



MEMORANDUM	
DATE	June 8, 2010
TO	DHCC Committee Members
FROM	RhonaLee, President Lori Hubble, Executive Officer Dental Hygiene Committee of California
SUBJECT	AGENDA ITEM 10 – Report on observation of Western Regional Examination for RDH's

Due to the significance of WREB and other national exam testing boards, ie, CRDTS on past, present and future dental and dental hygiene candidates, the Dental Board, DHCC, and potential regulatory policies, a series of agenda items will be presented to DHCC members at forthcoming meetings to tentatively include the following:

1. **June 8th, 2010 DHCC Meeting Teleconference** (Informational only)
 - A. DHCC Statutes Regarding WREB
 - B. Dental Board Statutes Regarding WREB
 - C. History of WREB
 - D. On-site WREB workshop and exam visit by DHCC
 - E. Questions and Answers Posed to Legal Counsel Regarding Statutes
2. **July 26, 2010 DHCC Meeting in Sacramento**
 - 2.A. WREB Presentation - To be tentatively presented by WREB representatives, Beth Cole, WREB Executive Director and Kelly Reich, RDH, Director of Exam Development and Test Administration
 - A. The organizational structure of WREB
 - B. WREB Dental Hygiene Review Committee
 - C. Similarities and Differences in our dental hygiene exams
 - D. WREB exam statistics for California
 - E. WREB membership
 - F. Responsibilities of WREB member state boards within the WREB organization
 - G. Historical issues and/or conflicts with other member states
 - 2.B. Tentative DHCC agenda item for discussion and possible action:
 - A. DHCC consideration of WREB membership and potential alternative(s)
 - B. Potential regulatory WREB issues to be considered in Strategic Plan
 - 2C. CRDTS Presentation
3. **December 6, 2010 DHCC Meeting in San Diego**
 - A. Follow-up on WREB membership
 - B. Proposed regulatory WREB issues

4. June 8th, 2010 DHCC Meeting Teleconference (Informational only)

A. DHCC Statutes Regarding WREB

1601.3. (a) All committees of the board have the authority to evaluate all suggestions or requests for regulatory changes related to their committee. Committees shall have the authority to hold informational hearings in order to report and make appropriate recommendations to the board, after consultation with departmental legal counsel and the board's chief executive officer. The committees shall include in any report regarding a proposed regulatory change, at a minimum, the specific language or the proposed change or changes and the reasons therefore and any facts supporting the need for the change.

(b) No part of this section shall restrict the Dental Hygiene Committee of California from adopting, amending, or revoking regulations authorized by Article 9 (commencing with Section 1900).

B. Dental Board Statutes Regarding WREB

B & P Code 1917. The committee shall license as a registered dental hygienist a person who satisfies all of the following requirements:

- (a) Completion of an educational program for registered dental hygienists, approved by the committee, accredited by the Commission of Dental Accreditation, and conducted by a degree-granting, postsecondary institution.
- (b) Satisfactory performance on the state clinical examination, or satisfactory completion of the dental hygiene examination given by the **Western Regional Examining Board** or any other clinical dental hygiene examination approved by the committee.
- (c) Satisfactory completion of the National Dental Hygiene Board examination.
- (d) Satisfactory completion of the examination in California law and ethics as prescribed by the committee.

1632. (a) The board shall require each applicant to successfully complete the written examinations of the National Board Dental Examination of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations.

(b) The board shall require each applicant to successfully complete an examination in California law and ethics developed and administered by the board. The board shall provide a separate application for this examination. Applicants shall submit this application to the board in order to take this examination. In addition to the aforementioned application, the only other requirement for taking this examination shall be certification from the dean of the qualifying dental school attended by the applicant that the applicant has graduated, or will graduate, or is expected to graduate. Applicants who submit completed applications and certification from the dean at least 15 days prior to a scheduled examination shall be scheduled to take the examination. Successful results of the examination shall, as established by board regulation, remain valid for two years from the date that the applicant is notified of having passed the examination.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in Section 1632.5, the board shall require each applicant to have taken and received a passing score on one of the following:

(1) A clinical and written examination developed and administered by the board.

(2) A clinical and written examination administered by the Western Regional Examining Board, which board shall determine the passing score for that examination.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 1628, the board is authorized to do either of the following:

(1) Approve an application for examination from and to examine an applicant who is enrolled in but has not yet graduated from a reputable dental school approved by the board.

(2) Accept the results of an examination described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) submitted by an applicant who was enrolled in but had not graduated from a reputable dental school approved by the board at the time the examination was administered.

In either case, the board shall require the dean of that school or his or her delegate to furnish satisfactory proof that the applicant will graduate within one year of the date the examination was administered.

1632.5.(a) Prior to implementation of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 1632, the department's Office of Professional Examination Services shall review the Western Regional Examining Board examination to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 139 and to certify that the examination process meets those standards. If the department determines that the examination process fails to meet those standards, paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 1632 shall not be implemented. The review of the Western Regional Examining Board examination shall be conducted during or after the Dental Board of California's occupational analysis scheduled for the 2004-05 fiscal year, but not later than September 30, 2005. However, an applicant who successfully completes the Western Regional Examining Board examination on or after January 1, 2005, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of subdivision (c) of Section 1632 if the department certifies that the Western Regional Examining Board examination meets the standards set forth in this subdivision.

(b) The Western Regional Examining Board examination process shall be regularly reviewed by the department pursuant to Section 139.

(c) The Western Regional Examining Board examination shall meet the mandates of subdivision (a) of Section 12944 of the Government Code.

(d) As part of its next scheduled review by the Joint Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Consumer Protection, the Dental Board of California shall report to that committee and the department on the pass rates of applicants who sat for the Western Regional Examining Board examination, compared with the pass rates of applicants who sat for the state clinical and written examination administered by the Dental Board of California. This report shall be a component of the evaluation of the examination process that is based on psychometrically sound principles for establishing minimum qualifications and levels of competency.

1633. (a) When an applicant for a license has received a grading of 85 percent or above in any given subject, he or she shall be exempt from reexamination on that subject in subsequent examinations before the board within two years after the examination on which the applicant received the exemption.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 135, an applicant who fails to pass the examination required by Section 1632 after three attempts shall not be eligible for further reexamination until the applicant has successfully completed a minimum of 50 hours of education for each subject which the applicant failed in the applicant's last unsuccessful examination. The coursework shall be taken at a dental school approved by either the Commission on Dental Accreditation or a comparable organization approved by the board, and shall be completed within a period of one year from the date of notification of the applicant's third failure.

(c) The coursework described in subdivision (b) shall be required once for every three unsuccessful examination attempts. When the applicant applies for reexamination, he or she shall furnish proof satisfactory to the board that he or she has successfully completed the requirements of this section.

1634. A person successfully passing the examination shall be registered as a licensed dentist on the board register, as provided in Section 1612, and shall be granted by the board a license to practice dentistry in the State of California.

1634.1. Notwithstanding Section 1634, the board may grant a license to practice dentistry to an applicant who submits all of the following to the board:

(a) A completed application form and all fees required by the board.

(b) Satisfactory evidence of having graduated from a dental school approved by the board or by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

(c) Satisfactory evidence of having completed a clinically based advanced education program in general dentistry or an advanced education program in general practice residency that is, at minimum, one year in duration and is accredited by either the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or a national accrediting body approved by the board. The advanced education program shall include a certification of clinical residency program completion approved by the board, to be completed upon the resident's successful completion of the program in order to evaluate his or her competence to practice dentistry in the state.

(d) Satisfactory evidence of having successfully completed the written examinations of the National Board Dental Examination of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations.

(e) Satisfactory evidence of having successfully completed an examination in California law and ethics.

(f) Proof that the applicant has not failed the examination for licensure to practice dentistry under this chapter within five years prior to the date of his or her application for a license under this chapter.

C. History of WREB – (An excerpt from the WREB website):

The concept of a regional testing service originated with Dr. Martin Kolstoe of Oregon. Dr. Kolstoe was the prime organizer who worked diligently to assure the success of the regional testing concept. His original idea was to have a Northwest Regional testing service, and he gathered testing information from a variety of sources. As time went by, his horizons broadened, and the idea of a Western Regional Board was born.

The idea was further explored in 1975 at a joint meeting of the American Association of Dental Examiners and the Western Conference of Dental Examiners and Dental School Deans. The idea of a Western Regional Board was discussed among the thirteen states of the Western Conference. Utah was looking for an affiliation of this type, since they did not have a proper facility for conducting examinations, and was forced to use hotels, prisons, etc. as examination sites. During the meeting, Utah made an arrangement with Oregon to have a simultaneous examination.

In November of 1976, the states formally incorporated WREB (Western Regional Examining Board) and in June of 1977, the first exam was given under the auspices of the WREB in Oregon. Oregon withdrew from WREB in 1981, but rejoined in January 1992.

- Arizona became a member in 1978, and in June 1978, the first exam was given with the three-state membership. The first Dental Hygiene exam was given in 1979.
- In April of 1979, Montana became a member of WREB. It participated in its first WREB exam in June 1979.
- In January of 1980, Colorado became a member of WREB. Colorado withdrew from WREB in 1983.
- In March of 1985, Idaho became a member of WREB.
- In July of 1987, Alaska became a member of WREB.
- In January of 1988, New Mexico became a member of WREB.
- In 1994, Texas and Oklahoma became members of WREB.
- In 1995, Washington became a member of WREB.
- In 2000, Wyoming became a member of WREB.
- In 2006, California became a member of WREB (Dental Board only)
- In 2007, Missouri became a member of WREB.
- In 2008, Kansas became a member of WREB.
- In 2009, North Dakota became a member of WREB.
- In 2010, California accepts Dental Hygiene WREB results.

D. On April 16th and 17th 2010 DHCC was invited to observe the clinical Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) orientation, workshop and exam for 54 candidates at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. The following is a synopsis of the site visit:

1. March 23, 2010

- a. WREB sent examiner orientation materials, including examiner manual, Observation Limitation of Liability and Indemnity form (non-disclosure statement), new examiners information sheet, 2010 examiners site preferences sign-up sheet, two DVDs for HESS and examiner calibration exercises, map, parking instructions.
- b. Candidate orientation materials, including WREB candidate guide

2. April 16, 2010

- a. DHCC participants included: Executive Officer, Lori Hubble, President, Rhona Lee, RDHEF member, Cathy Di Francisco, RDH examiners, Lori DeCaro, Liz Hood, Paula Hinshaw, Sharie Mijolajczyk.
- b. WREB team members included:
 - 2 WREB representatives dedicated to DHCC on-site visit:
 - ✓ Kelly Reich, RDH, Director of Exam Development and Test Administration, former Idaho Dental Board member
 - ✓ Helen McKesson, RDH, WREB examiner, former Texas Dental Board member
 - 4 RDH grading examiners
 - 2 IT personnel (Robin Krych, Dental Hygiene Manager and one in training)
 - 1 chief examiner (Candidate floor examiner)
 - 3 USC personnel (two RDAs + one DDS)
- c. Workshop Orientation utilizing the Hygiene Electronic Scoring System (HESS)
 - 1. Candidate check-in
 - 2. Examiners perform paperless pre-clinical patient qualification, including:
 - Patient criteria
 - Radiographic criteria
 - Radiographic technique
 - Oral conditions criteria
 - Extra/Intraoral assessment
 - Periodontal assessment

3. Examiners paperless grading includes:

- Extra/Intraoral assessment
- Periodontal assessment of probing and recession
- Tissue Management
- Calculus Removal

4. Observations:

- Radiographic Calibration using HESS
- Calculus detection calibration using typodonts
- Points deducted included pre and post clinical
- Each examiner recorded results on a wireless laptop
- All candidate, patient and examiner results were recorded in real time and summarized at the check-in/check-out desk by the IT personnel.
- Exam results were instantaneous
- Wireless network consisted of one server, 8 laptops for 54 candidates.
- 6 sessions of a half day each required to examine 9 candidates each session for a total of 3 days to test 54 applicants.

3. April 17, 2010

A. Candidate orientation performed using pre-taped DVD with Chief available to answer candidate questions.

B. USC DDS faculty led candidates on tour of exam facility

C. Actual testing performed

D. Comparison of DHCC and WREB clinical exams will be forthcoming.

E. Questions Posed to Legal Counsel Regarding Statutes and Regulations

1. How should DHCC address the exam policy conflicts between WREB and DHCC in regards to new proposed statutes and regulations?

- Upon failing the WREB clinical exam three times, candidates must seek audience before the WREB board and perform remedial education; whereas, upon failing the DHCC clinical exam, there is no limit on retaking the exam.
- Upon failing the DHCC clinical exam multiple times, candidates may take the WREB clinical exam without consequence.
- The penalty for gross trauma and/or negligence for candidates taking the DHCC clinical exam is failure; whereas, WREB candidates are penalized points which cumulatively may cause failure.
- Completion of all requirements is required prior to taking the DHCC clinical exam; whereas, completion of all requirements is not required prior to taking the WREB exam.