

**OREGON BOARD OF DENTISTRY**  
**DENTAL ASSISTANT WORKFORCE SHORTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**(DAWSAC)**  
**October 27, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Terrence Clark, D.M.D., Co-Chair  
Aarati Kalluri, D.D.S. Co-Chair  
Olesya Salathe, D.M.D. - ODA Rep.  
Susan Kramer, R.D.H. - ODHA Rep.  
Ginny Jorgensen - ODAA Rep.  
Jill Lomax  
Lynn Murray  
Terri Dean  
Alexandria "Alex" Case  
Jessica "Jessie" Andrews  
Gail Wilkerson  
Alyssa Kobylinsky

**STAFF PRESENT:** Stephen Prisby, Executive Director  
Angela Smorra, D.M.D., Dental Director/Chief Investigator  
Winthrop "Bernie" Carter, D.D.S., Dental Investigator  
Haley Robinson, Office Manager  
Samantha Plumlee, Licensing Manager  
Kathleen McNeal, Office Specialist

**ALSO PRESENT:** Lori Lindley, Sr. Assistant Attorney General

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Mary Harrison, ODAA; Alicia Riedman, R.D.H.,E.P.P.; Michelle  
**IN PERSON & VIA** Aldrich, D.M.D.; Amanda Nash – OAGD; Jen Hawley-Price – DANB,  
**TELECONFERENCE\*** Katherine Landsberg – DANB, Barry Taylor – ODA, Sarah Kowalski,  
Laura Vanderwerf

\*This list is not exhaustive, as it was not possible to verify all participants on the teleconference.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 8:03 am at the Board office at 1500 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Suite 770, Portland, Oregon.

Chair Terrence Clark, D.M.D. welcomed everyone to the meeting and had the Members, Lori Lindley, and Stephen Prisby introduce themselves.

**Self-Introductions of Committee Members**

Committee members introduced themselves and shared information about their history and current positions in the dental assisting field.

**Review HB 3223 and Identified goals of the DAWSAC Committee**

HB3223 was presented. Dr. Clark called attention to sections five and six which identify the goals of the committee: to study the dental assistant workforce shortage, review the requirements for a dental assistant certification in other states and provide advice to the Board of Dentistry.

**DAWSAC packet introduced**

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Dr. Clark introduced a worksheet addressing the Dental Assistant Workforce Shortage and asked committee members to study and provide feedback at the February meeting. Recruitment and retention processes and ideas were shared.

It was determined to look deeper at states bordering Oregon for comparable credentialing requirements, as well as states with lesser to zero requirements. The committee wanted to look at Minnesota as well, which had the highest scope of practice and highest dental assistant salaries.

### **Dental Assistants desire to administer Local Anesthesia**

The Oregon Dental Association was in support of dental assistants administering local anesthesia after proper education.

The DAWSAC committee will look at whether dental assistants administering local anesthesia would make a difference in dental assistant workforce retention. Dr. Clark called attention to the educational requirements, stating the DAWSAC committee will be asked to provide guidance on this topic to the Board.

### **Academy of General Dentistry - Dental Assistant Training**

OAGD is starting a program in January.

Dr. Kalluri pointed out that students may be sponsored in this program by dentists or donations from the local community.

### **DANB RHS Exam Translated to Spanish**

DANB is now offering the DANB RHS exam in Spanish. HB3223 requires that any examination administered must be offered in plain language in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. Chair Clark stated that the next Board meeting would be chaired by Dr. Kalluri, D.D.S. and take place February 23, 2024.