

## **Government Relations**

December 2019

Claudia Pohl, CDA, RDA, FADAA

### **Directives:**

None at this time.

### **Activities** (driven by the MOP):

#### **As per the MOP:**

- Maintained information about current bills on the website
- Served as spokesperson to represent the legislative interests of CDAA
- Served as contact person with other individuals and organizations
- Presented a report after each meeting for which there is funding or representation
- Reviewed legislation affecting dental assisting and report to the Board
- Approved related expenses and bills prior to submission for payment
- Provided a report for the Newsletter
- Provided legislative representation at the following meetings:  
Nov 14-15, 2019      DBC / DAC Meeting, Sacramento

### **Appointment of New Dental Assisting Council Member**

Following the resignation of Jennifer Rodriguez (the RDAEF position), a position was open for one (1) member with the following qualifications: employed clinically in a private dental practice or public safety net or dental health care clinics; 5 years as an RDAEF; not employed by current board member. A sub-committee of Dr Whitcher and Rose Olague was appointed by the Dental Board to bring a recommendation for her replacement. Three candidates were interviewed and the sub-committee recommended and the Board approved the appointment of Stacy Welch, RDAEF2. Ms Welch has 16 years in dentistry and is currently working in private practice in Elk Grove. She received her RDA in 2003 and her RDAEF2 in 2016. She will serve a four-year term with the Council. Congratulations to Ms Welch!

### **Dental Assisting Programs / Courses**

There are currently: 88 RDA Programs, 11 RDAEF Programs and 4 RDAEF-ITR Programs. Additionally, there are the following courses: 145 Radiology, 93 Coronal Polishing, 120 Pit & Fissure Sealants; 31 Ultra Sonic Scaling; 120 Infection Control, 155 Orthodontic Assistant and 34 Dental Sedation Assistant.

### **RDA Program Re-Evaluations**

The Board staff continues to work with those currently undergoing the RDA program re-evaluation process (some programs are still struggling to get the information together). They are also working to streamline the process in response to the questions and concerns expressed by the stakeholders. They have been revamping the New Program Course Application and a Re-Evaluation Application. The new forms and applications will be included in the Legislative Rulemaking Package. They had suspended sending out any more notice of re-evaluations, but will begin sending out notices of re-evaluation to programs in Jan or Feb.

### **Dental Assisting Licensing Statistics**

As of October 2019, these are the number of current license/permit holders.

Registered Dental Assistant (RDA): 30,030

Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF): 1554

Orthodontic Assistant (OA): 1167

Dental Sedation Assistant (DSA): 29

4 RDA licenses were denied thus far in 2019.

### Dental Assisting Examination Statistics

There has been some concern about the pass rates for the RDA Combined Exam. As a result, the DAC requested that OPES address them. As per Ms Linzer, it is not unusual to have a transition period and see changes in the passing rates. She stated that there are 3 forms of the test that are used. The 25 question pre-test is used to determine whether new test items are functions and if so, they are put into the test bank. They are still in the process of building a bank of high-performing questions in the bank. She also stated that they use a minimum of Recall and Comprehension questions but want the test bank to be mostly Application and Analysis questions. This keeps people from just memorizing material and passing a test but show an understanding and knowledge of the job. They also stated that they would like to receive comments from the candidates regarding the test. They are in the process of developing a sample test, which will be included in an updated PSI Handbook in the next few months.

The pass rates for the written exams for dental assisting are listed below.

<b>RDA Combined Exam</b>	<b>Overall</b>	<b>First-Time</b>	<b>Repeat Candidates</b>
Oct-Sept 2019	55%	64%	39%
June-July 2019	55%	59%	47%
Jan-Dec 2018	55%	56%	54%
Sept-Oct 2018	54%	54%	51%
April 2017-March2018	56% / 62% L&E	59% / 59% L&E	45% / 49% L&E

<b>RDAEF Written Exam</b>	<b>Overall</b>	<b>First-Time</b>	<b>Repeat Candidates</b>
Oct-Sept 2019	65%	74%	54%
June-July 2019	63%	71%	51%
Jan-Dec 2018	60%	73%	42%
Sept-Oct 2018	61%	78%	39%
April 2017-March2018	57%	100%	33%

<b>Orthodontic Assistant</b>	<b>Overall</b>	<b>First-Time</b>	<b>Repeat Candidates</b>
Oct-Sept 2019	50%	40%	33%
June-July 2019	43%	57%	31%
Jan-Dec 2018	48%	63%	34%
Sept-Oct 2018	49%	63%	34%
April 2017-March2018	43%	63%	43%

<b>Dental Sedation Exam</b>	<b>Overall</b>	<b>First-Time</b>	<b>Repeat Candidates</b>
Oct-Sept 2019	78%	100%	50%
June-July 2019	89%	88%	NA
Jan-Dec 2018	80%	80%	NA
Sept-Oct 2018	100%	100%	NA
April 2017-March2018	100%	0%	0%

### Dental Assisting Education Legislative Package

The rulemaking proposal for dental assisting education programs and courses was developed by staff after 2½ years of workshops with stakeholders. It was presented to the Dental Assisting Council in July, at which time all stakeholders and council members had the opportunity to give feedback. Staff made revisions based on the feedback and it was presented to the DAC at the November 14, 2019 meeting. Though the DAC was requested by CDAA and CADAT to

postpone moving the proposal forward to the Board, they voted to pass it, so it will be presented to the Dental Board in February 2020. Once approved by the DBC, it will go forward through the regulatory process. There will be a 45 day public comment period. Staff will do another review and DBC can respond to comments at that time.

### **Sunset Review - AB 1519 (Low)**

The following things will take effect:

- Dental and Dental Assisting funds will merge
- Authorizes the Dental Board to deny an applicant prior to licensure for conviction of crime
- Requires completion of Infection Control, CA Dental Practice Act and BLS (in addition to Radiology and Coronal Polishing) *prior to licensure as an RDA*
- Removes the requirement of an RDA Practical Exam
- Requires the Dental Board to notify the Dental Assisting Council in writing within 30 days if they reject, postpone, refer back to Council or significantly modifies any recommendation brought to them by the Council

Additionally, the Board will be including the following as they work to implement AB 1519:

- Live scan instead of fingerprint card
- If a licensed if cancelled, it can be replaced by applying as a new applicant in addition to the previous methods (1718.3)

### **Dental Board Update**

Three Dental Board members terms will be ending this year:

- Yvette Chappelle-Ingram (2013 – 2020)
- Bruce Witcher, DDS (2009 – 2019)
- Huong Le, DDS (2009 – 2019)

### **2020 Officers of the DAC Elected**

Chair: Cindy Ovard

Vice-Chair: Roslinda Olague

### **2020 Officers of the DBC Elected**

Secretary: Joanne Pacheco, RDH

Vice-President: Steven Chan, DDS

President: Thomas Stewart, DDS

**Communication** (eg. invitations, requests specific to this position . . .):

**MOP:** None at this time

### **Strategic Plan**

Areas affected: Legislative

### **Questions or Concerns about your committee?**

### **Suggestions / Recommendations to CDAA BOT:**

Consider setting aside funds to legislative aid (lobbyist . . . )

### **Calendar of Future Events:**

Date: February 27-28, 2020– La Jolla

Description of Event: Dental Board (DBC) / Dental Assisting Council (DAC)

Date: May 13-14, 2020 – Anaheim

Description of Event: Dental Board (DBC) / Dental Assisting Council (DAC)

Date: August 13-14, 2020 – Location TBA

Description of Event: Dental Board (DBC) / Dental Assisting Council (DAC)