

NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure
14 March 2014
Meeting Minutes - Final

The NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure met on Friday, 14 March 2014. Present were: Dr. Rekha Gehani, Chair; Dr. Anthony Ficara (3); Dr. John Milza (4); Dr. Terrence Thines (5); Dr. Leo Cacciotti (6); Dr. Patricia Carlson (7); Dr. Donald Tucker (8), Dr. Christopher Tota (9); Dr. James Fitzgerald (N), and Dr. Scott Firestone (sub-S), and Dr. Keith Margulis (B). Also in attendance were Dr. Mark J. Feldman, NYSDA Executive Director, and Ms. Laura Leon, NYSDA Assistant Executive Director.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The Council adopted the minutes from the September 2013 meeting as well as today's meeting agenda.

PGY1 Update

Dr. Feldman updated the Council on discussions regarding alternative pathways to licensure which were recently held between NYSDA leadership and members of the examination community and NYS dental schools. The Council voted in favor of the following policy:

RESOLVED: That a member of the NYSDA CDEL be included in the collaborative efforts of the NYSDA PGY1 Work Group related to dental licensure in the state of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the NYSDA CDEL be included in the preparation of the NYSDA PGY1 Workgroup report to the House.

The Council will receive a report following NYSDA leadership's next meeting with the examination community.

Registration of Dental Labs

The Council discussed a recommendation from the ADA Council on Dental Benefits, Practice & Related Matters that all state dental boards register U.S. dental laboratories, with an exemption for licensed dentists who own dental labs for the custom manufacture of dental prostheses exclusively for their own practice. The New York State Dental Board is merely an advisory body without authority to enact legislation. Council members were concerned that, if enacted, the ADA recommendation does not necessarily improve patient care and safety. The Council does not believe that registration of dental labs is necessary, but encourages them to set up their own safety protocols based on recommendations put forth by the ADA.

CERP

Ms. Leon reminded the Council members of the importance of components following all CERP regulations and guidelines. The Council discussed the matter of how difficult it

can be to oversee activities of study clubs. Each year, all components must submit actual conflict of interest forms completed for each course they sponsor.

New Dental Schools

Dr. Feldman informed the Council that two new dental schools may be opening in New York State. One, affiliated with the New York Medical College, will open in the Ninth District. The probability of the second school opening in the Bronx and affiliated with the Einstein School of Medicine, is more tentative and would involve students doing their clinical work in the community.

Certified Dental Assisting

The Council continued its discussion on how to expand the numbers of certified dental assistants in the state. In 2012, only 109 licenses were issued. An ongoing problem seems to be the difficulty of the DANB exam. The Council would support an alternative path to certification based on number of hours worked by dental assistants coupled with an evaluation satisfactory to the NYS Education Department. The Council also believes that dental school training needs to include the use of expanded function assistants to enable dentists to feel more comfortable using a certified dental assistant.

Dental Health Aid Therapists

More than 50 countries allow providers other than dentists to offer routine preventive and restorative care, such as filling cavities. Such providers, including dental health aid therapists, require less education, perform fewer procedures and command lower salaries.

There does not appear to be demand from the public in New York State for dental health aid therapists. The Affordable Care Act, which calls for more affordable methods of treating children, may provide an opportunity to train more dental hygienists and assistants. Rather than creating a new mid-level dental provider the Council believes that the use of a Community Health Coordinator or dental social worker can provide better access to the oral health care system. This model is now available from the American Dental Association and NYSDA is working with the NYS Department of Health to pilot this approach in New York.

Good and Welfare

The Council briefly reviewed a solicitation from a company specializing in providing training directly through an organization's website. The resulting "training portal" would be branded with the organization's logo and colors, but the organization would still be responsible for developing course content.

New dentists are graduating with staggering debt; the issues of the cost of education and loan forgiveness were discussed. The Higher Education Act, currently before Congress, contains language regarding student debt restructuring and interest rate relief. The

Council recommended that NYSDA and the Foundation develop courses on debt management.

This is the last meeting which will be chaired by Dr. Gehani, whose term of office expires in June. The Council accepted Dr. Ficara's nomination to be the next Chair.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.