

APPROVED

BOARD OF DENTISTRY

MINUTES OF EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

**ADVISORY FORUM ON ALTERNATIVES TO USING HUMAN SUBJECTS
IN CLINICAL EXAMINATIONS**

- TIME AND PLACE:** The Examination Committee convened on August 19, 2011 at 1:40 p.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2nd Floor Conference Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233.
- PRESIDING:** Martha C. Cutright, D.D.S.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Herbert R. Boyd, III, D.D.S.
Jeffrey Levin, D.D.S.
Jacqueline G. Pace, R.D.H., President, Board of Dentistry
Augustus A. Petticolas, Jr., D.D.S.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Sandra K. Reen, Executive Director
Donna Lee, Discipline Case Manager
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Richard Archer, D.D.S., VCU School of Dentistry
Michael Dishman, D.D.S., VCU School of Dentistry
Sheri Moore, R.D.H., Virginia Dental Hygienists Association
Tammy Swecker, R.D.H., VCU School of Dentistry
Terry Dickinson, D.D.S., Virginia Dental Association
James D. Watkins, D.D.S., SRTA Dental Exam Committee
Paul Wiley, D.D.S., VCU School of Dentistry
- QUORUM:** All members of the Committee were present.
- CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Cutright stated that the purpose of the meeting was to receive comments from the dentistry community regarding the advantages and disadvantages of possible future policy changes for accepting alternatives to live patient clinical examinations.
- Dr. Levin informed the Committee that he would participate in discussions of this subject, but would recuse himself from voting on a decision since he has multiple interests in this matter.
- Ms. Moore stated that dental hygienists are in favor of using live patients.

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Dr. Wiley stated that the SRTA exam will be given at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2012 and that only one component of the exam still uses live patients. Two other components use manikins and there is also a computer based exam. He noted the following concerns:

- (1) There is no science which supports the validity of human subject exams as providing a true measure of a student's skills;
- (2) The high potential of patient abuse particularly as treatment standards change such as attempting re-mineralization of caries;
- (3) Preparation for the exam disrupts a student's attention to the curriculum; and
- (4) Liability issues arise when something bad happens to a patient and it is not clear who is responsible.

Ms. Pace expressed concerns about whether a non-live patient exam would protect the public. Dr. Wiley responded that there should be an independent examination of a student but that the current exams do not always show the skill set of the student. He further stated that some states do use post-graduate programs or internships.

Dr. Levin, an examiner for five years, stated that SRTA spends a lot of time to better the exam each year and safeguards are put in place to not bias the program, but during exams issues arise on the floor and ethics go out the window. Manikins have become much more sophisticated. He added that some patients become professional patients and will blackmail students to show up for clinical tests. Dr. Levin also said the Board needs a better option for licensing specialists.

Ms. Swecker stated that students devote a lot of time to find the perfect patient. She stated that some ethical questions arise because students may hold patients for clinicals when, in fact, prompt treatment is needed; and some patients will not come for follow-up visits. Ms. Swecker added that the portfolio exam model addresses many more aspects of being a dentist and she spoke to the importance of self assessment.

Dr. Archer stated that simulation with manikin teeth has worked really well in third party testing. He added that important skills such as patient evaluation and management are not currently being tested and that tyodonts with calculus are now available.

Ms. Pace commented that it was important for the Board to provide a level playing field and to evaluate competence on a range of experiences in order to protect the public.

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Dr. Levin asked that the Committee have a presentation on the Canadian and Minnesota OSCE model and stated that Dr. Jim Burns could arrange for the program director in Canada to present.

Dr. Dickinson suggested that representatives of the California and New York programs should also be invited.

Ms. Reen stated that the Exam Committee will report to the Board at its September meeting that there was a consensus of the participants of the Advisory Forum to continue to explore this subject. She recommended that any presentations on models be made to the entire Board. She also explained that funding travel for presenters will require approval by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and is questionable so an option may be to utilize teleconferencing. Ms. Reen asked that contact information on potential speakers be sent to her so she might extend the invitations and address logistics.

Dr. Cutright stated that the Exam Committee will make arrangements for speakers to address the Board and everyone will be kept informed of the Board's progress in this matter. The Exam Committee's next meeting will be September 9, 2011 following the Board business meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: With all business concluded, the Committee adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Martha C. Cutright, DDS.
Martha C. Cutright, D.D.S., Chair

9/9/2011
Date

Sandra K. Reen
Sandra K. Reen, Executive Director

September 9, 2011
Date