

Iowa Dental Board - August 5, 2022

The Iowa Dental Board meeting was held Friday, August 5, 2022. The meeting was held at the Dental Board office for attendance in person or via Zoom. The usual attendees included leadership and staff from the Iowa Dental Association (IDA); the Iowa Dental Hygiene Association (IDHA) and their lobbyist; and licensees.

The board discussed and voted on two proposed notices of intended action.

The board approved a Notice of Intended Action: Related to Dental Assistant Rules. As per the notice "The intention of the proposed amendments is to lower barriers to individuals entering the dental assisting workforce." Also, "The proposed amendments would amend the definition of personal supervision to allow more flexibility in the training of dental assistant trainees as delegated by a licensed dentist".

The Notice involving training of dental assistant trainees allows training by dental assisting and hygiene staff as delegated by the dentist.

The board approved a Notice of Intended Action: Related Expanded Function Rules. As per the notice "The proposed amendments lower the requirement for dental assistants to train in expanded functions and provide greater flexibility to train in the functions. Also, "it moves some of the Level 2 expanded functions to Level 1 designation for the purposes of training."

The Notice involving expanded functions changes the eligibility to train in expanded function level 1 from one year of clinical practice to three months of clinical practice.

When the Notices are published for public notification, public comment may be made and must be received by the Board no later than 4:30 PM on September 30, 2022. Comments should be directed to:

Christel Braness  
Iowa Dental Board  
400 S.W. Eighth Street, Suite D  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
Email: [Christel.Braness@iowa.gov](mailto:Christel.Braness@iowa.gov)

A comparison of Iowa and other states regarding dental hygiene practices was presented to the board. The comparison included: local anesthesia, N2O administration, prescriptive authority, hygiene diagnosis, hygiene treatment plan, and application of silver diamine fluoride (SDF). Change in the hygiene scope of practice for prescriptive authority and diagnosis/treatment planning must involve the state legislature. The board declines to change the scope of practice for these procedures. For application of SDF, the board intends to have more discussion in the future. SDF application is currently allowed in a public setting for desensitization.

Please be watching for public notification of the Notices of Intended Action and read them. If you have concerns, please respond to the board.

The next dental board meeting is scheduled in October 21, 2022. The meeting will be offered in person at the Iowa Dental Board office or via Zoom. The dental board truly respects and appreciates the attendance and involvement of dental licensees.

Dr. Stephen R. Thies  
Legislative Chair  
Iowa Academy of General Dentistry