



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO Box 47852 · Olympia Washington 98504-7852

### DENTAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION DENTAL THERAPY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bryan Swanson, DDS, Chair  
Mac Rainey, Public Member  
David Carsten, DDS  
Samantha Kofler, DDS  
Miryam Nossa, EFDA

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Tiffany Bass, DDS  
Sarah Khan, DDS

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Bruce Bronoske Jr., Dental Program  
Administrator  
Debbie Gardner, Program Manager  
Kitty Slater-Einert, Program Manager  
Adriana Barcena, Program Manager  
Mikala Lord, Policy Analyst  
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General  
Sherri Stratton, Assistant Program Manager  
Cassandra Gerard, Administrative Assistant

#### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **OPEN SESSION - 12:03 p.m.**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Dr. Bryan Swanson, DDS – Chair
  - 1.1. Introduction of committee members and staff
    - Mr. Bronoske, Jr. introduced committee members and staff
  - 1.2. Approval of agenda
    - There was a motion to approve the agenda as presented
    - The motion was moved and seconded
  - 1.3. Approval of May 2, 2024 meeting minutes
    - There was a motion to approve the May 2, 2024 meeting minutes
    - The motion was moved and seconded
- 2. DENTAL THERAPIST LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS** – The committee discussed licensure requirements for Dental Therapist and Dental Therapist Limited License.

- Mr. Bronoske Jr. shared the information he received from Skagit Valley College on dental health aid therapist license requirements and how it compares to requirements in other states. The CODA accredited dental therapy programs do not include root planing, scaling, and nitrous oxide training in other states. Out of state dental therapists and dental health aid therapists will need additional training to meet Washington state requirements. In the future, there may be educational program options available to out of state applicants to meet Washington state requirements.
- Dr. Warren, representing Skagit Valley College, commented that their curriculum needs to be adjusted based on the specific number of hours and requirements determined by the board to prepare their students for licensure.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. shared the current approved dental hygiene nitrous oxide classes as a reference for license requirements at the next meeting.
- For root planing and scaling training requirements, Dr. Carsten suggested the committee review the training currently provided in dental schools on those subjects.
- The committee discussed if foreign trained dental therapists will be eligible for licensure.

**3. DENTAL THERAPIST CLINICAL EXAMINATIONS** – The committee discussed clinical exam requirements for dental therapy licensure.

- Mr. Bronoske Jr. asked the committee to consider what qualifications are needed to approve a company administered exam. He shared examples of exams provided by CRDTS and CDCA-WREB-CITA.
- Dr. Carsten suggested reviewing validation data from each exam to determine which is acceptable.
- Ms. Davis asked if a dental therapist that was educated in New Zealand could have their education evaluated and take an exam to meet Washington state license requirements.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. will reference the limited license requirements in the statute for clarification during the rules workshop portion of the meeting.
- Dr. Warren shared that their first graduating class was expecting to take their clinical board exam before they graduate from the program. The college would like to start planning how to incorporate the exam into their curriculum/training cycle as soon as possible.

**4. DENTAL THERAPY RULES WORKSHOP** – The committee and department will work on draft rules for dental therapy.

- Mr. Bronoske Jr. shared the accepted changes to the rules made during the last meeting.
- Ms. Carter suggested liability insurance requirements not be included in the definition section, but added to the supervision plan.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. suggested areas to include dental health aid therapist license requirements in the rules.
- Ms. Gaylord commented that dental health aid therapists may need to have a separate section due to the difference in pathway to licensure from other applicants.

- Dr. Warren asked for clarification of the term given to therapists that graduate from Alaska and what path to licensure would be recommended in their situation.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. suggested that once the licensing requirements are defined it will aid in determining how Alaska candidates can obtain a license.
- Ms. Sullivan commented that the dental health aide therapist pathway to licensure should be proposed by the Tribes and the definitions and authorization should acknowledge RCW 70.350.020.
- Ms. Davis commented that Alaska provides federal certifications (CHAP) as opposed to state licenses.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. will add mortality reporting standards to the rules.
- Ms. Carter suggested adding a practice plan agreement section that includes when the plan needs to be submitted and what criteria are needed within the plan.
- The committee discussed and decided that the continuing education requirement will be 54 hours every 3 years.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. suggested expectations for limited conditions and emergency procedures be included in the practice plan agreement section.
- The committee discussed how a patient's physical status will be determined before a surgical procedure.
- Dr. Warren commented that their students are trained to determine their patient's physical status.
- Ms. Davis commented that if the patient is required to see a dentist prior to treatment, this is limiting their access to care. Dental therapists are trained to classify a patient's ASA level.
- Ms. Gaylord commented that making prior approval and consultation by a dentist allowable through telehealth may provide more services to the patient.
- Ms. Davis commented that in her experience in working with programs in Alaska and Washington, the ASA classification isn't needed if the consultation that's done via telehealth is provided prior to an extraction.
- Ms. Johnson commented that if prior approval and consultation are required in general, having the specific ASA classifications doesn't seem necessary.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

- No correspondence received at this time.

## **6. FUTURE BUSINESS**

- No future business discussed.

## **7. ADJOURN**

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:02PM.

**Submitted by:**

**Approved by:**

Bruce Bronoske Jr., Dental Program Administrator  
Dental Quality Assurance Commission

Bryan Swanson, DDS, Chairperson  
Dental Quality Assurance Commission

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Signature

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