

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 24, 2021
4:00 pm
Open WebEx/Teleconference Meeting

No-in-person public attendees due to social distancing for COVID-19

Call to Order

Hassan Ismail, DDS, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Committee Members Present by WebEx

Hassan Ismail, DDS, Chair
Heidi Donnelly, LDA
Terry Klampe, DDS
P. Angela Rake, DDS

Board Staff Present by WebEx

Bridgett Anderson, Executive Director
Kathy Johnson, Legal Analyst
Mary Luecke, Executive Administrative Assistant

Approval of Draft Agenda

The August 24, 2021 agenda was reviewed and approved.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

The April 27, 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Reports

None

Unfinished Business

a. Dental Assistant State Licensure Exam (DASLE)

Bridgett Anderson reported the Committee voted at the April meeting to bring discussion before the full Board regarding allowing all dental professionals to use open book the DASLE and Jurisprudence Exam. After the meeting there was considerable feedback from stakeholders which prompted the Committee to continue discussion and collect additional information before addressing at a full board meeting.

The Board has been working with the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) regarding the current exam item analysis. DANB will work with PSI Services, who currently conducts the exam and uses a traditional item analysis. DANB uses a Rasch Analysis and will collaborate with PSI to extract data in a different format. A topic for future discussion is potentially eliminating the radiology portion from the DASLE and candidates could test on radiology through the DANB radiation health and safety exam only.

Schools are reporting they have provided many student study resources including practice tests and review information from the Board to improve testing pass rates. The Minnesota Educators of Dental Assistants (MEDA) expressed they would like additional review materials for DASLE. Bridgett Anderson will evaluate the current DASLE materials and shared there are references and topical information (similar to the DANB review) available with the current DASLE study preparation guide. The Committee decided not to pursue open book testing for the DASLE but will still bring forward the open book recommendation for the Jurisprudence examination.

Bridgett Anderson will gather information from DANB regarding repetition of radiology information being tested in both DANB and DASLE examinations and report back. The Committee will continue discussion at the next meeting.

New Business

a. Myofunctional Therapy

Several dental hygienists have contacted Bridgett Anderson to question if they are allowed to practice Myofunctional Therapy because they are going through the training or certificate programs. Permissive scope of practice for dental assisting therapy and hygiene is laid out in legislative rule or law. Myofunctional Therapy, on its own, is not regulated in Minnesota.

The Committee discussed because Myofunctional Therapy is not regulated under dentistry, if licensees are allowed to list their dental credentials when practicing Myofunctional Therapy. Myofunctional Therapy is often performed by speech pathologists who are regulated by the MN Department of Health. Oral facial myofunctional disorders are sometimes diagnosed by dentists. (For example: enlarged tonsils, irregular muscular attachments of the frenum and skeletal facial dysmorphia.) Myofunctional Therapy is an evolving area of expertise and Committee members recognize a need to explore the role of dentists, hygienists, and assistants, in identifying the affected patient population. The Committee will seek more information regarding the practice and certification process and continue discussion at a future meeting.

b. Clinical and Written Waiver

i. Thomas Williams, DDS

MOTION: Angela Rake made a motion to approve the waiver of exam for both clinical and written boards so Thomas Williams, DDS can pursue initial licensure by exam application. Hassan Ismail second.

VOTE:

For: 4

Opposed: 0

RESULT: Motion passed.

Announcements

Hassan Ismail announced another Policy Committee meeting will be scheduled to continue discussion of DANB and DASLE exams before bringing the topic before the full Board. Bridgett Anderson stated digital impressions/scanning and flipper adjustments will be included on future agendas.

Adjourn

Hassan Ismail adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Reviewed by:

Hassan Ismail

Hassan Ismail, DDS, Chair

November 18, 2021

Date