



**DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
TELECONFERENCE MEETING  
DENTAL ASSISTING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2021**

NOTE: Pursuant to the provisions of Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, dated March 17, 2020, the Dental Assisting Council (Council) of the Dental Board of California (Board) met on April 30, 2021, via teleconference/WebEx Events, and no public locations or teleconference locations were provided.

**Members Present:**

Melinda Cazares, RDA, Chair  
Jeri Fowler, CDA, RDAEF2, OA, Vice Chair  
Michele Jawad, RDA, M.A.ED  
Cara Miyasaki, RDA, RDHEF, MS  
Rosalinda Olague, RDA, BA  
Joanne Pacheco, RDH, MAOB  
Traci Reed-Espinoza, RDAEF2

**Members Absent:**

None

**Staff Present:**

Sarah Wallace, Assistant Executive Officer  
Tina Vallery, Chief of Administration and Licensing  
Emilia Zuloaga, Dental Assisting Program Manager  
Wilbert Rumbaoa, Administrative Services Unit Manager  
Pahoua Thao, Administrative Analyst  
Tara Welch, Board Counsel, Attorney III, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

The Chair, Ms. Melinda Cazares, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.; seven members of the Council were present, and a quorum was established.

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments for items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion and Possible Action on February 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Emilia Zuloaga, Dental Assisting Program Manager, advised the Board that Board staff made technical and non-substantive changes to the meeting minutes following the posting of the meeting materials. The amended version was projected on the screen showing the changes that were made. Tara Welch, Board Counsel, proposed two revisions to correct the number and date of the Governor's Executive Order authorizing the meeting format.

Motion/Second/Call the Question (M/S/C) (Fowler/Olague) to approve the February 25, 2021 Dental Assisting Council Meeting Minutes as revised.

Ayes: Cazares, Fowler, Jawad, Miyasaki, Olague, Pacheco, Reed-Espinoza.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed and the minutes were approved as revised. There were no public comments made on this item.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation Regarding Orthodontic Assistant Permit (OAP) Occupational Analysis and Examination Modifications

Dr. Heidi Lincer, Ph.D., Chief, and Ms. Karen Okicich, M.A., Research Data Supervisor, from the DCA Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES), provided an overview of the occupational analysis report, which is available in the meeting materials. Based on the results of the occupational analysis for the OAP, OPES recommended the OAP written examination (exam) be modified to adjust exam content by increasing the number of items from 65 scoreable and no pretest questions, to 75 scoreable and 25 pretest questions, and increasing the time candidates have to take the exam from 90 minutes to 120 minutes. Additionally, since the number of candidates taking the OAP written exam has substantially increased over the last 10 years, OPES recommended increasing the frequency of form change to help maintain the integrity of the examination process.

Council members Miyasaki and Fowler asked questions of OPES regarding the development of the occupational analysis and the development of examination questions. Ms. Okicich provided answers.

The Council received public comment. Ms. Claudia Pohl, California Dental Assistants Association (CDAA), requested information regarding the administration cycle and the relationship between the increase in candidates with the increased frequency of the form change. Ms. Okicich responded that OPES works with the Board to determine a form of change that is appropriate for the number of candidates and how often testing occurs; however, details are not provided to ensure exam security.

Agenda Item 5: Update Regarding Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF) Written Examination

Ms. Zuloaga provided background information, which is available in the meeting materials. Dr. Lincer and Ms. Okicich reported that a workshop, held in March, determined the competencies tested during the RDAEF clinical and practical exams could be met in educational training and assessed with a written exam. It was also determined that additional content should be included if the clinical and practical exams are eliminated and should be organized into content areas to address those requirements.

Since an occupational analysis of the RDAEF profession is due in fiscal year 2021-2022, OPES has begun conducting the analysis this year, which will coincide with the development of revisions to the RDAEF written exam and ensure content measures competencies required at initial licensure.

OPES anticipates the revised RDAEF written exam will be released concurrent with legislative changes expected to become effective in January 2022.

The Council received public comment. Ms. Melodi Randolph, California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT), CDAA, and Dental Assisting Educator's Group (DAEG) representative, stated it would be interesting for OPES to include information on the comparison of practical exams from other boards across the United States in future presentations. Additionally, Dr. Molly Newlon, RDAEF Program Director, University of the Pacific, is concerned about students who are currently waiting to take the exam, and what will happen to them and their ability to become licensed because of the COVID-19 restrictions during the past year.

#### Agenda Item 6: Update on Dental Assisting Programs and Courses

Ms. Zuloaga provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. There were no public comments made on this item.

#### Agenda Item 7: Update on Dental Assisting Examination Statistics

Ms. Zuloaga provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. There were no public comments made on this item.

#### Agenda Item 8: Update on Dental Assisting Licensing Statistics

Ms. Zuloaga provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. There were no public comments made on this item.

#### Agenda Item 9: Discussion and Possible Action on Potential Amendments to Business and Professions Code Section 1750, Infection Control Course Requirements for Unlicensed Dental Assistants

Ms. Zuloaga provided the report, which is available in the meeting materials. Currently, Business and Professions Code section 1750, subdivision (c), requires the employer to ensure a dental assistant who has been in continuous employment for 120 days or more successfully completes a Board-approved eight-hour course in infection control within a year of employment.

The Council discussed whether the infection control course requirements for unlicensed dental assistants should be amended to increase consumer protection. The Council discussed the following four options to amend the statute to change the timeframe of when the employer of a dental assistant must ensure the dental assistant successfully completes a Board-approved eight-hour infection control course: 1) prior to performing any basic supportive dental procedures involving potential exposure to blood, saliva, or other potentially infectious materials; 2) within 30 days of employment; 3) within 90 days of employment; or 4) within six months of employment.

M/S/C (Fowler/Jawad) to recommend the Board consider a legislative proposal to amend Business and Professions Code Section 1750, subdivision (c), to specify the employer is responsible for ensuring a dental assistant has successfully completed a Board-approved eight-hour course in infection control prior to performing any basic supportive dental procedures involving potential exposure to blood, saliva, or other potentially infectious materials.

Ayes: Cazares, Fowler, Jawad, Miyasaki, Pacheco, Reed-Espinoza

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Olague.

Absent: None.

Recusals: None.

The motion passed and the recommendation will be forwarded to the Dental Board of California for consideration. The Council received public comment. Ms. Pohl commented that she supported the recommendation. Ms. Randolph also commented that she supported the recommendation and urged moving the proposal forward as quickly as possible.

Ms. Sarah Wallace explained the legislative proposal would be brought to the Board for consideration at a future Board meeting. If the Board agrees with the proposal, it can submit it to the California State Legislature for inclusion in an omnibus bill or as part of the Board's next Sunset review report.

#### Agenda Item 10: Future Agenda Items

Council member Reed-Espinoza requested a future agenda item regarding the addition of local anesthetic to the scope of practice for RDAEFs.

#### Agenda Item 11: Adjournment

Chair Cazares adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.