



DENTAL HYGIENE EXAMINING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 18, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Verla Rich, RDH, Chair
Jacqueline Perry, RDH, Vice-Chair
Cheryl Lewis, RDH

STAFF PRESENT: Vicki Brown, Program Manager
Blake Maresh, Executive Director
Megan Brown, Program Manager
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General
Diane Young, Credentialing Manager
Danielle Welliever, Rules Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: Colleen Gaylord, RDH, Washington State Dental Hygienists'
Association
Ann Anderson, RDH
Melissa Rice, Ph.D.
Pixie Needham, RDH
Sheila Hoople, RDH

The Washington Dental Hygiene Examining Committee met on Thursday, October 18, 2013, at the Department of Health, Town Center 2, Room 158, 111 Israel Rd. S.E., Tumwater, WA.

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The business meeting of the Dental Hygiene Examining Committee (committee) was called to order at 10:35 a.m. on Thursday, October 18, 2013, by Verla Rich, RDH, Chair.

1.1 Introductions

The committee, staff, and audience introduced themselves.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Ms. Perry motioned for approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lewis and unanimously approved as presented.

1.3 Approval of June 28, 2013, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Perry motioned for approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lewis. The minutes of the June 28, 2013 business meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

2. RULES DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP – Blake Maresh and Vicki Brown

Mr. Maresh explained the rules process to the committee. He stated this is just a workshop for the committee and guests to give recommendations and feedback to the Department of Health (department). The committee does not have authority to adopt rules.

The committee discussed cleaning up and updating the following rules:

- WAC 246-815-020 – Dental hygiene examination eligibility.
 - The credentialing office explained the purpose of removing section 2(c) is to coincide with the online credential application. No photograph of the applicant is required when submitting an online application.
 - The committee did not have any concerns with the department updating the rule for consistency.
- WAC 246-815-140 – Continuing education for dental hygienists.
 - In section (2), change Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to Basic Life Support (BLS) as BLS is specific to healthcare practitioners. A guest suggested postponing the change until we know the differences between CPR and BLS. This will be added to the next agenda.
 - Changes discussed for section (3)
 - Allow “X” number of hours for teaching preparation, volunteer work, and to give certain leeway to address non-clinical practice.
 - A guest stated they felt that a hygienist should not be allowed to obtain credits for volunteering or for teaching a continuing education course because it doesn’t prove competence.
 - Another guest asked the committee to consider allowing IRA or medical/health insurance courses.

- A guest stated that when the continuing education (CE) rule was initially adopted, it was purposely written with broad requirements as many practitioners are not clinicians. She also stated the rule is out of date and thinks it should be updated.
- The committee discussed how specific the CE requirements are for dentists and if the dental hygiene CE rule should be modeled after the dental CE rule.
- A guest stated that it may be restricting if the rules are too specific about CE requirements.
- Mr. Maresh stated that the committee could recommend that CE will only be counted if the course requires an examination and the dental hygienist successfully completes it.
- A guest stated that she had concerns about the use of the word “competent” and she felt that “proficient” would be a better choice.
- A committee member stated there is a difference between being competent and being lazy. If a dental hygienist has clinical competency, then it’s a matter of properly applying their education.

The proposed rule changes will be on a future agenda for discussion.

3. DRAFT REPORT ON SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL (SHB) 1309 – Blake Maresh

The committee members were given a copy of the draft report required by SHB 1309 that was effective July 2009. The bill requires the department to provide a report to the legislature by December 1, 2013 that summarizes information about patients receiving dental hygiene services in senior centers and community based sealant programs.

Mr. Maresh summarized the draft report and informed the committee of the Dental Quality Assurance Commission’s (DQAC’s) comments. DQAC did not feel that enough information was provided and that it is hard to do a thorough analysis without complete data.

Mr. Maresh informed the committee that the bill does not require the department to provide recommendations to the legislature.

4. LETTER FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE DENTAL HYGIENISTS’ ASSOCIATION (WSDHA)

The committee members were given a copy of a letter from WSDHA regarding DQAC’s comments on SHB 1309.

WSDHA's letter states DQAC assumed the number of patients seen by a dental hygienist should equal the number of patients referred to dentists. The letter clarified that the hygienist must recommend that the patient be seen annually by a licensed dentist but only make a referral if needed.

The committee discussed DQAC's concerns about the discrepancy of the data provided in the report. If a referral is made by the hygienist, it does not necessarily mean the patient will follow through. Patients are not required to go see a dentist with a recommendation or referral.

5. **BYLAWS**

Committee members and guests had some general comments about the bylaws.

Article VI – Meeting Procedures.

- Section 1: Leadership
 - Ms. Gaylord suggested removing section C because the committee only consists of four members.
 - The committee members did not have any concerns with this change.

Ms. Brown will make this change and bring the bylaws to the next business meeting for approval and a vote to adopt them.

6. **SETTING 2014 MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS** – Vicki Brown

Committee members decided on the following meeting dates and locations for 2014:

- Friday, February 7, 2014, via conference call
- Monday, June 2, 2014, at the department's Tumwater office
- Friday, August 15, at the department's Tumwater office
- Friday, October 10, 2014, at the department's Tumwater office

7. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Committee members nominated and voted for the chair and vice-chair positions. The terms are effective to September 30, 2014.

- Verla Rich, RDH, was nominated for chair. She accepted the nomination and the committee unanimously re-elected Ms. Rich as chair.
- Jacqueline Perry, RDH, was nominated for vice-chair. She accepted the nomination and the committee unanimously re-elected Ms. Perry as vice-chair.

8. PARTICIPANTS FOR THE JULY 1, 2013 – JUNE 30, 2014 STEERING COMMITTEES AND DENTAL HYGIENE EXAMINATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WREB AND CRDTS

- Ms. Perry will represent the committee at the Central Regional Dental Testing Services (CRDTS) examination review committee meetings.
- Ms. Rich will represent the committee at the CRDTS executive and steering committee meetings.
- Ms. Lewis will represent the committee at the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) examination review committee meetings

Ms. Brown will contact WREB and CRDTS about having committee members participate in examination administrations.

9. POLICY STATEMENTS – Heather Carter, AAG

Ms. Carter explained that interpretive and policy statements are done to clarify existing statutes and rules and provide guidance to the public. It is not legally binding and it must go through a formal process before it is filed with the Code Reviser's Office.

The committee discussed having policy statements for:

- Practice/employment settings
 - Committee members no longer think it is necessary to have a policy statement for this as it was resolved with the passage of House Bill (HB) 1330.
- Topical anesthesia
 - The topical anesthesia issue was resolved with the passage of HB 1330.
- Head and neck exams and oral cancer screenings
 - The committee requested Ms. Carter to research the difference between “diagnosis” and “referral” for presentation at the next meeting for a future policy.

- Curettage
 - The committee requested Ms. Carter to draft a proposed policy for presentation at the next meeting for discussion.

10. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) FOR THE DENTAL HYGIENE WEBSITE

Ms. Lewis gave Ms. Brown a list of possible FAQ's. Ms. Brown will include this for discussion at the next business meeting.

Staff has not received any frequently asked questions. The committee will send any questions or suggestions they may think of to staff. The questions and/or suggestions will be compiled and be presented to the committee at the next meeting for review.

11. DENTAL HYGIENE EXAMINING COMMITTEE 2011 – 2013 BUSINESS PLAN

Committee members received a handout of the 2011 – 2013 business plan and proposed business plan for 2013 – 2015.

Goal #2: To review and update standardization/calibration program for examiners through WREB and CRDTS contracts.

- Objective: For each exam, calibrate temporary examiners by providing examination demonstration by qualified experts.
 - A guest suggested removing the word “temporary” because it is no longer the process to have temporary examiners.
 - Ms. Brown will make this change.

Goal #5: To continue ongoing communication with educational institutions, other professional boards, national organizations and regional testing agencies.

- Objective: Increase participation of committee and/or staff in DQAC meetings, in-state school accreditations, and related national organization conferences and attend/observe other state/regional examination administrations.
 - Dr. Rice inquired about the possibility of the committee exploring ways of getting public input on hygiene issues through a communication outreach mechanism.

- Mr. Maresh stated the department's role is health profession regulation and if the committee decides to reach out to the public, then they need to make sure the public understands the department's role is regulations and patient safety.
- A committee member pointed out that section five of the business plan is focused on communication with professional organizations and suggested adding another section to the business plan focusing on public input.
- Ms. Brown will add this as Goal #15 to the business plan and bring to the next meeting for further review

Goal #8: To enhance program understanding of responsibilities for the committee by staff.

- Objective: Provide learning opportunities according to individual needs
 - Dr. Rice indicated she did not fully understand what would be expected of her when she applied to be a committee member.
 - She will send Ms. Brown a list of things that would have been useful to know before applying to be a committee member.
 - Mr. Maresh will pass it on to the person responsible for new member orientation.
 - Ms. Carter indicated that useful information of board/commission member expectations can be found at the governor's web-site. This tool would be useful for people applying to be on a committee as well.

12. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Ms. Rich provided an overview to the committee of the CRDTS Executive and Steering Committee meeting held on August 24, 2013.

13. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT REPORT – Blake Maresh and Vicki Brown

13.1 Interim Operating Budget Report

- Mr. Maresh presented the July 1, 2013 – August 31, 2013 budget report.
- Currently there are no concerns about the committee's budget.

- Mr. Maresh will do a budget presentation at the next in-person business meeting.

13.2 Licensing statistics

- Committee members were provided a handout with the following licensing statistics:
 - 82 Dental Hygienists with Initial Limited Licenses
 - 280 Dental Hygienists with Renewable Limited Licenses
 - 5,564 Dental Hygienists Licenses
 - 12,742 Dental Assistant Registrations
 - 5,882 Dentist Licenses
 - 194 Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary Licenses

13.3 Committee Member Recruitment

- Ms. Brown informed the committee that Melissa Rice, PhD is the newly appointed public member. Her term is effective November 1, 2013. There will be a vacant Dental Hygienist position next year.

13.4 Disciplinary Cases Update

- Nothing to report.

13.5 Acceptable Exams by State

- Committee members were provided a handout of the accepted examinations in each state.
- Washington currently accepts CRDTS and WREB. North East Regional Board (NERB) is only acceptable if it was taken between January 1, 2000 and August 21, 2009.

14. CONSENT AGENDA – CORRESPONDENCE

The following item(s) and any additional correspondence received or sent was for the committee's information. If separate discussion was desired on an item, a single motion by a committee member placed the specific item(s) on the regular business agenda. If there was no motion, there was no discussion.

14.1 CRDTS Bylaws Revisions

14.2 WREB minutes from July 18 – 20, 2013

15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- American Dental Hygiene Association standard of care incorporated into Washington State dental hygiene rules
- Licensing and disciplinary statistics
- Business Plan for 2013-2015
- Presentation on the role of the Office of Investigation and Inspection
- Presentation on the budget – Blake Maresh
- Policy Statements
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs) for the dental hygiene website
- Rules development – Number of examination attempts
- Bylaws

16. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC INPUT

- The mid-level practitioner bill will be presented to the Legislature by the Washington State Dental Hygienists' Association (WSDHA) again in the 2014 session.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 2013.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 7, 2014, via conference call. If members of the public wish to call in, instructions will be provided on the agenda.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Vicki Brown, Program Manager

Verla Rich, RDH, Chair