

NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure  
Meeting Minutes – Friday, 25 September 2020 – *FINAL*

The NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure met via ZOOM on Friday, 13 March 2020. Present were: Dr. Keith Margulis, chair; Dr. John Young (NYC); Dr. Deborah Pasquale (2); Dr. Gurinder Wadhwa (3); Dr. Terrence Thines (5); Dr. Herman Spera (6); Dr. Alexis Ghanem (7); Dr. Joseph Gambacorta (8); Dr. Amrita Patel (9); Dr. James Fitzgerald (N); Dr. Rekha Gehani (Q, also rep, ADA CDEL); Dr. Dimitrios Kilimitzoglou (S); Dr. Jay Skolnick (BoT Liasion), 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.

The Council formally adopted the minutes from the March 2020 minute. The agenda was adopted as presented. Council members reported on activities within their respective components, notably how continuing education has changed in light of COVID-19. There was general consensus that many are feeling ‘Zoom burnout,’ and missing the opportunity to connect in person with their colleagues at CE events.

The Council discussed pandemic-related changes to undergraduate and residency programs. Tufts University School of Dental Medicine recently released news that due to budget shortfalls created by the pandemic and subsequent loss of revenue from its dental school clinic, it has introduced staff layoffs and furloughs, reduction in hours or salaries, retirements and other departures. Additionally, Tufts is suspending the Community Hygiene Program, the Hygiene Center and the dental faculty practice for the time being. Such is the experience of many schools across the nation, and the Council shared its concerns about the effect on education and training.

Dr. Feldman reported that the bill to allow extending limited permits during COVID-19 that NYSDA supported was transmitted to the Governor for action. The bill applies to dental limited permits, but not to dental hygiene or registered dental assisting limited permits. Once signed, this will grant an extension to SED’s ability to issue provisional permits for an additional twelve months.

Governor Cuomo recently issued Executive Order 202.61, which adds a requirement that all COVID-19 point of care (POC) tests need results reported within three hours to the Department of Health (DOH). Dentists are one of the professions that can do the POC testing as long as the test is CLIA Waived and they have received certification and a CLIA waiver from DOH. This ends the question as to can a dentist do a COVID-19 CLIA waived test. The order added the three-hour reporting requirement but confirmed that dentists were on the list of those professions that can do these tests. NYSDA will be sending information to the membership on how to apply for a CLIA waiver; how to cross check that the test you are interested in purchasing is a Point of Care test and also on the approval list for FDA Emergency Use Authorization, details on the reporting requirements if you decide to do POC tests in your office. According to Dr. Cottrell, only 100 dentists have thus far received a waiver.

## Special Care Dentistry

The NYSDA House of Delegates adopted the following policy at its 2020 Annual Session:

**Resolved**, that the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) 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 and Licensure (CDEL) 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 (CODA); 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.

The Council reviewed a draft resolution to bring to the upcoming ADA Annual Session, as follows:

### *100-SI-020:*

**RESOLVED**: that the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) explore through a survey 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 (CODA); and be it further

**RESOLVED**: that CDEL address actionable strategies to:

1. enhance and expand pre-doctoral training;
2. develop and promote continuing education programs for existing practitioners; and
3. 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.

As the Council members discussed at its March 2020 meeting, there is a need for the delivery of dental services to this underserved patient population. The Council, concurring that the ADA CDEL is the appropriate entity to help pave the way for a similar initiative as that which it undertook in 2018-19, adopted this resolution for presentation at the upcoming ADA Annual Session. The resolution was recommended by CDEL as it eliminates any financial implication for the ADA.

## NYS Education Department

Dr. Cottrell provided an update on SED activities, which, along with so much else this year, have been sidelined by COVID-19 and resulting staff and budgetary shortages. Among the initiatives that have been affected is the RDA exam. DANB has reconfigured its exam into a three part test for \$350-400. Adopting the DANB model would preclude the necessity of New York developing a brand new exam.

As of early May, anesthesia has been approved to be a licensure qualifying residency program.

### Block Anesthesia

The block anesthesia bill for certified and supervised dental hygienists, supported by NYSDA and the NYDHA failed to move forward in the Assembly. The Senate passed a bill to allow dental hygienists to use nitrous oxide and local infiltration and block anesthesia for all dental services and to allow dental assistants to place and remove temporary restorations. NYSDA and NYSED will continue to work to get this bill through the Assembly.

### Policy Reviews as Assigned in Spring 2020

At its March 2020 meeting, CDEL voted to review certain education/licensure related policies. Among those which were studied and discussed at this meeting were 18-J-05, 19-N-05, 20-N-05, 11-J-07, 13-N-07, 14-N-07, 7-N-08, 16-M-09, 12H-13, 13H-15 and 9H-19.

The Council voted unanimously to recommend that the policies (attached) be rescinded:

*4-CDEL-2020:*

**RESOLVED:** That policies 18-J-05, 19-N-05, 20-N-05, 13-N-07, 14-N-07, 16-M-09, and 12H-13 be rescinded, as the policies outlined in each have been accomplished.

The Council voted unanimously to recommend referral of the following:

*5-CDEL-2020:*

**RESOLVED:** That NYSDA policy 11-J-07, as follows:

**RESOLVED:** That NYSDA seek development and/or expansion of community health care centers to provide facilities where access to care can be procured more readily.

Be referred to the Council on Dental Health Planning & Hospital Dentistry.

The Council voted unanimously to retain the following policies:

*6-CDEL-2020:*

**RESOLVED:** That policies 13H-15 and 9H-19 be retained as part of the CDEL section of the NYSDA Policy Manual.

The Council voted unanimously to retain the following policy with amendments [new language underlined; deleted ~~stricken~~]:

7-CDEL-2020:

RESOLVED: That NYSDA policy 7-N-08 be amended as follows:

RESOLVED: That New York State's dental schools give an admissions advantage to New York State residents and an additional advantage to New York State residents from rural areas willing to work in ~~rural~~ underserved areas.

## Old Business

*Telehealth/Smile Direct*- S.7879 (Rivera)/A.10034 (Gottfried) passed both houses but, at the time of the CDEL meeting had not yet been sent to Governor Cuomo for action.

*Dental Health Certificates* – A.9690 (Gunther) has no Senate counterpart, which, combined with intense opposition from school districts and teachers unions, means this isn't likely to become law anytime soon.

*Dental Therapy*- This is another one-house bill introduced by Senator Biaggi. It relates to licensing of a dental therapist and an advanced therapist and is the first bill of its kind.

## Good and Welfare

Dr. Wadhwa reported on a pilot program he is working on to improve access to OMS specialty care for underserved populations in the Capital District.

A survey will be sent to the Council to determine the date, time and format of the spring meeting. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned shortly after noon.