



STATE OF WASHINGTON

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

**DENTAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION
DENTAL THERAPY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday October 3, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Miryam Nossa, EFDA
Tiffany Bass, DDS
Mac Rainey, Public Member
Sonia Pal, DMD
Sarah Khan, DDS

MEMBERS ABSENT

Samantha Kofler, DDS
Bryan Swanson, DDS

STAFF PRESENT

Trina Crawford, Executive Director
Bruce Bronoske Jr., Dental Program
Administrator
Debbie Gardner, Program Manager
Kitty Einert, Program Manager
Mikala Lord, Policy Analyst
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General
Cassandra Gerard, Administrative Assistant

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION - 12:02 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Miryam Nossa, EFDA

1.1. Introduction of committee members and staff

- Ms. Einert introduces committee members and staff.

1.2. Approval of agenda

- There is a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
- The motion is moved and seconded.

1.3. Approval of September 17, 2024 meeting minutes

- There is a motion to approve the September 17, 2024 meeting minutes.
- The motion is moved and seconded.

2. EDUCATION VERIFICATION FORM – The committee and department review the final draft of the Dental Therapy Education Verification Form.

- Ms. Einert shares the draft of the verification form that was developed using the template from the dental hygiene application packet.
- Ms. Einert reviews the differences of requirements between the dental hygiene and dental therapy education verification forms.
- The committee discusses when the form will be required for licensure.
- Ms. Nossa asks if the preceptorship hours referenced on the form are outside of the hours a candidate would complete through a CODA accredited program.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. refers to RCW 18.265.030 and suggests the form include the requirement is necessary for applicants who completed a dental therapist program before September 30, 2022.
- The committee agrees to move forward with the revised form. The form will be shared with credentialing staff and the new licensing enforcement system (HELMS) within the department.

3. PRACTICE PLAN AGREEMENT – The committee and department review the final draft of the Dental Therapy Practice Plan Agreement.

- Ms. Einert shares the draft of the practice plan agreement and how she incorporated comments received from the Washington State Dental Association and the Washington Association for Community Health.
- The committee discusses if the criteria relating to the provision of care to patients with specific medical conditions should be included in the agreement.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. suggests finalizing the patients with specific medical conditions section of the agreement after the rule is complete.
- Ms. Flaig representing the Washington State Dental Association agrees with including the different levels of supervision and the alternative supervising dentist’s signature in the agreement.
- Ms. Gaylord asks if the agreement will be sent to all stakeholders before it’s finalized.
- Ms. Einert and Mr. Bronoske Jr. confirm the practice plan agreement draft will be distributed to stakeholders before it goes into effect.
- Mx. Saxton representing the Washington Association for Community Health asks if contracts with more than one dentist with the same supervision, requirements, and scope of practice are addressed in the agreement.
- Ms. Einert states the language concerning contracts under those conditions was removed.
- Mx. Saxton comments on the approval of practice plans. Their understanding is that a formal approval goes beyond the intent of legislation. Their impression is that the formal approval mechanism has been a barrier for dental hygienists. They would like to see dental therapy made as accessible as possible.
- Ms. Flaig asks for clarity on the supervision limits for dentists overseeing dental therapists.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. refers to RCW 18.265.060 and suggests further definition may be

needed.

- Ms. Flaig comments the approvals of practice plan agreements would be within the Department of Health's scope.
- Ms. Johnson from the Washington Dental Hygiene Association comments the statute says the practice plan agreement needs to be submitted but there is no direction to the department to approve.
- Ms. Johnson from the Washington State Dental Association refers to the RCW that states the department may adopt rules necessary to implement the dental therapy statute chapter. She states the department has a responsibility to protect the public and should consider how to ensure compliance with the rules and law as written. Ms. Johnson comments the small size of graduating classes from dental therapy programs should be considered when determining whether practice plan agreements should be reviewed.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. asks what aspects of the practice plan agreement Ms. Johnson suggests being approved.
- Ms. Johnson from the Washington State Dental Association replies that once the department receives a practice plan agreement, a response could be issued to the candidate confirming their agreement is in concurrence with the rules and statute. She suggests an approval would also be helpful if questions arise later of what was approved by the department.
- Ms. Johnson from the Washington Dental Hygiene Association comments the approval of the practice plan contract was part of the discussion during legislature and in other parts of the RCW for dental hygienists for example, it is specifically tasked to the department to approve those contracts in contrast to the dental therapy statute where it is not.
- Ms. Carter confirms the rules cannot go beyond the plain language of a statute.
- The committee discusses what actions might be taken if a practice plan agreement does not meet the requirements.

4. DENTAL THERAPY RULES – The committee and department work on draft rules for Dental Therapy.

- Ms. Einert reviews the definition of limited conditions discussed during previous meetings.
- The committee discusses prior approval and consultation for ASA III patients.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- No correspondence received at this time.

6. FUTURE BUSINESS

- The committee will continue work on the practice plan agreement and dental therapy rules.

7. ADJOURN

- The meeting is adjourned at 1:01 PM.

Submitted by:

Kitty Einert, Program Manager
Dental Quality Assurance Commission

Approved by:

Sonia Pal, DMD, Vice Chair
Dental Quality Assurance Commission

Signature

Signature

Date

Date