

NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure
5 September 2014
Meeting Minutes - *Final*

The NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure met via videoconference on Friday, 5 September 2014. Present were: Dr. Anthony Ficara, Chair; Dr. Gail E. Schupak (NYC); Dr. John Milza (4); Dr. Terrence J. Thines (5); Dr. Leo R. Cacciotti (6); Dr. Patricia L. Carlson (7); Dr. Christopher Tota (9); Dr. James Fitzgerald (N); Dr. Rekha C. Gehani (Q); Dr. Steven Snyder (S), and Dr. Keith S. Margulis (B). Also in attendance were Dr. Frederick W. Wetzel, NYSDA Board of Trustees Liaison to CDEL; Dr. Mark J. Feldman, NYSDA Executive Director, and Ms. Laura Leon, NYSDA Assistant Executive Director. Dr. Richard Oshrain, substituted for Dr. Deborah Pasquale (2). Mr. Christopher Klimecko, Eighth District Dental Society Executive Director, sat in for CDEL member Dr. Donald Tucker, who was unable to attend.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. The Council adopted the minutes from the March 2014 meeting as well as today's meeting agenda.

Dr. Ficara asked if any component had any particular issues or concerns; Dr. Oshrain pointed out that individuals in Brooklyn had recently been charged with practicing dentistry without a license. The State Attorney General's office is now involved in this case.

Dental Laboratories

The Council discussed the issue of registration or certification of dental laboratories. While the Council believes that dental laboratories should be held to the highest ethical and professional standards in order to ensure patient safety, the idea of mandatory registration or certification brought up concerns that costs would increase, smaller labs would be forced to close, and overall, quality and care would suffer. Another concern voiced was related to how to monitor cases sent to out-of-state non-regulated labs.

At its 2014 Annual Session, the ADA House of Delegates voted to encourage individual states to encourage their state boards to register dental labs within their jurisdictions. However, in many states, including New York, the dental profession is regulated not by the state board, but by the State Education Department.

Currently, there are no recorded instances of harm caused to the public related to non-regulation of dental labs. The Council would like to engage the leadership of the NYS Dental Laboratory Association in a dialogue to promote opportunities for continuing education of lab technicians and to elevate the standards of the profession.

Certified Dental Assisting

The Council discussed ongoing concerns about the low number of dental assistants pursuing certification. At its recent Annual Meeting, the NYSDA House of Delegates

adopted policy to hold a statewide symposium to discuss this very issue. Recent conversations between NYSDA and DHASNY leadership have indicated that the latter group wishes a mandate that all dental assistants become certified, which is not NYSDA's policy. Dr. Feldman will discuss the issue of the exam and its options with the State Education Department, and report back to the CDEL.

PGY1 Task Force Update

Dr. Thines discussed the Task Force's recent discussions with the academic community regarding the development of a curriculum integrated format for licensure. This project is still in its earliest stages, but the prognosis is hopeful. It cannot be stressed enough that this initiative in no way detracts from NYSDA's staunch support of the statewide PGY1 program.

Dental Residency Survey/Dental Match Program

Ms. Mercedes Susi, NYSDF Grant Coordinator, provided an overview of the results of surveys sent this year to dental residents, asking them to provide information on their future plans for practice and practice location. She also provided an update on another survey, which was designed to help match new dentists to potential employment and partnership opportunities in dental healthcare shortage areas across New York State. The results of both surveys will be forwarded to the CDEL.

Good and Welfare

Potential spring meeting dates will be forwarded in the near future. There being no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.