



# Dental Hygiene Committee Meeting Minutes Licensing and Examination Subcommittee

*Friday, April 20, 2018*

## Location:

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel – San Diego Mission Valley  
7450 Hazard Center Drive  
San Diego, CA 92108

## DHCC Members Present:

Noel Kelsch, Chairperson, Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice (RDHAP)  
Susan Good, President, Public Member (Substitute Subcommittee member to establish a quorum)  
Sandra Klein, Public Member

## DHCC Members Absent:

Nicolette Moultrie, Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)  
Evangeline Ward, RDH

## DHCC Staff Present:

Anthony Lum, Executive Officer  
Brittany Alicia, Receptionist  
Nancy Gaytan, Enforcement Analyst  
Adina Pineschi-Petty, Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), Educational Specialist  
Jason Hurtado, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Legal Counsel for the DHCC

## Public Present:

Beth Wilson, California Dental Hygienist's Association (CDHA)  
Maureen Titus, CDHA  
Heidi Coggan, CDHA  
Karen Fischer, Executive Officer, Dental Board of California (DBC)  
Thomas Stewart, DDS, President, DBC  
JoAnn Galliano, MEd, RDH, DHCC Educational Consultant and Subject Matter Expert (SME)  
Debra Daniels, Taft College  
Vickie Kimbrough, Taft College, Purple Pen  
Leslie Nazaroff, San Joaquin Valley College (SJVC) – Ontario  
Brenda Serpa, SJVC – Visalia  
Morgan Stacey, Duane Marris, LLP  
Kelly Reich, Western Regional Examination Board (WREB)  
Sabrina Santucho, Concorde Career College (CCC) – San Bernardino  
Jana Pierce, Shasta College  
Meg Robison, Southwestern College (SWC), Dental Hygiene Student  
Jen Stoehr, SWC Dental Hygiene Student

Amanda Friednchs, SWC Dental Hygiene Student  
Kassandra Brown, SWC Dental Hygiene Student  
Kerrin Bradford, SWC Dental Hygiene Student  
Amelia Mosser, SWC Dental Hygiene Student  
Lisa Kamibayashi, West Los Angeles College (WLAC)  
Arezou Goshtasbi, Concorde Career College (CCC) – Garden Grove  
Laurel Sampson, CCC – San Diego  
Veronica Patino, SWC  
Victoria Mayfield, SWC  
Summery Cheam, SWC  
Jeressa Balagot, SWC  
Farah Al-jay, SWC  
Jean Honny, SWC, RDH  
Donna Smith, University of Southern California (USC)  
Linda Brookman, USC

## 1. Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum

Noel Kelsch, Chairperson of the Licensing and Examination Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at **2:38 p.m.** Roll call taken and a quorum was established with three members present.

## 2. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

No comments from the public received.

## 3. Chairperson's Report

Chair Kelsch stated there was no report.

## 4. Approval of the November 17, 2017 Licensing and Examination Subcommittee Minutes

Chair Kelsch stated there was not enough Dental Hygiene Committee of California (DHCC) Licensing and Examination Subcommittee Members present that participated in the November 17, 2017 meeting, so the participating members at this meeting could only accept rather than adopt the subcommittee meeting minutes.

Chair Kelsch requested comments from the public or the Subcommittee.

No comments received.

The November 17, 2017 Licensing and Examination Subcommittee Minutes were accepted.

## 5. Licensure Statistics

Anthony Lum, Executive Officer (EO) for the DHCC, presented a series of handouts regarding licensure statistics.

EO Lum requested questions or comments from the Subcommittee.

President Good questioned if historically the population growth was common.

EO Lum directed President Good to the handout which displayed the population of registered dental hygienists (RDH), registered dental hygienist in alternative practice (RDHAP), and registered dental hygienist extended functions (RDHEF) from 2014 to 2018. He stated that the years 2014 and 2015 include an asterisk, as the previous tracking system was flawed and double counted some licensees. In addition, a footnote was added to disclose that the 2014 and 2015 number of licensees is inaccurate. Years 2016, 2017, and 2018 have been verified as an accurate count of licensees. EO Lum continued that there has been a gradual increase in RDH licenses; RDHAP licenses have experienced marginal growth; RDHEF licenses have remained the same as this type of license is no longer issued.

EO Lum requested questions or comments from the Subcommittee.

No comments received.

## 6. Written Examination Statistics

EO Lum presented the Law and Ethics Examination statistics. Eighty percent of RDH examinees and 50% of RDHAP examinees earned passing scores.

Chair Kelsch commented that there is a high fail rate for the RDHAP Law and Ethics Exam.

EO Lum stated that this issue was discussed with the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) as they assist in creating the Law and Ethics Exam. It was determined that there is a multitude of reasons why examinees fail the exam, including test anxiety and poor exam preparation.

Chair Kelsch questioned if the DHCC is reviewing the RDHAP Law and Ethics Exam to determine if there is something within the Exam content that is causing failure among examinees. Previously, it was discussed by the DHCC to incorporate and direct the language of the examination toward a younger generation.

EO Lum stated that there is an agenda item regarding exam development, so he will be addressing those concerns in that segment.

Chair Kelsch requested comments from the public or the Subcommittee.

Donna Smith, USC, questioned if the DHCC provides an item analysis to research if any questions or topics are the most missed questions on the exam. Ms. Smith stated if an item analysis is conducted,

the DHCC can report to the RDHAP educational programs to review if there is a disconnect between the program education and the exam. In addition, the exam is a computer based exam; therefore, recent graduates may have an advantage over older age brackets of RDHAPs.

Chair Kelsch stated that the failure rate of the RDHAP Law and Ethics Exam has increased in severity. Data provided for November 10, 2016 – March 29, 2017 indicates the failure rate was 25 percent. In addition, data provided for October 4, 2017 – March 7, 2018 indicates that the failure rate increased to 50 percent.

Vickie Kimbrough (Taft College, Purple Pen) requested the DHCC to provide exam statistics individualized for California dental hygiene educational programs versus out-of-state dental hygiene educational programs to address a possible disconnect. Dr. Kimbrough stated that she received feedback from students who have taken the exam and reported concerns with the ethics section.

Jean Honny, SWC, RDH, suggested that for the sake of data collection, a post-exam survey may be given to examinees to gather data on areas that may have seemed ambiguous.

Chair Kelsch recommended EO Lum conduct research to find out what specific areas examinees are experiencing the most concerns and make considerations for examinee age groups and similar categories.

President Good added that EO Lum should explore the possibility of adding post-exam surveys.

EO Lum stated that it was recommended to the DHCC for the Law and Ethics Examination to be treated as a learning tool where examinees can self-remediate if they had failed the exam. However, OPES stated that the Law and Ethics Exam is not meant to educate, it is meant to test an individual for minimum competency.

There were no further comments.

## 7. Discussion and Possible Action, and Recommendation to the Full Committee on Occupational Analysis and Examination Development for RDH and RDHAP

EO Lum stated that a normal Occupational Analysis (OA) is conducted every five to seven years, to verify that it accurately describes current practice of the dental hygiene profession. An OA's purpose is to define a profession in terms of the actual tasks that new licensees must perform safely and competently at the time of licensure. To develop an examination that is fair, job-related and legally defensible, it must be solidly based upon what licensees actually do on the job. The last OA was completed in 2010, so a new one will need to be completed soon.

EO Lum stated he met with OPES to obtain information regarding an OA and obtained information on exam development. Exam development needs to be addressed to create a new bank of questions for the RDH and RDHAP Law and Ethics Examinations. The process is lengthy, and licensee resources will need to be contacted for a pool of experts to participate in the exam development. Financially, it

would be in the best interest of the DHCC to conduct the OA in fiscal year (FY) 2018/19 and overlap the cost of examination development in the latter part of FY 2018/19 and continue into FY 2019/20.

EO Lum requested the DHCC Licensing and Examination Subcommittee discuss and determine whether an OA is needed and make recommendations to the Full Committee to proceed on a contract with the OPES to conduct the OA.

Motion: Chair Kelsch moved to allow Executive Officer Lum to proceed on a contract with the OPES to conduct an OA.

Second: Sandra Klein

Chair Kelsch asked if any member of the public or the Subcommittee would like to comment.

JoAnn Galliano, RDH, MS, DHCC Educational Consultant and Subject Matter Expert (SME) stated that the criteria for the OA states that you cannot have anyone who is an instructor be on the subject matter expert (SME) committee. She stated that it would be difficult to have someone working on exam development who does not have an educational background. She questioned why OPES feels that having RDH educators would compromise the process of developing a new examination. Additionally, she questioned if the DHCC has an opportunity to look at the final OA to verify that it is capturing the vital information needed.

Executive Officer Lum stated that he would conduct further research to address Ms. Galliano's concerns.

There were no further comments.

***Vote: Motion allow Executive Officer Lum to proceed on a contract with OPES to conduct an OA. Passed 3:0.***

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Noel Kelsch	X		
Susan Good	X		
Sandra Klein	X		

## 8. Discussion and Possible Action, and Recommendation to the Full Committee on Proposed Revision of Business and Professions Code § 1917(b) – Time Period to Accept Clinical Examination Results for Licensure

EO Lum stated that this topic is a remainder from the November 2017 meeting, as the DHCC members could not decide on the number of years in which an individual can obtain a license that had passed the clinical exam after a number of years. In the current amended sunset bill, the new language states five years. EO Lum requested the DHCC Licensing and Examination Subcommittee discuss and determine the acceptable number of years between passing a clinical examination and applying for a dental hygiene license for recommendation to the DHCC Full Committee. The decision made by the Full Committee will then be sent to the Legislature to amend the section of law in Senate Bill (SB) § 1482.

Chair Kelsch questioned Jason Hurtado, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Legal Counsel (LC) for the DHCC, if someone has not practiced for any number of years, are there any laws or regulations set in place that state the individual would need to take a supplementary course or any other requirements of that nature.

LC Hurtado stated that currently there is no such law or regulation set in place.

Motion: Chair Kelsch moved that an individual should be licensed within two years of completing and passing the clinical exam, as licensees are required to complete continuing education every two years.

Second: Susan Good

Chair Kelsch requested comments from members of the public or the Subcommittee.

Donna Smith (USC) requested clarification if an individual completed and passed the clinical exam and was licensed in another state, if this proposed deadline will disqualify them from receiving a RDH license in California.

Chair Kelsch stated the deadline will only affect an individual who has never been licensed in any of the states of the United States.

Dr. Kimbrough stated the initial discussion revolved around the concerns of an individual who does not obtain licensure from any state in the United States after completing the clinical exam; however, the language presented does not clearly state that. Dr. Kimbrough requested clarity when the the final language is created.

Jean Honny (SWC) stated individuals in this situation should be required to participate in a remediation course in addition to, or in place of, retaking the clinical exam. It is the opinion of Ms. Honny if a person does not become licensed and does not practice for a period of time, their skillset may be lost, and that remediation would enhance the applicant's skills and enable the individual to pass a clinical exam.

No further comments received.

***Vote: Motion to require an individual to be licensed within two years of completing and passing a clinical exam. Passed 3:0.***

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Noel Kelsch	X		
Susan Good	X		
Sandra Klein	X		

## 9. Discussion and Possible Action, and Recommendation to the Full Committee on Registered Dental Hygienist Scope of Practice in a Public Health Setting – Clarifying Scope

Executive Officer Lum reported that Stakeholders/Licensees have inquired with the DHCC several times in the past to obtain clarity as to the scope of practice for an RDH working in a public health setting. Staff requests that the DHCC Licensing and Examination Subcommittee discuss and clarify the RDH scope of practice in a public health setting and respond to the questions asked while addressing this agenda item.

Chair Kelsch requested comments from the members of the public or the Subcommittee.

Linda Brookman, USC, RDH, RDHAP, clarified that an educational setting is different from a public health setting regarding RDH scope of practice. She questioned if amalgams could be polished by a handpiece and bur while doing sealants in an educational setting.

Ms. Galliano stated that she was involved with the CDHA when the duties were originally allocated between registered dental assistants (RDA) and RDHs. Polishing and contouring was not a duty that was meant to remain under the RDH scope of practice as it is more of a restorative procedure. Additionally, most dental hygiene programs were not teaching the skill to clinical competency. The more preventative and therapeutic practices were assigned to RDH scope of practice versus the restorative practices of dentistry.

President Good recommended that the Dental Hygiene Table of Permitted Duties be reviewed, adopted, and distributed at the next DHCC meeting.

## 10. Future Agenda Items

Chair Kelsch stated that the future agenda items are: remediation for individuals who would like to obtain initial licensure and have not practiced for a number of years; scope of practice on polishing and contouring restorations; Dental Hygiene Table of Permitted Duties be reviewed, adopted, and distributed.

Chair Kelsch requested comments from members of the public or Subcommittee.

A member from the public questioned if the DHCC would explore other methods for individuals who take the clinical exam in addition to the Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) and Central Regional Dental Testing Services (CRDTS).

## 11. Adjournment

Chair Kelsch adjourned the Education Subcommittee meeting at **3:21 p.m.**