



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
PO Box 47852 · Olympia Washington 98504-7852

**DENTAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION**  
**DENTAL THERAPY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bryan Swanson, DDS, Chair  
David Carsten, DDS  
Mac Rainey, Public Member  
Tiffany Bass, DDS

**STAFF PRESENT**

Trina Crawford, Executive Director  
Bruce Bronoske Jr., Program Manager  
Amber Freeberg, Program Manager  
Cassandra Gerard, Administrative Assistant  
Heather Carter, AAG  
Catherine Roner-Reiter, SSA

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Samantha Kofler, DDS  
Miryam Nossa, EFDA

**OPEN SESSION**

**OPEN SESSION - 12:02 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Bryan Swanson, DDS – Chair**

1.1. Introduction of committee members and staff

- Mr. Bronoske, Jr. introduces committee members and staff.

1.2. Approval of agenda

- Mr. Bronoske, Jr. requests an amendment to include an item of correspondence from the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Swinomish Dental Licensing Board.
- There is a motion to approve the agenda as amended.
- The agenda is moved and seconded.

1.3. Approval of December 12, 2023, meeting minutes

- There is a motion to approve the December 12, 2023, meeting minutes.
- The motion is moved and seconded.

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

- Mr. Bronoske, Jr. shares the draft rules from 9.22.23 and the suggested rule writing and language from Washington State Dental Association and Washington Association for Community Health.
- No comments received for WAC 246-819-001 Purpose.
- Washington State Dental Association suggests “active practice” be included in WAC 246-819-010 – Definitions.
- Lauren Johnson, representing Washington State Dental Association, shares section 11 in the bill language requires an applicant to be engaged in active practice from another state, Canadian province, or tribe and thinks it would be pertinent to include in the rules.
- Dr. Gibbons comments dental therapy includes irreversible procedures and stressed the importance of having active practice hours recorded.
- Mr. Bronoske, Jr. explains the number of practice hours required will need to be justified.
- Lauren Johnson offers to consult their membership on the reasoning behind the 560-hour requirement. She asks the committee to include an hourly requirement in the definition of active practice to ensure patient safety.
- Cheyanne Warren asks if active practice hours might include teaching.
- Dr. Carsten expresses concern about the minimum number of practice hours and suggests it may need to be raised.
- Lauren Johnson points out the Washington Association for Community Health included the definition of “close supervision” in their proposed rules.
- Dr. Gibbons, immediate past president of the Washington State Dental Association, emphasizes the importance of understanding a dental therapist’s background experience before licensing to maintain public safety.
- Melissa Johnson, on behalf of the Dental Hygienists Association, points out the law around the limited license requires the applicant to already be licensed in another state and suggests the 560-hour requirement is unnecessary.
- Dr. Carsten recommends using the same minimum requirement as dentist licenses.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. will send out a draft of the definitions for the committee’s review.
- Lauren Johnson suggests in addition to the close supervision definition, a definition of general supervision and limited conditions be included as well.
- Melissa Johnson comments that the Washington State Dental Association’s definition for limited conditions is too narrow.
- Sami Bailey, representing Washington Association for Community Health, suggests initial temporary license match the statute which is labeled as a limited license instead.
- Melissa Johnson suggests adding supervising dental therapists to the general supervision definition.
- Lauren Johnson points out the term general supervision is not defined in the statute. She also asks how the commission plans to enforce the requirement of a practice plan agreement prior to a dental therapist beginning practice.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. will obtain an example of a practice plan for the committee’s review.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. suggests dental therapy licenses have an annual renewal cycle.

- Lauren Johnson suggests dental therapists have the same continuing education requirements as dentists.
- Cheyanne Warren expresses concern for the same amount of continuing education credits to be required as dentists as it may be misleading to the public.
- Dr. Swanson and Dr. Pal suggest the requirement be 21 hours of continuing education a year.
- The committee discusses certain continuing education credits to be met with in person training.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

3.1. Washington Association for Community Health

- Submitted proposed dental therapy rules.

3.2. Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Swinomish Dental Licensing Board

- Provided comments on proposed dental therapy rules.

**4. FUTURE BUSINESS**

- Mr. Bronoske, Jr. will arrange presentations regarding federally qualified health centers and limited licenses.
- Mr. Bronoske, Jr. recommends the committee choose future meeting dates three weeks apart.
- The committee will meet again on February 5, 2024.

**5. ADJOURN**

- The meeting is adjourned at 1:00pm.

**Submitted by:**

Bruce Bronoske Jr., Program Manager  
Dental Quality Assurance Commission

**Approved by:**

Bryan Swanson, DDS, Chairperson  
Dental Quality Assurance Commission

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Signature

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Date

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Date