

## **Government Relations Report – November 2021**

At its November 18-19, 2021 meeting, the Dental Assisting Council and the Dental Board discussed and presented the following information. More information can be found in the [Meeting Materials found on the DBC website](#).

### **RDAEF Occupational Analysis/ New Exam**

Following the passage of SB 607 sponsored by the Dental Board, the practical and clinical exam will no longer be administered as a licensure requirement for the RDAEF category. This will take effect January 1, 2022. The written exam content has been adjusted to reflect the removal of a practical/clinical exam and it will be increased from 50 scoreable questions with 10 pretest questions to 100 scoreable questions with 25 pretest questions. Examinees will be given 150 minutes to complete the exam. If a candidate previously passed the written exam, a license will be issued on January 3, 2022. If a candidate previously paid for the practical exam, a refund will be issued within 8-10 weeks. Beginning January 3, 2022, the DBC will begin issuing licenses to those who meet the requirement. The new exam outline can be found on the DBC website.

### **RDAEF Administration of Local Anesthesia and Nitrous Oxide**

This topic has been present to the Dental Assisting Council and the Dental Board since 2018. It was brought back to the Council at the November meeting for discussion and action. The Dental Assisting Council approved the appointment of Jeri Fowler and Tracy Reed-Espinoza to a work group to address this topic. They will discuss the specific issues to be studied, create relevant survey questions, and return to the Council with a list of the specific issues to be studied and survey questions.

### **Administration of Written Examinations in Different Languages**

At the request of the DAC, the OPES presented information on the process, pros and cons or providing a written examination in language/s other than English. It is anticipated that this will be a future agenda item for discussion and possible action.

### **Potential Fee increase**

The Dental Board budget report included the discussion about the potential need to have a fee increase. It was recommended that they decide which fees to increase and then come back to the board and make the decision.

## RDA Program Statistics

### TOTAL number of programs

RDA Program	RDAEF Program	RDAEF-ITR	Radiation Safety	Coronal Polishing	Pit & Fissure Sealant	Ultrasonic Scaling	Infection Control	DSA Permit	OA Permit
134	12	4	175	121	161	38	160	50	172

## Licensing Statistics

License Type	License Status	FY18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY 21/22
Registered Dental Assistant	Active	30,116	30,465	30,317	30,421
	Inactive	4,401	4,321	4,155	4,201
	Delinquent	11,471	11,636	11,802	11,682
	Cancelled	46,276	47,759	49,700	50,033
License Type	License Status	FY18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY 21/22
Registered Dental Assistant in Expanded Functions	Active	1,542	1,584	1,522	1,561
	Inactive	72	75	74	77
	Delinquent	212	213	251	249
	Cancelled	323	350	379	385
License Type	License Status	FY18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY 21/22
Orthodontic Assistant	Active	1,137	1,281	1,340	1,361
	Inactive	19	23	34	40
	Delinquent	109	158	211	206
	Cancelled	2	4	13	18
License Type	License Status	FY18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY 21/22
Dental Sedation Assistant	Active	1,167	36	38	38
	Inactive	21	2	3	3
	Delinquent	125	15	13	13
	Cancelled	2	2	4	4

## Examination Statistics

There has been discussion over the past year or so about the low pass rates. There is more data in the [DAC Meeting Materials](#), but it has been compiled into a more condensed form here.

License Type	RDA	OA	DSA	RDAEF		
	Written	Written	Written	Clinical	Practical	Written
<b>21/22</b> Total Candidates Pass %	53%	23%	N/A	68%	75%	75%
<b>20/21</b> Total Candidates Pass %	66%	39%	60%	N/A	N/A	84%
<b>19/20</b> Total Candidates Pass %	57%	52%	100%	50%	49%	68%

## **Retirements**

Two members of the Dental Assisting Council have resigned their positions. A recruitment notice has been posted on [DBC website](#) as well as the CDAA website. Both positions are for an RDA in private dental practice, public safety net or dental health care clinic. The deadline to apply is December 15, 2021. Following review and interviews, candidates will be presented to the Dental Board at the February meeting for approval. If unable to find suitable candidates to bring to Feb DBC meeting, the recruitment notice will remain open until the positions can be filled. CDAA thanks Ms Cazares and Ms Jawad for their service to the dental assisting community.

Executive Officer Karen Fischer is retiring, effective at the end of the year. The Board is appointing a temporary Executive Officer until the position is filled. An announcement will be made after approval by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

The following Dental Board Members have completed their terms of service: Fran Burton, Tom Stewart and Ross Lai.

## **Dental Assisting Council Officers Elected**

Jeri Fowler, CDA, RDAEF2, OA was elected the Chair and Traci-Reed Espinoza, RDAEF2 was elected as Vice-Chair.

## **Dental Board of California Officers 2022 Elected**

President: Dr Felsenfeld

Vice-President: Dr Yu

Secretary: Dr Molina