The commission discussed a request from Dr. Marsh to participate in American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) Dental Board focus group on behalf of the commission.
- Dr. Marsh shared that AAOMS is putting together a focus group of dentists throughout the country in order to promote continuity with rules. The group will be primarily conversational. Dr. Marsh is requesting the commission's approval to participate.
 - Dr. Carsten asked if this is a 2-way conversation or if the association would be getting information from Dr. Marsh.
 - Dr. Stevens asked whether Dr. Marsh would be participating as a commissioner or an individual dentist.
 - Dr. Marsh shared that he has not been told specifically, but assumed he would be participating as an individual dentist that is a board member.
 - Dr. Liu expressed his support for Dr. Marsh participating as an individual dentist. Commissioners and staff participate in other boards and associations without issue.
 - Dr. Carsten moved to allow Dr. Marsh to participate in the focus group. Dr. Richman seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed with none opposed or abstained.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- 10.1. The commission discussed an email from Himanshu Tiwari on May 20, 2021 asking for if the display of license requirement under WAC 246-817-301 can be accomplished by using a binder available to patients.
- Dr. Stevens stated that the rule requires the license to be “conspicuously displayed”, which can present logistical challenges for dentists that may not have a permanent office.
 - Dr. Carsten shared that this could be challenging for mobile dentists.
 - Dr. Richman expressed concerns that smaller offices may not have enough wall space to display all provider licenses.
 - Dr. Pal agreed with Dr. Richman’s concern, and added that as staff increases, there may not be enough space.
 - Dr. Bass inquired whether this was an Labor and Industries requirement as well, or only the in dental rules.
 - Mr. Gerard clarified that it is in rule (WAC 246-817-301), but it is also in statute (RCW 18.32). A binder may not meet the definition of “conspicuous”.
 - Dr. Richman suggested requiring the binder be accessible for patients to review, such as in the lobby.
 - Dr. Stevens expressed concerns that the binder being left in the waiting room could be susceptible to theft, and that a binder may not meet the “conspicuously visible” requirement.
 - Dr. Clements proposed posting the license online.
 - Dr. Carsten expressed concerns that patients who are not technologically savvy may not be able to access online license displays.
 - Ms. Santiago recommended the Educational Outreach Committee take this issue for further discussion. The commission agreed.
- 10.2. The commission discussed an email from Dr. Vic Barry dated May 1, 2021 requesting consideration of a two-year renewal cycle for licensed dentists.
- Dr. Stevens shared that some professions do have a two-year renewal cycle, but dentists have a three-year continuing education cycle which could present logistical challenges.
 - Dr. Pal agreed, and expressed her opinion that it could be challenging for providers to remember their continuing education and renewal cycles if they did not align.
 - Dr. Barry expressed concerns that dentists have many administrative responsibilities, and missing a deadline by one day can suspend their license. He suggested there are many different solutions, such as automatic renewal or basing renewal date on birth year, and requested the commission investigate it further. Dr. Barry shared a story of a dentist who had a gap in licensure due to an administrative error, and his opinion that the Department should resolve it. He has sent a letter to Martin Pittioni, Director of the Office of Health Professions at the Department.

- Dr. Stevens shared that he would be in favor of a three-year renewal cycle to align with the continuing education cycle.
 - Dr. Liu expressed his support of the Department resolving the licensure gap error that Dr. Barry described.
 - Dr. Richman clarified that when a license is renewed late, it is not automatically suspended.
 - Dr. Carsten inquired about the viability of Dr. Barry’s automatic licensure renewal suggestion.
 - Ms. Crawford shared that there are parts of the renewal process, such as continuing education attestation, that would be challenging to automate. The new licensing system may have more capabilities than the current one. She will check into the licensure gap issue Dr. Barry raised.
 - Dr. Marsh suggested the commission research this issue further, and continue discussions at a future meeting. Ms. Crawford will research renewal options.
- 10.3. The commission received a copy of the response letter to American Academy of Sleep Medicine, American Academy of Neurology, American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and American Thoracic Society.
- The commission discussed additional information provided by Dr. Carstensen and Dr. Rod Wentworth, and an email from Dara asking specific question regarding dentists ordering sleep study.
 - Dr. Stevens expressed his opinion that the professions of dentistry and medicine should stay separate and within their respective scopes.
 - Dr. Marsh agreed, and expressed concerns that there could be additional, serious medical issues.
 - Dr. Carsten shared that dentists frequently screen, but do not diagnose, and suggested requiring referral to and diagnosis by a medical doctor. The test could be used to ensure the equipment is operating as intended.
 - Dr. Marsh asked for clarification if a sleep study is a screen or a test.
 - Dr. Clements proposed the tests could be done at home, with an in-person or online evaluation afterwards.
 - Dr. Richman suggested updating the language in the previous letter to “sleep apnea remains a medical condition and thus diagnosis and treatment of sleep apnea should be performed by a medical doctor.”
 - Dr. Marsh agreed with Dr. Richman’s recommendation and clarified that there are two tests being discussed (home vs. center-related), and asked for clarification which device was being referred to in the email.
 - Ms. Santiago suggested sending this issue to the Dental Collaboration Committee for further discussions.
 - The commission will send the response letter to Dara with Dr. Richman’s recommended changes, and the Dental Collaboration Committee will discuss the issue further.
 - The commission received a copy of the American Association of Dental Sleep Medicine (AADSM) standards of practice.
- 10.4. The commission received a copy of the response letter to DOCS Education.
- 10.5. The commission received a copy of the response letter to Dr. Fred Quarnstrom.

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

- 11.1. The commission received the interim operating budget report.
 - Ms. Crawford shared that the current spending is exceeding revenue, but it is not concerning at this point. There will be an increase in HELMS fees over the next four years, which will further reduce the fund balance. The end of the fiscal year is approaching and final balances have not been calculated yet.
- 11.2. The commission discussed the commission member recruitment.
 - Ms. Santiago shared that Dr. Pal and Ms. Elling have been reappointed, and three of the four new appointments have been made. Dr. Joy McDaniel, Mr. McKinley Rainey, and Ms. Miryam Nossa will be joining the commission. The commission is still awaiting an appointment for the east side dentist position being vacated by Dr. Macall at the end of June 2021.
- 11.3. The commission received a list of active committees.
 - Ms. Santiago shared that with some of the commission members leaving at the end of June 2021, some committee spots will be vacated. The commission will revisit committee membership once all new commission members are appointed.

12. ELECTIONS

The commission held an election for the 2021-2022 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

- Dr. Liu moved to elect Dr. Carsten to position of Chair. Dr Richman seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with none opposed or abstained.
- Dr. Carsten moved to elect Dr. McClellan to position of Vice-Chair. Dr. Marsh seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with none opposed or abstained.

13. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The commission acknowledged members whose appointment terms expire June 30, 2021.

- Dr. Stevens thanked Dr. Liu, Dr. Macall, Ms. Kramer and Ms. Briggs for their service on the commission.
- Dr. Carsten thanked Dr. Stevens for his service as commission Chairperson.

14. ADJOURN

The commission adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Submitted By:

Signature on file

Jennifer Santiago, Program Manager

Commission Approval By:

Signature on file

David Carsten, DDS, Chairperson