

## NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure

6 May 2011

### Minutes – *Final*

The NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure met on Friday, 6 May 2011. All members were present with the exception of Dr. Richard Oshrain (2) and Dr. James J. Fitzgerald (N). Also in attendance were Dr. Brian Kennedy, Second Trustee District representative to the ADA Council on Dental Education & Licensure; Dr. Patricia Carlson, NYSDA CDEL representative-nominee (7); Dr. Robert M. Peskin (N), consultant at the invitation of the Council Chair; Dr. Mark J. Feldman, NYSDA Executive Director; Ms. Laura Leon, NYSDA Assistant Executive Director, Dr. Martin A. Rubin, NYSDA Chief Dental Consultant for Legal Affairs, and Ms. Lou Carol Lecce, Development Manager. Presentations were provided by: Dr. Dolores Cottrell-Carson, Executive Secretary, NYS Board for Dentistry; Dr. Ralph Epstein, Chairman, NYS Board for Dentistry, and Ms. Margaret Langelier, Research Associate, NYS Center for Workforce Studies.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The Council adopted the minutes from the September 2010 meeting and today's meeting agenda. Dr. Friedman noted that the Bronx County Dental Society continues to have concerns about licensure/PGY1, which will be addressed further later in the meeting.

### **Certified Dental Assisting**

NYSDA recently received a request from the Dental Assisting National Board Inc. (DANB) to comment on a pilot study it wishes to conduct, which would seek to determine if completion of a one year non-CODA approved dental assistant training program could satisfy partial completion of the requirements now in place to be eligible to take the DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) Exam. The Council carefully considered this request, which stipulates that DANB not only administer, but also approve the assisting programs that would qualify for the study. The Council believes that if an educational requirement is to be part of the pathway to dental licensure in New York, the Department of Education needs to retain CODA accreditation as its gold standard. Opening the door to alternative accreditation does not protect the public. Furthermore, CDEL believes that the entity running the pilot study should not be that which approves the programs eligible to participate. Therefore, the Council voted unanimously to recommend the following to the NYSDA Board of Trustees:

**RESOLVED:** That NYSDA communicate to the Dental Assisting National Board its opposition to DANB's proposed pilot study to evaluate alternatives to CODA accreditation for dental assistant training programs leading to dental assistant licensure

During the discussion of this topic, Council members acknowledged the confusion which exists regarding the use of the words "certified" and "licensed" with respect to dental assisting. New York State protects the term "certified dental assistant" as the official title

demonstrating having obtained licensure as stipulated in NYS statute and regulations. An individual who has only passed the DANB exam cannot be called a certified dental assistant in New York because the title “certified dental assistant” can only be used to define an individual who has successfully completed one of the State’s pathways to certification. However, to avoid confusion, the CDEL will use the term “licensed dental assistant” in its discussions of certification for the profession, and to distinguish such persons from DANB-only certified assistants.

CDEL is also concerned that since expanded duties for licensed dental assistants has been approved in New York State, there have been very few dental assistants who have obtained licensure (certification). The use of expanded function dental assistants as part of the dental team, under the supervision of a dentist, can greatly expand access to care. CDEL believes that alternative pathways to dental assistant licensure should be explored. The Council voted in favor of the following motion, which will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees:

**RESOLVED:** That NYSDA support efforts to work with the New York State Education Department and other qualified, independent entities, to develop alternative pathways to licensure for dental assistants.

### **Report from ADA CDEL**

Dr. Kennedy provided an indepth report from the ADA CDEL’s deliberations over the last six months, including updates on the development of a national exam. (Part III would require a change in the Bylaws of the Joint Commission.) Pending approval by the ADA House of Delegates, the ADA will release RFPs for companies to develop parameters and criteria for a potential Portfolio Licensure exam. The ADA CDEL has also reviewed proposed changes to the CERP program. The first relates to CDEL’s attempts to strengthen CERP’s core concept of sound scientific bases for all approved providers. The second proposal would prohibit commercial entities, as defined by CERP, from eligibility to become ADA CERP approved providers of continuing education. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the following:

**RESOLVED:** That NYSDA support the recommendation of the ADA CDEL and its Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP) to prohibit commercial entities, as defined by CERP, from becoming ADA CERP approved providers of continuing education.

A copy of the ADA CDEL’s unofficial report of major actions is attached.

### **Presentations**

The Council heard a presentation from Dr. Dolores Cottrell-Carson, Executive Secretary, NYS Board for Dentistry, which outlined changes in dental licensure over the past few years. The Council also heard a presentation from Dr. Ralph Epstein, Chairman, NYS Board for Dentistry, regarding the Board’s proposed changes to anesthesia regulations in

New York State. The Council was concerned that SED feels the need to expedite these revisions without more involvement from NYSDA and other stakeholders, such as NYSSOMS. The Council recommended that NYSDA staff meet with SED to explore changes to and to seek delay of the proposed regulations.

The Council also heard a presentation from Margaret Langelier, Research Associate, New York State Center for Health Workforce Studies, about the changing demographics of the dental profession over the past three years. Ms. Langelier expressed the Center's frustration at being unable (due to funding constraints) to do a comprehensive, multi-year exit study of graduating dental students and residents. Dr. Thierer noted that the American Dental Education Association conducts such a survey, on a national level, and will forward the latest survey results to the Council.

The information presented by Ms. Langelier supported the Council's discussion about licensure issues. With an uncertain economy presenting potential changes in terms of hospital/residency program closings and fewer dental graduates choosing to remain in state, the Council believes that it is imperative that NYSDA retain its leadership with respect to issues relating to dental licensure. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the following recommendation, which will be forwarded to the NYSDA Board of Trustees:

**RESOLVED:** That the NYSDA President appoint a task force, comprised of members of the NYSDA Board of Trustees, and the Councils on Dental Education & Licensure, Dental Health Planning & Hospital Dentistry, and Governmental Affairs, to explore the current state of licensure in New York State and to develop strategies to respond to the changing landscape of licensure, and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That this Task Force report its findings to the February 2012 meeting of the NYSDA Board of Trustees.

### **New Business**

Dr. Laux moved, and Dr. Thierer seconded, the nomination of Dr. Leary to another year as Council Chair. The Council voted unanimously in favor of this nomination. Dr. Gehani nominated herself as CDEL Vice Chair; Dr. Thierer seconded. The Council voted unanimously in favor of this proposal.

Dr. Leary presented Dr. Thierer, who is retiring from the Council after seven years of exceptional service, with a plaque. The Council wished Dr. Thierer the best as he embarks upon a new stage in his career, in Minnesota.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next CDEL meeting will be a video conference on 9 September 2011.