

# **NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure**

- Meeting Minutes – *Friday, March 25, 2022*

The NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure met via Zoom on Friday, March 25, 2022. In attendance were: Dr. Keith Margulis, chair; Dr. John Young (NYC); Dr. Deborah Pasquale (2); Dr. Gurinder Wadwha (3); Dr. Steven Stacey (5); Dr. Herman Spera (6); Dr. Joseph Gambacorta (8); Dr. Robert Peskin (N); Dr. Dimitrios Kilimitzoglou (S); Dr. Kevin Hanley (BOT Liaison); and Dr. Ashley Mooney (New Dentist). Also present were: Mr. Michael Herrmann, NYSDA Interim Executive Director; Dr. Dolores Cottrell, Executive Secretary for the NYS Education Department State Board for Dentistry; Ms. Beth Krueger, Executive Director, New York Dental Hygienists Association; Ms. Robin Grasso, VP Governmental Affairs and Public Policy, New York Dental Hygienists Association; Ms. Jenna Bell, NYSDA Director of Meetings; and Ms. Karen Miazga, NYSDA Manager of Meetings.

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 am.

Without objection, the minutes from the October 2021 and the March 2022 meetings were ***approved***.

Without objection, the agenda was ***adopted*** as presented.

## **Component Reports**

Council members reported on activities within their respective components, which included news of many societies returning to in-person continuing education and meetings. Two components said they are still experiencing delays in licensure.

## **Lead Apron Use**

Dr. Cottrell gave an update. Mr. Alexander Damiani, chief of Radiation Equipment Section-Diagnostic from the NYSDOH recently made a presentation to the State Board of Dentistry and indicated that current radiology technology has a more concentrated field and does not typically cover a patient's reproductive areas. Accordingly, they are considering changing the current NYS regulations on aprons in dental radiology. The Council asked for the documents from the Department of Health to be shared so members could review them before the fall meeting, as they do not want to give their opinion without the facts.

## **SED Licensure Amendment Proposal**

The State Education Department (SED) has informed NYSDA that there are three CODA accredited dental specialties which do not currently qualify for licensure in NYS. These are Dental Public Health, Oral Medicine and Orofacial Pain. These fail to meet the law's definition of clinically-based residencies. Hence, when dentists graduate from these programs, they either have to return and take a PGY1 or other residency, or they have to go to another state if they want to become licensed. Accordingly, SED is proposing a testing alternative for these graduates to allow them to become licensed in NYS.

The NYSDA Board has alternately proposed rather than taking a clinical test, that we seek to amend NYS Education Law to remove the term, "clinically-based" from the current

requirements. This would allow graduates of all CODA-accredited training programs to become licensed. The reasoning is if CODA accredits training programs in ADA recognized specialties, how can New York State not provide a pathway to licensure for those dentists who successfully complete the programs..

The Council discussed the matter at length and agreed with the Board's suggestion that the NYS Education Law be amended to remove the term, "clinically-based" as follows:

Sec. 6604: *Experience*: have experience satisfactory to the board and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations, provided that such experience shall consist of satisfactory completion of a ~~clinically-based~~ postdoctoral general practice or specialty dental residency program, of at least one year's duration, in a hospital or dental facility accredited for teaching purposes by a national accrediting body approved by the department, provided, further that any such residency program shall include a formal outcome assessment evaluation of the resident's competence to practice dentistry acceptable to the department;

While this would normally be sent to the House for its consideration, waiting until June means realistically this cannot be addressed until next spring. Dr. Peskin suggested that normally, it would be appropriate to wait until the upcoming House meeting, but recognized the urgency and noted that the Board has the power act on such matters when time is of the essence. In such instances, the Board can then request the House ratify its action. Accordingly, the Council will ask the Board to consider the amendment in order to expedite the process and help those people completing post-doctoral training this spring.

Dr. Paul Leary, ADA Second District Trustee, reminded the Council that NYS does not issue specialty licenses and that not only is dental licensure harder to obtain in NY than in other states, portability in and out of the state is very difficult. The Council reviewed the background of PGY-1 licensure in NYS and acknowledged that it had failed to provide the portability that was hoped for. After much discussion, the Council agreed that it was time to review & reflect on our PGY-1 experience and re-evaluate where we stand. Accordingly, the Council established a subcommittee to undertake this review and report back to the full Council with its observations and suggestions. Dr. Gambacorta will chair the subcommittee and appoint its members. They will work closely with Dr. Leary to understand the initiatives he reports are happening on this matter on the national scene.

### **Dentistry & Dental Hygiene Compact Kickoff Meeting**

With regard to license portability, Dr. Leary reported that there is a national discussion on Dental Compacts and that the ADA is part of that discussion. The discussion is being led by the Department of Defense to allow dentists and dental hygienists married to members of the Armed Forces to be able to practice where their significant others are stationed without being licensed in that state. This is a federally funded effort and will allow anyone to be part of the compact not just military families. It may be, however, that our state's PGY-1 requirement could prevent us from fully participating in this proposed compact. Much of this is very preliminary and Dr. Leary will keep our Council and the Board apprised of developments.

**Licensure Delays**

The Council noted its concern that licensure delays are still happening in NYS. Dr. Cottrell said while the situation has gotten better, the Department is encouraging all residents to make sure that form 5R is filled out correctly because that is what seems to be causing the longest delays.

**Education**

Dental schools in New York State are getting back to pre-COVID status. They are having issues with some procedures, such as dentures, as they do not have enough patients coming in. The deans are meeting across the state to discuss this. Students are interested in keeping Zoom options, but professors do not feel it works as well as in-person sessions.

Dr. Gambacorta reported that Buffalo is having its clinic remodeled and is working on a hybrid model that will require CODA approval during the construction phase.

**COVID Updates**

Mr. Herrmann and Dr. Cottrell informed the Council that SED is looking to work with NYSDA to change the Dental Practice Act to allow dentists to test for COVID and perform other tests satisfactory to the Department. NYSDA feels that the appropriateness of tests should be left to the professional discretion of the dentist, not the Department. More to come on this.

As discussed at the last meeting, NYS is still allowing 100% self-study course credits to fulfill the continuing education requirements for licensed professionals. This policy was just recently extended through the end of 2022.

**New Business**

Dr. Margulis informed the Council that Dr. Gambacorta has expressed interest in being appointed the next chair of the Council. Without objection, Council members voted to recommend Dr. Gambacorta be appointed Council Chair for the 2022-2023 year. The recommendation will be transmitted to Dr. Galati, incoming NYSDA President..

A survey will be sent to Council members regarding a fall meeting date. Dr. Margulis thanked the Council for its support over the last two years as he served as chair.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.