

## **Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 5, 2024  
5:00 pm  
335 Randolph Avenue Room 104  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
and  
Open Webex/Teleconference

### **Call to Order**

Hassan Ismail, DDS, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

### **Committee Members**

Hassan Ismail, DDS, Chair  
Trina Courtright, DH, ADT  
Heidi Donnelly, LDA  
P. Angela Rake, DDS

### **Board Staff**

Bridgett Anderson, Executive Director  
Brian Cochran, Assistant Director Licensing and  
Credentialing  
Kathy Johnson, Legal Analyst  
Mary Luecke, Executive Administrative Assistant

### **Approval of Draft Agenda**

The September 5, 2024 agenda was reviewed and approved.

### **Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**

The May 16, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

### **Reports**

Bridgett Anderson participated in the first Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Commission meeting. The Commission is discussing many topics including background information, financial considerations, and database development.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **DASLE Examination**

The Committee continued discussion from a previous meeting regarding the efficacy of the Dental Assistant State Licensure Exam (DASLE) and considered whether the requirement should be eliminated. Stakeholders including the Minnesota Educators of Dental Assistants (MEDA) and the Minnesota Dental Association (MDA) participated. Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited dental programs are preparing dental assistants for practice with knowledge and skills. Dental educators train and test competency in the skills. Licensed dental assistant applicants are currently also required to pass the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) Certification Exams (RHS, ICE and GC). Some of the same areas are tested through both the DANB Exams and the DASLE. The DASLE does not assess clinical skills.

MOTION: Heidi Donnelly made a motion to eliminate the Dental Assistant State Licensure Exam (DASLE) requirement for dental assistants applying for Minnesota licensure. Trina Courtright second.

VOTE: For: 4  
Opposed: 0  
RESULT: Motion passed

The Committee will make a recommendation to the full Board at the October 2024 board meeting to pursue a rule change which would eliminate the DASLE. Bridgett Anderson will draft rule language for consideration after the full board votes on this in October. Rulemaking would have to be pursued for a final change.

### **New Business**

#### **Continuity of Care – Patient Abandonment**

The Committee discussed the topic of patient abandonment. There have been issues of abandonment with patients not receiving continuing care for treatment. A documented protocol would be a valuable resource documenting history, treatment, and release of patient records. Patient notification with information regarding how to locate continued care is important. The ADA Code of Ethics includes patient autonomy in that dentists should include patients in treatment decisions in a meaningful way. If a dentist's departure is not abrupt, patients should be notified with enough time to find other sources to continue treatment. If a new treatment is planned and the dentist is planning a departure, it should be communicated to the patient if the dentist may not be available to complete the treatment process. This would fulfill the obligation of including the patient in treatment planning. The Board does not provide legal advice and encourages licensees to consult their malpractice insurance carrier regarding their recommended notification process.

Sometimes a practitioner must leave abruptly for unforeseen reasons, which affects financial agreements with patients or the practice. A consideration is the obligation to fulfill patient treatment under financial agreements or processing refunds. The best interest of the patients should be the primary focus. Discussion will continue at a future meeting and the Committee will consider developing a Board guidance statement. Stakeholders are encouraged to email Bridgett Anderson with feedback.

#### **AI Use in Dentistry – Presentation by Eric DeClouet**

Eric DeClouet, the managing partner of Encounter Dynamics, provided a presentation entitled "*An appeal to action on the Possibilities and Pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence (particularly Generative AI) for the Dental Industry*" Mr. DeClouet has 30 years of experience in AI simulation and expert systems. He provided a history of the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and implications for dental practice. He advocates for developing dental industry guidance regarding acceptable AI use. The Committee will consider the resources available and guidance for dental professionals. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

### **Announcements**

None

### **Adjourn**

Hassan Ismail adjourned at 6:00 pm

Reviewed by:

Hassan Ismail DDS  
Hassan Ismail, DDS, Chair

October 22, 2024  
Date