

Commission to Study Pathways to Oral Health Care in New Hampshire (SB 193)
March 27, 2015

Members Present: Senator Bradley (Chair), Representative Susan Emerson (House), Senator Donna Soucy (Senate), Dr. Puneet Kochhar (NH Dental Society), Erika Argersinger (NH Kids Count), , Gail Brown (NH Oral Health Coalition), Pamela Delahanty (NH Dental Hygienists Association) , Mary Ann Aldrich (Public) , Dr. Roger Achong (NH Academy of Pediatric Dentistry), Dr. Margaret Snow (NH Medicaid Dental Director); Janet Laatsch (Bi-State)

Absent: Representative Jim McKay (House); Charles Saia (Governor's Commission on Disability), Dr. Arthur McKibbin (Board of Dental Examiners), Robert Ritchie (State Committee on Aging)

- I. **Approve the Minutes** - motion to approve by Dr. Kochhar, second by Sen. Soucy. All in favor.

- II. **Board of Dental Examiners. Presentation by Board Chair, Dr. Chuck Albee and Board Executive Director Connie Stratton. (See outline)**

Certified Public Health Dental Hygienist established in 2012. 13 certified to date. Majority have worked in public health setting for years, 1-2 are certified each month.

No registration or licensing by BODE for Dental Assistants (DA). If there is a concern, it can be addressed through discipline of supervising dentist. There are Graduate DA's, Qualified DA's in specialties. One Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA) has been certified; there is no training program in NH for them. There is a program in Bangor, Burlington; also one in York, ME not CODA approved. MA recently approved and expect to begin programs soon.

Dental services can be more efficiently delivered with EFDA but direct supervision required. Public health setting deployment is difficult.

Board of Medical Technicians was created to oversee health care workers not licensed or registered by another healthcare board. DA's meet their criteria, so they create admin rules for DA's. However, BODE is discussing jurisdiction of registering DA's instead.

Suggest dental interns, training programs.

? Dr. Snow: What types of settings are not approved as "public health settings?" How is it defined? What if you received a call from a for profit organization that wants to do mobile clinic? Want to use certified public health hygienists to staff it to go to schools. Is that what you mean? Are your rules clear on that?

Ans. In public health setting, a dentist reviews the records once a year.

? Dr. Snow – Is a “for profit” mobile unit excluded?

? Sen. Bradley to Dr. Snow – can you explain the point of your question?

Dr. Snow - Public health hygienists - Certified or not, are supposed to serve a public function. Nothing limits them to a public health setting - and yet, nothing in the rule defines what a public health setting is or isn't. Potentially crosses the line into a private office.

? Erika Argersinger - the BODE doesn't register the assistant, but it does register EFDA?

Ans. They have to be certified (national exam), graduated from CODA approved program, and then go to an EFDA school. We had an EFDA candidate from Maine, we gave her the ability to practice in NH. The BODE permits them.

?Erika Argersinger - If someone is working as an EFDA - can they get hired in a different practice?

Ans. Yes.

? Dr. Kochhar - I belong to group from MIT – what if a venture capitalist talked about going into profitable dental care. The board doesn't have the power to discipline corporations?

Ans. Still have to be under a dentist so we can discipline the dentist.

? Kochhar. Is there a definition of public health setting?

Dr. Albee - generally it seems understood as not private, more public, but maybe not clear.
Ms. Stratton read the rules on public health supervision.

? Sen. Soucy - What about the Board of Medical Technicians?

Ans. We met with them - their statute requires them to register anyone who has access to patients and controlled drugs, which includes DA's. BMT is not ready to do it yet. It is a little confusing for people. The Board stated that they are not ready to register dental assistants.

? Sen. Soucy - Is it the BODE's intent to do so?

Ans. There may be many DA's in the state. Would like to have the Board of Med Tech's help in finding them and then we'll take care of registering them. We have applicable rules in place.

III. Margaret Ray. NH Technical Institute. (See Power Point)

Presentation on educational pathways for dental hygienists, certified public health dental hygienists, dental assistants (various levels), expanded function dental auxiliaries.

Q & A

Re: Certified Public Health Dental Hygienists (CPHDH):

? Dr. Achong. "Caries Stabilization" What is the definition?

Ans. Cavity is a layman's term. Disease on a tooth. CPHDH tries to stop the cavity where it is. Put a plug into the dam, so it can be handled before it gets worse or the tooth rots. In essence, to stabilize the disease process.

? Janet Laatsch - how long does a temporary restoration stabilize a patient?

Ans. No idea. No predictor. Try to refer kids real rapidly. Varies by individual.

Dr. Achong answer - It is very variable. In a perfect world, could last a couple of years. If a child is uncooperative, could be less time. No exact time frame.

Re: Dental Assistants:

? Pam Delahanty - once you are a dental assistant - are there ongoing CE's for dental assistants?

Ans. Because you don't have to be registered with the board – no. However if you are a DANBY CDA (i.e. national certification) you have to do 12 hrs per year. Expanded function has different definitions - one called Qualified DA's. Dentist has jurisdiction, BODE does not.

? Dr Snow - How long do you envision an EFDA curriculum taking?

Ans. Not part of NHTI - it is part of Business Training Center. They have researched existing models. EFDA course - 50 didactic hours + 100 clinical training hours. In BODE rules.

? Dr Snow - so for certain people, dental assistants may not have any training at all. Not even infection control?

Ans. (referenced classified ad for a DA not requiring previous training): if dentist didn't require DA to develop radiograph, DA would not require that training.

There are OSHA protections.

? Dr. Snow - Infection control is important - greater potential for disease. Regulated differently.

? Rep. Emerson. Should dental assistants be registered under BODE or should the Legislature put a dentist on medical technician board?

Ans. Probably register under BODE where there is the expertise.

Dental assistants - how they are educated?

Ans. Several pathways:

- trained by chair side.
- Graduate dental assistant has a certificate. Go to CODA approved 1 year program, complete 6-week externship, 40 credits. Gets a DA certificate.
- Certified DA can add expanded functions (i.e., qualifications in specific areas) to become DANB CERTIFIED dental assistant – takes DANB national boards. More courses & DANB exams in radiation, infection control, general chair side assistant. Makes more attractive to employers.
- Or Expanded functions - "qualified" - under business training center. But may be included in extra classes. Can take the classes. May need prerequisite courses.

Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary - It is an auxiliary –both dental hygienists and dental assistants can be one. EFDA requires a direct dental restoration course (refer to handout). The College does not have the course yet. It is a specific course.

Bottom line on EFDA – The Business Training Center did a feasibility report. Current fiscal climate – do not have funding to put the training in place. If another source can come forward with money, they can do it. If NHTI can get funding by this MAY, maybe it could be done. Looking good that Dental Society may be able to come up with the money (\$200,000). Need to have everything in place.

? Erika. - when an EFDA is trained – where do they work.

Ans. In an office setting with a dentist.

IV. **Next Meetings:**

May 8th – Oral Health Coalition, Carsey Institute.

June 19th – NH Dental Society, presenters from other states with EFDAs, CPHDHs, midlevels for discussion of impact. Begin discussing recommendations.

No meetings in July or August.

Meeting in September to consider report for November report deadline.