

Government Relations

Shari Becker, CDA, RDA, FADAA
April 2023 Annual Report

Directives: None

Activities:

As per the MOP:

- Served as spokesperson to represent the legislative interests of CDAA.
- Served as contact person with other individuals and organizations.
- Reviewed legislation affecting dental assisting and report to the CDAA Board.
- Provided a report for the Newsletters.
- Provided legislative representation at the following meetings:
August 25-26, 2022 DAC/DBC meeting-Sacramento
November 17-18, 2022, DAC/DBC meeting-Sacramento
February 9-10, 2023, DAC/DBC meeting-Sacramento
March 16, 2023 Sunset Review hearing for the CDHB. Meet and greets with 2 legislative aides.- Sacramento

The 2022-2023 year has been extremely busy with legislative activities.

The Alliance, which includes CDAA, CADAT and the RDAEF Association, was re-established in consideration of pending and future legislative activities.

CDAA held multiple workshops over the 2022 summer to review and discuss the scope of practice in preparation for future meetings with the Alliance and CDA regarding scope of practice.

AB 2276 sponsored by CDA and authored by Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo was defeated last year with the influence of the Alliance, other stakeholders, CDHA and the Dental Hygiene Board of CA. Part of AB 2276's intention was to add coronal polish to the scope of practice for the unlicensed dental assistant. The defeat of that bill was striking.

Currently, AB481 sponsored by CDA and authored by Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo is focused on a multitude of proposed changes to scope of practice for dental assisting as well as additional proposed pathways to licensure.

Existing pathways include:

Unlicensed DA's-OJT – 15 months or 1280 hours of work experience including required 8 hr. IC course DBC approved/2 hr. CDPA course DBC approved/ CPR (AHA/ARC).

Formal education- DBC approved or CODA accredited program- minimum of 800 hours of specific didactic and clinical education.

**AB 481 alternative qualifications and possible pathways:

Preceptorship - 300 hours of education related to dentistry from a verified CE provider/500 clinical-chairside hour. Once completion of the above verified, DA may enroll in and perform CP pre-licensure.

Program Endorsement- Completion of 85% (680 of 800 hours) of a board approved program be eligible to complete examination process prior to graduation upon approval from the program director. License would be held by the DBC until verification of completion of the program is received.

Alternative education- graduation from a dental assisting program (ROP/apprenticeship/adult education) to include 500 education hours and 300 verifiable chairside hours.

DANB- intended for those who have moved from out of state. Includes graduation from a CODA program, is a CDA, would complete all CA mandatory education.

**Negotiations, conversations, and possible future amendments will be ongoing as this bill moves forward. You can track this bill as it moves ahead by going to https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB481

Ongoing topics, concerns, and discussion at the DAC and DBC meetings include:

RDAEF current examination questions and validity.

RDAEF expansion of the scope of practice to consider again including local anesthesia and administration of nitrous oxide. A survey was conducted, a work group established and found that 56% of dentists agreed that considering the scope of practice of an RDAEF, administration of local anesthetic made sense for patient comfort and enhanced timing of procedures. Scope of practice would need to be initiated through the legislative process. Stay tuned.

The legislative package from 2018 included eliminating the requirement for analog x-rays with radiology courses allowing for the sole use of digital technology.

Final updating of the infection control language that was previously approved by the DAC and DBC.

Statistics from the DBC from 7/2022 – 12/2022: as reported 2/9/2023:

RDA approved applicants:	2442	RDA licenses issued:	1049	Pass rate:	72%
RDAEF approved applicants:	94	RDAEF licenses issued:	124	Pass rate	56%
OAP approved applicants:	181	OA permits issued:	142	Pass rate	71%
DSAP approved applicants:	10	DSA permits issued:	4	Pass rate	100%

Concerns and issues regarding possible obstacles of applicants approved versus licenses issued. Possible timing of approved application to actual testing effecting pass/fail rates. Validity of RDAEF exam questions of concern.

Other Activities:

CDA has hired a lobbyist, Cody Boyles. Weekly Zoom meetings have been ongoing with the lobbyist. Additionally, weekly Alliance meetings on Zoom have taken place. These meetings will continue to be weekly or more frequently as needed.

I will be scheduling future meetings in Sacramento with legislators and their aides as this process continues.

Preparation needs to begin for the DBC Sunset Review.

Other Information about your position:

Please consider asking for financial donations from your local members to help in supporting our lobbyist. Also alerting them regarding the future need for their involvement as AB 481 and additional legislative and regulatory issues come forward.

Communication:

Ongoing communication continues with CDA regarding AB 481.

MOP: No additions at this time.

Strategic Plan:

Section 4.1 Pursue additional duties for all dental assisting categories.

Section 4.2 Monitor, respond to and pursue state legislative actions affecting dentistry.

Section 4.4 Monitor and interact with the DBC regarding matters affecting the profession of dentistry, dental hygiene and dental assisting.

Section 4.8 Develop and maintain relationship with other dental and/or health organizations.

Section 4.9 Advocate for and promote quality formal education for the dental assisting profession.

Calendar of Future Events:

Date: Weekly

Description of Event: Ongoing meetings with our lobbyist/ongoing meetings with the Alliance

Date: May 18-19, 2023

Event: DAC/DBC meeting southern CA

Questions or Concerns about this position: We need donations to help support our lobbyist fees. Any donations are appreciated. Also, we will be needing letter writing, email, in person visits to your local legislative representatives. The GR committee will assist with suggestions on coordinating meetings and also key talking points.

Suggestions / Recommendations to CDAA BOD:

I would like to schedule future GR forum meetings to orient, discuss and brainstorm areas involved with this committee and government relations in general. I also would like to have commitments from our locals to financially assist when able with the additional expenses being incurred with the lobbyist.

Though this year has been very busy, I appreciate the patience of this board as I continue to listen, learn and represent our organization. It has been an honor to serve.