



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO Box 47852 · Olympia Washington 98504-7852

DENTAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION DENTAL THERAPY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Monday November 4, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

Miryam Nossa, EFDA
Samantha Kofler, DDS
Mac Rainey, Public Member
Sonia Pal, DMD

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bryan Swanson, DDS
Tiffany Bass, DDS
Sarah Khan, DDS

STAFF PRESENT

Trina Crawford, Executive Director
Bruce Bronoske Jr., Dental Program
Administrator
Debbie Gardner, Program Manager
Kitty Einert, Program Manager
Mikala Lord, Policy Analyst
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General
Cassandra Gerard, Administrative Assistant
Britni McLucas, Health Services Consultant
Sarah Miczynski, Health Services Consultant
Sarah Rountry, Health Services Consultant

OPEN SESSION - 1:04 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Mac Rainey, Public Member

1.1. Introduction of committee members and staff

- Ms. Einert introduces committee members and staff.

1.2. Approval of agenda

- There is a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
- The motion is moved and seconded.

1.3. Approval of October 3, 2024 meeting minutes

- There is a motion to approve the October 3, 2024 meeting minutes.
- The motion is moved and seconded.

2. PRACTICE PLAN AGREEMENT – The committee and department review the draft of the Dental Therapy Practice Plan Agreement.

- Ms. Einert reviews the changes to the practice plan agreement that were discussed during the last meeting.
- The patients with specific medical conditions section will be added to the practice plan agreement once the rule is complete.
- Ms. Johnson representing the Washington State Dental Association explains their regulatory affairs committee would like clarification on how many dental therapists a dentist may supervise at once.
- The committee agrees to review [RCW 18.265.060](#) and the definition of supervision at a future meeting.
- The committee discusses changing the language in the protocol section of the agreement to reflect fabrication and placement of preformed crowns.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. explains the draft protocol language was taken directly from the statute.
- Dr. Warren shares the Dental Therapy Program at Skagit Valley College includes fabricating provisional crowns as well as re-cementing crowns and placing stainless steel crowns.
- Mr. Narvaez advises against listing specific materials due to constant change and states the term permanent does not apply to crown situations.
- Mx. Saxton representing the Washington Association for Community Health recommends clarification of fabrication and placement in the practice plan.
- Ms. Johnson representing the Washington State Dental Association states the statute doesn't allow for the fabrication of temporary crowns and the plain language of the statute should be used to avoid expanding the scope.
- The committee discusses removing the word preparation from the placement of preformed crowns to avoid misinterpretation.
- Mr. Killpack comments if there is a definition that is not used in the statute, then commonly used definitions within the space should be used as a reference. He suggests staying within the contours of the statute and its rulemaking.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. suggests clarification can be made through FAQs or definitions.
- Ms. Carter recommends keeping the statutory language and clarifying terms elsewhere.
- Ms. Einert shares nonsurgical extractions of erupted permanent teeth under limited conditions was added to the protocols section.

3. DENTAL THERAPY RULES – The committee and department continue working on draft rules for Dental Therapy.

- Ms. Einert shares the revisions to limited conditions in the definitions section.
- Ms. Johnson representing the Washington State Dental Association suggests a sentence to address when pathology indicates something may be present, that a dental therapist is not permitted to perform that extraction.

- Mr. Narvaez responds that the additional language may be confusing and may not assist in increasing access to care.
- Ms. Johnson suggests limited conditions extractions need to include evaluation by a licensed dentist under general or close supervision to ensure safe access to care.
- Ms. Einert reviews the language that was added to the practice plan agreement section that outlines the mutually agreed upon functions the dentist authorizes the dental therapist to perform.
- Ms. Einert shares dental therapy aid certification was added to the dental therapy limited license language.
- Ms. Einert updates the committee on which exams are acceptable. Staff will meet with both examining companies to discuss the components of the exam in reference to the clinical local anesthesia and periodontal portions.
- Ms. Einert shares the language that was added to the practice plan agreement requirements and limited insurance requirements.
- Mr. Narvaez comments the language added to limited insurance requirements regarding when a dental therapist must obtain liability insurance is useful for organizations like his own.
- The committee discusses liability insurance requirements compared to other professions.
- Dr. Warren asks for the licensure options for students graduating from the Dental Therapy Program at Skagit Valley College.
- Ms. Carter refers to provision [18.265.050](#) section 3 that states a dental therapist may only provide services and procedures in which they have been educated.
- Mr. Narvaez asks how postgraduate training will be recognized for dental therapists.
- Ms. Carter explains how education is obtained is not defined in the statute. It may need to be determined by the Commission or Secretary.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- No correspondence received at this time.

5. FUTURE BUSINESS

- The committee will continue working on the practice plan contract and dental therapy rules.

6. ADJOURN

- The meeting is adjourned at 2:06 PM.

Submitted by:

Kitty Einert, Program Manager
Dental Quality Assurance Commission

Approved by:

Sonia Pal, DMD
Dental Quality Assurance Commission

Signature

Signature

Date

Date