



LICENSING & EXAMINATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, December 3, 2016
2005 Evergreen Street, 1st Floor
1st Floor Hearing Room
Sacramento, CA 95815

LICENSING & EXAMINATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Evangeline Ward, RDH, Chair
Nicolette Moultrie, RDH
Sandra Klein, Public Member

LICENSING & EXAMINATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT

Edcelyn Pujol, Public Member

LIC 1 Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum

Evangeline Ward, chair of the Licensing & Examination Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 12:29 a.m. Chair Ward took roll call and a quorum was established with three subcommittee members present. Edcelyn Pujol had been excused.

LIC 2 Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Ward asked if any subcommittee member or member of the public would like to comment on any item not on the agenda. There were no comments.

LIC 3 Chairperson's Report

Chair Ward stated that she did not have a Chairperson's report for this meeting.

LIC 4 Approval of the May 6, 2016 Licensing & Examination Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Motion: Nicolette Moultrie moved to accept the May 6, 2016 Licensing & Examination Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Second: Sandra Klein.

Chair Ward asked if any member of the public would like to comment. There were no comments.

Vote: The motion to accept the May 6, 2016 Licensing & Examination Subcommittee meeting minutes passed 3-0.

Name	Vote:		Other
	Aye	Nay	
Evangeline Ward	X		
Sandra Klein	X		
Nicolette Moultrie	X		
Edcelyn Pujol			Absent

LIC 5 Written Examination Statistics

Anthony Lum reviewed the six-month score summary charts that had been provided. Mr. Lum stated that success rates for the written law and ethics examination were 72% pass/ 28% fail for registered dental hygienists (RDHs) and 75% pass/ 25% fail for registered dental hygienists in alternative practice (RDHAPs).

Public Comment: Lygia Jolley asked if the 75% pass rate recorded for RDHs was for the test-taker's first try. Mr. Lum answered that the computer system did not delineate whether the score is for a first or a subsequent attempt. Ms. Jolley stated that it is disconcerting that only approximately three-quarters of applicants pass.

Public Comment: Vickie Kimbrough noted that since the computer system did not delineate which applicants were taking the test for the first time, the success rate must also include applicants trained outside of California. She remarked that if out-of-state applicants' rates were removed, the data may be significantly different. Ms. Hubble replied that the BreEZe computer system was purported to contain a robust reporting capacity and that she would look into whether a more granular report could be created.

There were no more comments.

LIC 6 Licensure Statistics

Mr. Lum explained that since the DHCC began using BreEZe in early 2016, it had become apparent that the legacy computer system had double counted some licenses. Therefore, when comparing the licensure statistic reports for

2016 against prior years, there will seem to be a significant drop in the number of licensees. The latest number of licenses, as per BreEZe, at the time of the meeting was:

- RDH 22,413
- RDHAP 623
- RDHEF 32
- FNP 186

The total number of licenses issued reached just over 32,000. When comparing this to the report from late 2015, the data indicate issuance of 344 new licenses across all categories. Between the two reports, there were 267 cancelled licenses. Therefore, the net gain of licenses from late 2015 to mid 2016 was around 70.

Chair Ward asked if any member of the public would like to comment. There were no comments.

LIC 7 Discussion & Possible Action to Review Out-of-State Education in Soft Tissue Curettage, Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen, & Administration of Local Anesthesia; Recommendation to the Full Committee

The DHCCs consideration of whether it would be feasible to review out-of-state education in soft tissue curettage, nitrous oxide-oxygen, and administration of local anesthesia (SLN) was agendized in response to a request made by a member of the public at the DHCC's May 2016 meeting.

Estelle Champlain reported that a condition for licensure in California is that the applicant must be trained in SLN through a course approved by the DHCC. As of the date of the meeting, the DHCC only evaluated courses within California for approval. The public member's request was for the DHCC to consider evaluating SLN instruction gained outside California.

Ms. Champlain stated that there is no national standard for SLN education because each state's dental hygiene licensing agency is responsible for setting acceptable standards of measuring competency that are appropriate for the protection of consumers within the respective state. The problem raised by the member of the public who brought this issue forward is that the decentralized approach negatively impacts career mobility for hygienists. Nonetheless, since the primary function of the DHCC is consumer protection, the safety of people who receive SLN services in California is of utmost concern. There are then two risks to the consumer that would have to be addressed in deciding whether the DHCC should evaluate SLN instruction gained outside California:

- What is the likelihood of instance and severity of injury if the DHCC were to grant reciprocity in SLN education?
- To what extent are California’s consumers adversely impacted by the lower influx and egress of hygienists due to lack of career mobility arising from denying reciprocity?

Ms. Champlain noted that aside from safety, the subcommittee will also need to evaluate the feasibility of implementing reciprocity evaluations. There being no national standard, it is unclear by what measurement a reciprocity evaluation would be accomplished. Even the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) declined to impose such a measure. CODA explicitly states, in CODA Standard 2-18, that authorization to perform additional functions (such as SLN) are “defined by the program’s state specific dental board or regulatory agency, program curriculum must include content at the level, depth, and scope required by the state.”

Ms. Moultrie inquired whether current regulations would even allow such an evaluation. Ms. Pruden answered that current education regulations would require a check to determine the following:

- Is the education provider approved by CODA?
- Does the program provide instruction according to the DHCC’s criteria established in regulation (specific to the number of injections, hours of instruction, etc.)?

Ms. Moultrie replied that while looking into reciprocity evaluations may be a good idea for later, she is concerned that present staffing levels would not support all that would be required in such an evaluation. Chair Ward stated that since staff resources are a concern, it would be relevant to consider how many hygienists would be impacted by any expenditure of resources at the present time.

Public Comment: Joan Greenfield stated that she had been involved in educating hygienists for close to forty years and that she would not support the DHCC extending reciprocity to applicants trained in SLN outside California.

Ms. Greenfield explained that since California is one of only a few states to train for soft tissue curettage, and since SLN duties were once available as separate courses in California, she has had numerous experiences instructing out-of-state students on curettage. Although these students had already been trained by their home states in administration of local anesthetic, the quality of their injection technique was often well below the standard that Ms. Greenfield deemed safe. Ms. Greenfield stated that on numerous occasions she was compelled to stop candidates from out-of-state during the live injection component of the curettage training. She stated that when she stopped these procedures, it was because she was concerned for both the well-being of the patients under the course’s

care and for liability relating to her own legal and ethical responsibilities as a healthcare professional and an educator.

Ms. Greenfield added that, within the last several months, she learned from four of her students (each from a different state) that their faculty in the homestate had only trained students on the injections the faculty expected students to find on the Western Regional Examination Board. As for all the other types of injections listed in the curriculum, the faculty simply signed off on those or did a demonstration with no student experiences.

Ms. Greenfield urged the subcommittee to take her testimony into consideration while determining whether it is in the best interest of California's consumers to institute reciprocity for hygienists trained in SLN outside California.

Public Comment: Dr. Kimbrough stated that as a hygiene educator, she has also observed a great disparity in the level of skill and education among students who received injection training outside California. She said she had seen that some students, who were already certified by their state for injections, demonstrate excellent levels of competency while others appeared to be performing an injection for the first time. Ms. Kimbrough noted that the western states seem to uphold standards that are closest to California's. She therefore suggested it may be practical if only certain western states were extended reciprocity.

Motion: Nicolette Moultrie moved to direct staff to take no further action at present toward evaluating SLN training outside California and to recommend to the full committee to table the item.

Second: Evangeline Ward.

Chair Ward asked if any member of the public would like to comment.

Lygia Jolley asked if the subcommittee would set a date at which they may like to readdress the item. Ms. Moultrie stated that she would prefer not to set a date.

There were no further comments.

Vote: The motion to direct staff to take no further action at present toward evaluating SLN training outside California and to recommend to the full committee to table the item passed 3-0.

Name	Vote:		Other
	Aye	Nay	
Evangeline Ward	X		
Sandra Klein	X		
Nicolette Moultrie	X		
Edcelyn Pujol			Absent

LIC 8 Future Agenda Items

Chair Ward asked if any member of the subcommittee or member of the public would like to propose a future agenda item. There were none.

LIC 9 Adjournment

Motion: Chair Ward moved to adjourn.

Second: Sandra Klein.

Vote: The motion to adjourn passed 3-0.

Name	Vote:		Other
	Aye	Nay	
Evangeline Ward	X		
Sandra Klein	X		
Nicolette Moultrie	X		
Edcelyn Pujol			Absent

The Licensing & Examination Subcommittee adjourned at 1:01p.m.