

DASLE Task Force Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 6, 2019

5:00 pm

Conference Room A

Phone #: 1-888-742-5095

Conference Code: 8676021058

Call to Order

Christy Jo Fogarty, Board President, called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Board Members Present

Christy Jo Fogarty, DH, ADT, Board President
Doug Wolff, DDS, Board Member (Phone)
Hassan Ismail, DDS, Board Member (Phone)
Angela Rake, DDS, MS, Board Member (Phone)

Board Staff Present

Bridgett Anderson, Executive Director
Joyce Nelson, Director of Licensing

Others in Attendance (Per sign in sheet)

Barbara Krueger – MN Dental Hygienists ASSOC; Stephen McDonnell – MDA; JoAnn Brandt – MEDA; Christy Yoon – MEDA; Majda Hodzic – MDA; Dede Carr – MEDA; Kathy Lapham – Minneapolis Technical and Community College, MEDA; Julie Kupfer – MEDA; Dick Diercks – Park Dental; Teri Youngdahl, LDA; Anna Malay, LDA; Wendy Ahles – MnDAA

Teleconference Participants

Katherine Landsberg – DANB; Kate Kahoa- DANB; Susan Thaemert – Hennepin Technical College; Jerry Maynor – St. Cloud Community and Technical College; Julie Johnson – Northwest Technical College; Charlotte Randall – St. Cloud Technical and Community College; Leanne Shamely – Central Lakes College

Unfinished Business

Ms. Anderson described how the DASLE exam questions are selected. She shared question-level statistics provided by PSI Services with the Task Force. She described how questions are taken from the question bank and under what circumstances questions are discarded. Ms. Fogarty asked the DANB representatives whether they would be able to create an exam that tested applicants on Minnesota's expanded functions. DANB representatives noted that there may not be any exams with content focused on nitrous oxide. The DANB representatives described how they develop their examinations specific to tasks that dental professionals perform on the job. They discussed the fee structure for developing an examination. Ms. Anderson asked the DANB representatives about whether or not they needed to initiate the process by responding to a request for proposal. Dr. Wolff questioned the turnover time for developing the exam and

refining it. They clarified that it would typically take one year to create and administer an examination. The DANB representatives described how they manage pass rates. In some cases, clients want the pass rate to be lower to make sure those who pass are qualified for the tasks they were tested on.

Ms. Anderson mentioned that most students take their exams toward the end of their programs. A MEDA representative noted that schools follow the expanded functions curriculum adopted by the Minnesota Board of Dentistry. The Task Force discussed the remediation process for applicants that have failed an examination multiple times. Ms. Anderson noted that the Board would need to initiate the rule making process to address the issue of remediation. Ms. Fogarty noted that a variance would not be used for individuals who have not passed the examination, but rather for individuals facing extenuating circumstances or dealing with life events. The reason students do not take their exams in a timely fashion was discussed. Among the reasons for the delay were wanting to study more, anxiety about taking exams, the cost of registering for exams, life events, burnout from rigorous academics, and changing career paths.

The Task Force discussed possibly increasing the number of times students can take the DASLE before requiring remediation. Students have been erroneously told that they need to take the DANB prior to taking the DASLE. This misinformation influences students' exam schedule which may, in turn, impact their pass rate. DANB representatives noted that Minnesota students perform better than the national average. Ms. Youngdahl noted that if we removed the DANB as a requirement for licensure, this may disadvantage Minnesota students since it is a nationally recognized standard. For example, students initially licensed in Minnesota that did not take the DANB might have fewer job prospects if they relocated to another state. Ms. Anderson noted that the Task Force only has the authority to develop a solution for the DASLE issue and report back to the full Board; the Task Force does not have the authority to formally suspend the DASLE. She stressed that she only just recently received data on test questions from PSI Services that have not been sufficiently analyzed.

Dr. Ismail noted that the Task Force should focus on the DASLE from the perspective of being an impediment for people entering the profession. He suggested setting a curve as a short term solution to ensure a certain percentage of students pass the exam. Ms. Anderson stressed that the Task Force is charged with developing a long-term solution for this problem. She also noted that the DANB and the DASLE do not test on the same content and that is the reason for the dissimilar pass rates. Dr. Rake proposed gathering more information to understand the nature of the problem and to improve the test. Dr. Ismail suggested creating a bank of questions written by educators that would be incorporated into the exam. It was noted that this may create an unfair advantage if, for example, a school submits a large amount of questions that end up on the final version of the exam. This means that graduates of that school might have an advantage when taking the exam. Ms. Fogarty noted that the Task Force should communicate

to educators and students that the DASLE can be taken at any time. She stressed the need for more information before resolving this issue. The Task Force agreed with the recommendation of allowing three failures before requiring remediation.

New Business

None

Announcements

None

Adjourn

MOTION: Motion made to adjourn. Unanimous.

Reviewed by: Christy Jo Fogarty
Christy Jo Fogarty, DH, ADT, Board President

9-3-19
Date