



STATE OF WASHINGTON

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

WASHINGTON DENTAL COMMISSION
DENTAL THERAPY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 19, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bryan Swanson, DDS
Miryam Nossa, EFDA
Mac Rainey, Public Member
Sonia Pal, DMD
Tiffany Bass, DDS
Erich Jurges, DDS

MEMBERS ABSENT

Samantha Kofler, DDS
Sarah Khan, DDS

STAFF PRESENT

Kitty Einert, Program Manager
Bruce Bronoske Jr., Dental Program
Administrator
Trina Crawford, Executive Director
Debbie Gardner, Program Manager
Mikala Lord, Policy Analyst
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General
Lady Bah, Assistant Program Manager
Sarah Rountry, Health Services Consultant
Cassandra Gerard, Administrative Assistant
Sarah Miczynski, Health Services Consultant

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION – 12:03 p.m.

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

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.
- The motion is moved and seconded.

1.3. Approval of January 15, 2025 meeting minutes

- There is a motion to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes.
- The motion is moved and seconded.

2. DENTAL THERAPY RULES – The committee and department continue working on draft rules for Dental Therapy.

- Ms. Einert shares the draft rules prepared for filing. A rules hearing has been tentatively scheduled for May 27, 2025.
- Ms. Einert emphasizes the importance of meeting the deadlines to implement this profession.
- Ms. Einert suggests the committee continue to discuss adding a requirement of 560 practice hours every two years to the definition of active practice.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. reviews past discussions on the active practice hours requirement and shares other states' requirements. He also suggests the committee consider no examination is needed for a limited license.
- Dr. Pal comments the active practice hour requirement is important to protect the citizens of Washington state due to the irreversible procedures performed by dental therapists.
- Dr. Jurgens comments a minimum amount is necessary to determine active practice requirements.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. explains the draft rules may be edited before submitting as a recommendation to the Secretary.
- Ms. Einert explains all comments received will be submitted for the Secretary's review.
- Ms. Flaig representing the Washington State Dental Association thanked the committee for reconsidering the active practice hour requirement. She suggests considering the CDC definition of active practice to maintain consistency with other professions.
- The committee agrees to include the requirement of 560 practice hours every two years in the definition of active practice.
- The committee reviews the definition of patient record.
- Ms. Einert shares documents for the dental therapy profession have been submitted to the new Healthcare Enforcement and Licensing Management System (HELMS).
- The committee reviews [RCW 18.265.080](#) and discusses whether dentists providing services at a federally qualified health center are required to supervise dental therapists.
- Mr. Narvaez comments on his experience at Sea Mar Community Health Center where dentists volunteer to supervise and are not forced against their practice.
- The committee discusses the process and requirements to issue Dental Therapy Limited Licenses.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. reviews how practice plan agreements are filed with the department.
- Mr. Narvaez shares community health centers must go through intensive audits by regulatory bodies such as the Federal Government and Joint Commission. It is unlikely a health center would allow practice outside of scope due to insurance and auditing reasons.
- The committee discusses the limitations on dentists supervising dental therapists and situations that should be considered in the practice plan agreement.
- Dr. Hogan shares how practice plan agreements are handled with dental therapists in their practice.

- Mr. Narvaez shares only supervising dentists included in the practice plan agreement may supervise a dental therapist.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. explains practice plan agreements are agreed upon by the supervising dentist and the dental therapist. The agreements are used as a reference if a complaint is filed.
- Ms. Einert suggests adding an area to the practice plan agreement to list alternate supervising dentist(s), when the supervising dentist is unavailable.
- Mr. Bronoske Jr. explains how the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), Revised Code of Washington (RCW), and practice plan agreement will be referenced if a complaint is filed against a dental therapist.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- No correspondence received at this time.

4. FUTURE BUSINESS

- Rules update
- HELMS update
- Application form
- Practice plan agreement
- Jurisprudence exam

5. ADJOURN

- The meeting is adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Submitted by:

Kitty Einert, Program Manager
Washington Dental Commission

Approved by:

Bryan Swanson, DDS, Chair
Washington Dental Commission

Signature

Signature

Date

Date