

NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure
Meeting Minutes – Friday, 13 March 2020 – *FINAL*

The NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure met on Friday, 13 March 2020. Present were: Dr. James Fitzgerald, chair; Dr. John Young (NYC); Dr. Deborah Pasquale (2); Dr. Gurinder Wadwha (3); Dr. John Milza (4); Dr. Terrence Thines (5); Dr. Herman Spera (6); Dr. Alexis Ghanem (7); Dr. Joseph Gambacorta (8); Dr. Amrita Patel (9); Dr. Rekha Gehani (Q, also rep, ADA CDEL); Dr. Dimitrios Kilimitzoglou (S); Dr. Keith Margulis (B); Dr. Mario Silvestri (NYSDA BoT Liaison), and Dr. Ashley Scofield (New Dentist representative). Also present were: Dr. Mark Feldman, NYSDA Executive Director; Dr. Dolores Cottrell, Executive Secretary, NYS Board for Dentistry; Ms. Beth Krueger, Executive Director, New York Dental Hygienists Association; Robin Grasso, RDH, NYDHA Legislative Director; Ms. Laura Clark Stedman, NYSDA Assistant Executive Director, and Ms. Carley Libertucci, NYSDF Program Services Manager. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Council members reported that across the board, continuing education programs at the component levels have been postponed or cancelled, due to the Coronavirus situation. Many hospitals are in lockdown with embargos in place on staff travel. Residency programs have limited clinic time and in many cases, rescheduled appointments. Dr. Fitzgerald noted that as this is still a very fluid situation, Council members should encourage their constituents to monitor NYSDA's website daily for updates. Subsequent to this meeting, SED will release guidance documentation regarding licensure requirements in light of recent events (*NOTE: this information is attached to these minutes*). Council members were provided with the latest resources available from CDC, etc., to the profession and were advised, until further notice from official sources, to use best practice guidelines and common sense.

The Council discussed the recent acceptance of dental anesthesiology as a licensure qualifying residency program. Dr. Cottrell reported that the guidelines are in the public comment period; the final guidelines will take effect 20 May, at which point, individuals would not need to complete a GPR in order to become licensed as dental anesthesiologists.

The block anesthesia legislation has been reintroduced and NYSDA continues to work toward getting support from Deborah Glick, Assembly Higher Education Chair, who has been reluctant to back this measure. Forty one states currently allow for dental hygienists to perform block anesthesia in cases not confined to dental hygiene. Passage of this measure would increase dental office productivity and, importantly, improve overall patient care.

The bill to change the title in New York State of “certified dental assistants” to “registered dental assistants” passed. NYSDA is working with SED to develop parameters to streamline the NYS exam process. DANB is willing to work with NYS to develop a NYS specific exam, which would be comprised of 40 questions each on infection control, radiology and general chairside practice. A NYS Exam/Review Committee will be put together, to include four registered dental assistants, two dentists and two dental assisting educators.

Other legislation that was discussed:

A.9554. Requires completion every two years of a training program on treatment of patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities and chronic illness. Current law requires some training in this regard during dental school, but that experience is limited. While NYSDA supports the concept of such ongoing CE, if not mandated CE, it is unlikely that this legislation will pass, especially without a Senate sponsor. (*see below re: more on special needs dentistry*)

A.9690. Requires dental health certificates in schools. While NYSDA is on record for supporting the concept of dental health certificates, historically the practice of requiring them, not to mention follow-up procedures, has proved unworkable.

S.7879/A.10034. Dental telehealth. This bill is NYSDA's response to "do it yourself dentistry." It would require dental telehealth services to adhere to the standards of appropriate patient care required in other dental health care settings and prohibit dental telehealth providers from attempting to waive liability for its services.

S.5093. Requires professionals to provide practice-related information as part of their relicensure process. NYSDA opposes this, as does Assemblywoman Glick, as being entirely too burdensome.

S.7935. Establishes dental therapy as a recognized, licensed profession. Said licensed professionals would have to work under the supervision of a collaborating dentist. NYSDA is opposed to this bill.

Once again, the Council discussed credentialing issues, particularly with respect to a letter forwarded to CDEL from the Council on Dental Health Planning & Hospital Dentistry. Dr. Cottrell reiterated that dental students seeking residencies need to get their paperwork in early and that SED will take their forms 30 days in advance of the initiation of applicants' two year programs. The Council asked Dr. Cottrell to send a statement of guidance from the Department to the dental school deans, the heads of international programs, residency and hospital programs. All agreed that better and ongoing communication is needed to ensure that all parties are on top of what their respective responsibilities are.

The Council reviewed NYSDA CDEL policies to determine whether any need to be rescinded or revisited. The CDEL policies basically fell into the following five categories: CODA standards; NYS MCE law; dental education/PGY1; auxiliary education and certification, and other. The Council voted unanimously to recommend that the policies (attached) highlighted in green be rescinded:

1-CDEL-2020

RESOLVED: That policies 17-J-05; 21-N-05; 1-EC-06; 5-EC-06; 7-J-06; 11-J-06, 9-EC-06; 31-N-06; 32-N-06; 10-J-07; 19-J-07; 24-J-08; 15-M-09; 44-N-09; 17H-11; 12H-13; 14H-15 and 10H-17 be rescinded, as the policies outlined in each have been accomplished (*a copy of full text of these is attached*).

The Council members divvied up those policies that bore review, with instructions to report their findings at the fall videoconference:

18-J-05 (Thines)

19-N-05 (Kilimitzoglou)

20-N-05 (Gambacorta)

11-J-07 (Wadhwa)
13-N-07 and 14-N-07 (Cottrell to report; neither of these had traction with the State Board following a 2010 subcommittee meeting to review)
7-N-08 (essentially seen as a way to develop a pipeline of new dentists to work in underserved areas; Feldman to discuss with deans)
16-M-09 (Parts 1 and 2 being phased out; issue on the radar - Gambacorta)
12H-15 (work in progress; staff and SED to report in fall)
13H-15 (Fitzgerald)
9H-19 (Stedman)

Dr. Gambacorta provided an update on where the curriculum integrated format exam stands. Despite initial success, the CIF model seems to have lost momentum. The National Boards are moving toward a case-based model for licensure, which would include the phase out of Parts 1 and 2. Dr. Feldman added this to the list of agenda items to discuss with the deans when he meets with them later in the year.

Dr. David Miller, immediate past president, Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA), spoke to the Council via conference call regarding the following recommendation that SCDA hoped CDEL would support and bring forward to the NYSDA House of Delegates for approval and adoption:

2-CDEL-2020:

RESOLVED: That the New York State Dental Association House of Delegates transmit the following resolution to the 2020 ADA House of Delegates for its consideration:

RESOLVED: That the ADA Council on Dental Education & Licensure explore, with other appropriate communities of interest, the feasibility of requesting the development of an accreditation process and accreditation standards for advanced education programs in special care dentistry by the Commission on Dental Accreditation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That CDEL address actionable strategies to enhance and expand pre-doctoral training; develop and promote continuing education programs for existing practitioners; and investigate advanced educational opportunities; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the feasibility study with any recommendations be provided to the 2021 ADA House of Delegates.

After a very informed discussion, the Council agreed that there is a proven need for the delivery of dental services to this underserved populations, and voted unanimously to adopt the aforementioned, now labeled X-CDEL-2020, and will bring the issue to the upcoming 2020 NYSDA House of Delegates.

Dr. Margulis was elected as incoming CDEL Chair, succeeding Dr. Fitzgerald, whose term of office expires in June. Staff will send out a survey to determine the date and time of the fall videoconference. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.