

Government Relations Committee

Shari Becker, CDA, RDA, FADAA

February 2023

Directives : No directives.

Activities:

DAC and DBC meeting, November 17-18, 2022, held in Sacramento.

November 17- DAC meeting:

Joan Greenfield was put on the agenda and discussed the Healthcare Worker Pilot Program she has applied for that is sponsored by CADAT regarding the administration of nitrous oxide and local anesthesia for the RDAEF as an optional certification with additional training.

For the past 9 years, Joan Greenfield has proposed these duties as an option for the RDAEF category. Currently, CADAT is sponsoring Joan with an HWPP in hopes to have the data requested to move forward with this possible added skill. This would be a great opportunity for the RDAEF to better assist and be more fully utilized in conjunction with their current duties.

Further discussion regarding surveys that were sent out to existing RDAEF's and DDS's that employ EF's. Discussion about the educational requirements needing to be more robust and stringent than the RDH or DDS educational requirements. The concern stated was that the education provided in dental assisting programs, including EF programs, is not as inclusive as the education received in an RDH or DDS/DMD program.

There was an update on a survey that was sent to other state boards regarding education requirements for dental assistants. Results are still being compiled and a report is to be included at the next board meeting. There is consideration for reciprocity with the DANB certification, but nothing has been developed at this time.

Discussion about BPC 1750 and specific wording to be changed on the IC regulations to read PRIOR to potential exposure to blood or OPIM. This to be revisited at the next board meeting.

Elections for 2023: Cara Miyasaki DAC vice-chair/ Traci Reed-Espinoza DAC chair- other DAC seats remain in place to complete their terms of service.

DBC meeting:

Melodi Randolph suggested future meetings allow for the DAC and DBC hold a joint meeting together to enable more discussion versus hearing a report to the board regarding the DAC meeting.

The new Executive Officer was confirmed to be Tracy Montez. Ms. Montez is replacing Sarah Wallace. Ms. Montez reported the exam applications are now being processed within 2 weeks. There have been 13 new staff hired to assist with catching up on applications and complaints.

November 18, DBC meeting:

Discussion regarding an RDH that wants to also hold an RDA license and the redundancy of requirements and the need to clean up language regarding x-ray, CP, PNF, IC, and CDPA.

Discussion regarding the dental boards accountability for maintaining current certifications/licenses be delegated to the supervising dentist. Testimony that dentists don't currently track certificates/licenses and that this is the board's responsibility. This item was voted to be reviewed during Sunset Review.

Elections were held with Dr. Larin, Secretary/JoAnne Pacheco, Vice President/Alan Felsenfeld, President.

Next meeting- February 9-10, 2023.

DAC/DBC meeting February 9-10, 2023, Sacramento.

DAC meeting:

Additions to the agenda: Melodi Randolph spoke representing the Alliance (CADAT, CDAA and EF) noting that CDA is bringing forward a bill AB 481, which addresses dental assisting pathways to licensure and scope of practice. She noted that the Alliance has been in multiple meetings with CDA but has yet to see the final bill. The Alliance agrees with a great deal of what has been presented. However, there are some areas that may be non-negotiable and may then render the Alliance to oppose the bill as written. The Alliance has an upcoming meeting with CDA on February 23 for final discussions on this bill. She also stated that the Alliance had hired a lobbyist.

Written exam stats- Rikki Parks report on written exam statistics for RDA, RDAEF, OAP, DSAP

Discussion regarding the RDAEF exam and concerns with validity as noted at last DAC meeting. SME's (subject matter experts) are vetted by OPES. OPES offers options for candidates to voice concerns (via postcard in the mail, email survey or direct contact) about the exams and /or specific questions.

Dental assisting licensing stats-Paige Regalli-Cara Miyasaki had concerns raised about the number of applicants approved to take the board exam versus license issued. For 22/23 there were 2442 applicants for RDA but only 1049 licenses issued. Suggested that there be a survey to see why such a significant drop off between the application and issuance of licenses.

Discussion on the status of survey done re: RDAEF administration of local anesthesia and nitrous. Concerns that the survey was not well written, and the questions may have been leading. Survey was sent to RDAEF and DDS who utilize the EF's regarding their utilization and if local anesthesia and nitrous would be a benefit to have the EF qualified in those skills. The feedback from the survey indicated yes. However, there were letters submitted by various educators, organizations and others indicating that they would not support an RDAEF in those skills. The main reasons brought forward were regarding education and curriculum. The hygiene and dental programs have prerequisites and the curriculum is very robust, implying that an RDAEF would not be able to mentally handle the education and curriculum to safely and effectively provide that service. There was much discussion and live comments against the issue. Geri Fowler commented that on the survey it was noted that a patient had to wait 20 minutes during an EF procedure for the DDS or RDH to re-anesthetize a patient during a procedure. That there would be great benefits if the EF could add supplemental anesthetic to complete a procedure. Cara stated that if there were programs that were as robust as the dental schools and met the educational requirements, could the issue move forward to the board.

Geri Fowler moved to submit the OPES survey results re: anesthesia and nitrous for an RDAEF to the DBC for review...passed by the DAC. Joanne Pacheco voted against it. We will see where this lands at the next DBC meeting in May.

Joan Greenfield mentioned that the DBC could consider nitrous and add it to the DPA as a regulatory change. CDA opposes sighting concerns of appropriate education and foundational knowledge, patient safety, potential barriers to EF applicants, and would impact access to care. Discussion on developing a 2-member team on the DAC to research educational programs for the RDAEF for local anesthesia and nitrous. It was noted that if the duty is under direct supervision, it would require legislative approval....stay tuned...

Concerns regarding renewals of CE courses and dental assisting programs in multiple locations having to renew each location versus a renewal for program approval and then would be applicable to multiple locations. Board staff to review language and propose language at future board meeting.

BP 1750 language was approved with the wording of PRIOR TO exposure or OPIM. However, the BLS and CDPA need to be completed within 12 months of employment. The dentist is responsible for ensuring these certificated programs. CDA representative, Dr. Tierlet, opposed the IC language sighting that there have been no documented cases of harm from an unlicensed DA and that this Prior to will be creating an obstacle or barrier to work. **DBC meeting:** Reports from Tracy Montez, DBC executive director. Staff reported on the budget, board committee assignments, board orientation and training, enforcement, etc. AB 481 came up again and will be addressed at the May meeting. The bill has an author, Senator Carillo, who also sponsored SB 2677, that was defeated. Discussion on residency programs and portability. General anesthesia permits and conscious sedation permits language changes. Vaccinations package now a regulation. Display of license needs to be in an area likely to be seen by all patients who use the facility, vs in a conspicuous space. Next meeting in May, Anaheim.

Other Activities:

I attended the CDA House of Delegates Nov. 18-19, 2022 Sacramento. I was invited as the ADHP representative by CDA President Dr. Tierlet and Speaker of the House Dr. Debra Finney. The ADA President brought greetings to the meeting. Multiple proposals were brought to the house, with much heated discussion around many of the issues. I was able to network with many colleagues from when I served on their board of trustees. These relationships are valuable as we continue to negotiate on political issues within our organizations.

The Alliance has had multiple meetings regarding AB 481 as well as with our lobbyist Cody Broyles.

The Alliance is discussing and proposing the changing of the RDA, RDAEF names to the following:

RDA to Licensed Dental Health Professional 1 and RDAEF to Licensed Dental Health Professional 2. Rationale: These titles differentiate the DA from RDA, RDAEF and emphasize licensure, add respect to the titles and better represent the position. **What are your thoughts and comments?**

Additional pathways to licensure: Portfolio/Preceptorship/DANB/Formal education...

We are looking at possibly proposing our own bill with a list of enactments to the scope of practice.

We are also preparing for Sunset Review in 2024.

Other Information about your committee This committee has been overwhelmed with meetings. I am very grateful for Claudia Pohl and Zena Delling, as well as Melodi Randolph and Joan Greenfield, as we continue to navigate these turbulent issues in our attempt to represent you all well and fairly and continue to lead the profession in a forward momentum to provide ideal consumer protection, and professional growth.

Communication: Meetings, meetings, meetings!
MOP-No additions currently.

Strategic Plan Activity:

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| Objective 4-3: Monitor and interact with the Dental Board regarding matters affecting dental assisting. | 2022-2023 | GR/Shari Becker Chair |
| Objective 4-5: Attend, actively participate in and encourage member attendance at DBC and DAC meetings. | 2022-2023 | GR/Shari Becker Chair-all are welcome- |
| Objective 4-6: Develop and maintain relationship with other dental and/or health organizations. | 2022-2023 | GR/Membership/Education |

Calendar of Future Events (specific to this position):

Date: February 23, 2023

Description of Event: CDA meeting to review proposed AB481 language and discuss areas of concern.

Questions or Concerns about your committee: We need money for our lobbyist. We need you, your colleagues, your families and your voices to help us have more of a presence, raise funds for our lobbyist and assist us with communications as needed.

Suggestions / Recommendations to CDAA BOD: CDAA should consider doing a legislative visit day to the capital as an annual event...get to know your senators and state assembly representatives...