

Government Relations Report  
January 2016  
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As a result of the Sunset Review process for the Dental Board, AB 179 was signed by the governor in October and will go into effect in January.

The RDA Practical Exam is addressed in this bill; it was originally addressed in AB 178, but the efforts of opponents of AB178 resulted in language related to the practical exam being removed. So, the choice for continuing or discontinuing the Exam now rests in the hands of the Dental Board, who is completing its Occupational Analysis. The RDA Practical will continue unless the Dental Board between now and July 1, 2017 votes to suspend it once the Occupational Analysis is complete.

Other things that will be affected by AB 179 include an increase in application and renewal fees for the RDA and the OA and DSA permits as well as CE provider fees and new RDA Program or new course fees; it also now includes term limits for the Dental Assisting Council of 2 terms.

Proposed fees include an increase for RDA Application from \$80 to \$172. RDA and RDAEF renewals will increase only slightly.

The DAC met again with the Dental Board at its December meeting. All of the agenda items were 'informational only', meaning that no decisions were made and there was no discussion. Not particularly productive.

President Burton's report included the following related to dental assisting:

- Her term as President will be ending in December after 2 years.
- There are 7 Board members whose term will be up in 2017.  
Yvette Chappell-Ingram (public) and Meredith McKenzie (public) agreed to second term  
Dr Dominicis and Dr Casagrande term out at end of year. Year of grace for one more year. Dr Dominicis agreed. Dr Casagrande has not yet responded.

Assistant Executive Director Sarah Wallace's Report:

Staff

- New staff has been hired in the Dental Assisting section; they are fully staffed now. The Analyst (Lucy) is 'dedicated to the regulatory workshops and they are full speed ahead'.

Regulatory Workshops

- The new analyst will be focusing on these and **they will be scheduled every 6-8 weeks, confirming the dates in the next week** or so (probably on Fridays).

Exam stats

- Schedule of dates for the 2016 Practical exam are posted. 'They are looking for additional dates and locations'.

- November Practical exam statistics were distributed. Average pass rate of 62%; a very high number of no-shows.
- Written/Law & Ethics exam statistics were distributed.
- CADAT asked **the handbook for candidates** – again. ‘they are working on it’. We continue to hear that the new BreEze system has taken all their attention.

#### Exam Sites.

- CADAT asked about the results of **program survey re application/filing/graduation** dates and numbers.
- CDAA thanked the Board for moving the summer exam to accommodate late graduating students, but encouraged them to **schedule another date in the Southern California summer cycle** in order to accommodate the larger pool. Asked if Carrington could host another summer date? SW stated that they could, but that it hadn’t been done because of board staffing issues.

President Burton stated that comments could only be on items discussed – nothing new

#### Occupational Analysis

- As per Sarah, there has been a \*low response rate. She has asked stakeholder organizations (CDAA) to help and received a favorable response. Anticipate having the results in late March/April.

#### **Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Implementation of AB 179**

No discussion

**Fees** – no discussion/no decision about the increase

#### **OPES Presentation**

Heidi Lincer-Hill gave a presentation about Exam Development Overview

- The intent of the Occupational Analysis is to learn what licensees are doing, then link the test content and the job duties.
- OPES will recommend to the DBC to remove the language of ‘minimally acceptable competence’ and replace with either a certain percentage OR ‘criterion-referenced passing score’.
- When the OA is complete, they will evaluate the practical exam. She has observed the practical exam once and will do so again. Will have 1 or 2 workshops to evaluate; will meet with Board staff.

OPES sampled 2700 RDA’s (85 of the licensed population) sending a letter to participate; this included a stratified sample – every county was included and primarily entry level assistants (0-5yr). There has been a 7.5% response rate, which is \*better than the last time (7%) and there is still time for more to come back. The response thus far includes 60% from the 0-5yr and 40% from >5yr. Surveys from stakeholders will be added to these.

Surveys were sent to 100% of the RDAEF2 and to 55% of the RDAEF1.

Discussion about the variables in the exam beyond the candidate's control (site, environment, assessment). One possibility is that the exam is given at the same location with DBC issued equipment.

### **DAC Meeting**

NOTHING on the agenda except the election of officers.

Chair: Anne Contreras

Vice-Chair: Emma Ramos

### **Follow Up**

- I was to go to Sacramento December 16<sup>th</sup> for a meeting first with DBC President Burton and EO Fischer, followed by a meeting with the DCA Director about the new BreZE system, however I got sick and wasn't able to go.
- There was a phone conference with FADE and the lobbyist to debrief the meeting. The main concern that was addressed during the meeting was the interpretation that the passage of AB 179 would prevent the Board from issuing RDA licenses in the event the Board eliminates the RDA practical examination. It was discussed with them that it was our intent to move forward with legislation cleanup that would provide for that. It was agreed that we all wanted to work more collaboratively moving forward.

The lobbyists met the next day with legislative staffers on this issue, who don't believe that the language is being interpreted correctly by the Board and they agreed to contact the DBC lawyer to discuss it with him. If that is unsuccessful, we will first try to get an oral interpretation from Legislative Counsel to provide legislative intent and gain clarity; the second option would be an urgency measure with clean-up language to clarify the intent of the section.

### **Other Activities:**

- Nov 12: Meet w/ CADAT/FADE/Lobbyist to game plan 2016, Sacramento
- Dec 1: Phone call with CADAT President re Legislative issues
- Dec 3/4: Dental Board / Dental Assisting Council Meeting, Los Angeles
- Dec 8: Conference call w/ CADAT/FADE/Lobbyist to prepare for meeting with DBC Executive Officer Fischer and President Burton
- Dec 16: Meet w/ DBC Executive Officer Fischer and President Burton, Sacramento. Ill, did not attend.
- Dec 16: Meet with DCA Director Awet Kidane re BreZE system, Sacramento. Ill, did not attend.
- Dec 18: Conference call w/ CADAT/FADE/Lobbyist to debrief the meeting with DBC Executive Officer Fischer and President Burton / BreZE

### **Future Events:**

March 3/4	DBC / DAC Meeting, San Diego
May 11/12	DBC / DAC Meeting, Anaheim
August 18/19	DBC / DAC Meeting, TBA
Dec 1/2	DBC / DAC Meeting, TBA