

## Iowa Dental Board - October 21, 2022

The Iowa Dental Board meeting was held Friday, October 21, 2022. The meeting was held at the Dental Board office for attendance in person or via Zoom. The attendees included leadership and staff from the Iowa Dental Association (IDA); the Iowa Dental Hygiene Association (IDHA) and their lobbyist; dental educators from the dental assisting programs at the community colleges, and licensees.

The notable activities for board consideration were votes on proposed amendments for adoption including dental assistant rules and expanded function rules. The rules revisions were intended to provide flexibility and expedite the dental assisting training experience.

Interestingly, the dental educators present at the meeting spoke in opposition to the changes. The dental educators were concerned that the time periods for dental assistant training were inadequate, allowing the dentist to not be on site for training was unsafe, and allowing the staff to provide the training is inadequate training. The relaxed regulations become a public safety issue.

The proposed dental assistant rule change was approved by the board. The rule change revised the definitions of supervision, removed the requirement for formal application for a dental assistant trainee, removed the six month training period for the assistant trainee to be eligible for registration, and revised the examination formats.

The proposed expanded functions rule change reduced the time that the dental assistant is required to practice before training in expanded functions, separated some of the Level 1 expanded functions, moved some Level 2 functions into the Level 1 category, and allowed "a la carte" choice of the level 1 or 2 expanded functions for training. However, the board tabled the vote on the expanded functions rulemaking in order to consider further revision and regrouping of the expanded functions.

The board approved application of silver diamine fluoride by dental hygienists under preventive scope of practice for dental hygienists.

The American Board of Orofacial Pain is now a specialty recognized by the ADA. The dental board added the specialty as a Board-approved specialty.

There was discussion about a proposed notice of intended action involving remediation of clinical examinations. However, the board did not vote on this proposed notice. The issue was tabled for further discussion.

The next dental board meeting is scheduled in January 26-27, 2023. 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  
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