

NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure Meeting Minutes – Friday, October 1, 2021

The NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure met via Zoom on Friday, October 1, 2021. In attendance were: Dr. Keith Margulis, chair; Dr. John Young (NYC); Dr. Deborah Pasquale (2); Dr. Gurinder Wadwha (3); Dr. Morris Feinberg (4); Dr. Herman Spera (6); Dr. Joseph Gambacorta (8); Dr. Robert Peskin (N); Dr. Mitchell Greenberg (Q); Dr. Dimitrios Kilimitzoglou (S); and Dr. Kevin Hanley (BOT Liaison). Also present were: Dr. Mark Feldman, NYSDA Executive Director; Dr. Patricia Haberman, member, NYS Board for Dentistry; Ms. Beth Krueger, Executive Director, New York Dental Hygienists Association; Mr. Roy E. Lasky, NYSDA 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 9 a.m.

The Council formally adopted the minutes from the March 2021 meeting. The agenda was adopted as presented. Council members reported on activities within their respective components, which included news of many societies returning to in-person continuing education and meetings. Due to Covid, the situation remains fluid – this includes the decision whether to hold the spring CDEL meeting in-person or virtually.

Legislation

NYSDA's block anesthesia bill is A.1046 (Paulin) / S.6399 (Harckham). The legislation (A.7754-A (McDonald/S.6694 (Harckham)) that is most desirable would allow dental hygienists to use local infiltration anesthesia and nitrous oxide for all dental procedures, not just dental hygiene procedures, and would also allow registered dental assistants to place and remove temporary restorations. The McDonald/Harckham bill is very likely to pass in 2022. The Paulin/Harckham bill is less likely to pass because both Assembly member Deborah Glick and Senator Toby Stavisky have expressed serious doubts about that bill. and they are the respective chairs of the Higher Education Committees in each house.

There has been some indication that the State Education Department may seek to get rid of its extra two-year requirement for foreign dental graduates to study in a CODA-approved dental school in order to be licensed in New York. Mr. Lasky has floated a proposal to Assembly member Richard Gottfried to amend the Public Health Law to confirm that dentists can perform all CLIA-waived laboratory tests

under the New York State Department of Health Physician Office Laboratory Evaluation Program (POLEP).

Dr. Peskin offered to help as necessary to educate lawmakers about any issues pertaining to changes in anesthesia regulations. The Council discussed the fact that while medical anesthesiologists are able to provide their services within dental practices, dental anesthesiologists cannot do so unless those practices are certified by the Department of Health, creating an onerous burden on that profession.

Licensure

The Council spent considerable time discussing reports of significant delays in license issuance. According to Dr. Cottrell, much of this is due to staff attrition and ongoing administrative infrastructure issues. Because SED is controlled by the Board of Regents, annual budgetary issues arise making it hard for the Department to stay effective with its administration. Council members were encouraged to submit their recommendations for improvements to expedite the process to staff.

Education

Dental schools in New York State are beginning to return to pre-COVID regulations, which for some is causing anxiety.

In response to the evolving situation with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and for those licensees whose registrations are due to renew March 1, 2020 – July 1, 2022, the SED will grant an adjustment to all licensees to complete up to 100% of the continuing education as self-study, provided it is taken from a Department-approved provider and is in an acceptable subject area for the specific profession.

Additionally, the Department will grant an adjustment to all licensees, regardless of registration renewal date, to utilize self-study for any coursework taken during the period from March 1, 2020 – July 1, 2022, provided it is taken from a Department-approved provider and is in an acceptable subject area for the specific profession. Coursework taken outside of that timeframe must meet the continuing education requirements in each individual profession's laws and regulations.

Dr. Gambacorta reported that the Curriculum Integrated Format (CIF) has been considered difficult to manage by many dental schools, although Buffalo continues to support it. Due to COVID, NYSDA has been unable to meet with representatives from the New York Academic Dental Centers in order to convey concerns about the lack of support for this road to licensure.

Lead Apron Use

Dr. Feldman gave a report from a recent meeting of the State Board for Dentistry, during which a presentation was given regarding the use of lead aprons in dental practice. The first bit of legislation that NYSDA successfully guided into law was, in fact, the lead apron requirement to protect patients from radiation. However, some experts are positing the idea that uniform and widely used guidance on dental X-ray procedures during pregnancy are lacking, the usefulness of lead shields is unclear and practices vary. Some studies indicate that while lead aprons do provide a level of protection for dental patients, modern X-ray equipment is designed to concentrate the X-rays far more effectively than older equipment, meaning the scope of scatter is significantly reduced. The Council will continue to review the science on this subject, and find out what dental radiologists think about it.

CERP

NYSDA's CERP/EAP sponsorship has been approved for another three years. Staff encourages Council members to stress to their respective component staffs the importance of accurate and thorough documentation. All are encouraged to call staff with any questions they have or problems that come up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. A survey will be sent to Council members regarding a spring meeting date and format.