**New Staff**

The Dental Board welcomed Ashley Draper as the new Dental Assisting Manager and Maria Collins, Educational Program Coordinator, in January 2018. Ashley Draper’s email address is [Ashley.draper@dca.ca.gov](mailto:Ashley.draper@dca.ca.gov" \t "https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm" \l "inbox/_blank), phone number [916-576-1759](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm" \l "inbox/tel:(916) 576-1759" \t "https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm" \l "inbox/_blank), and Maria Collin’s is [maria.collins@dca.ca.gov](mailto:maria.collins@dca.ca.gov" \t "https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm" \l "inbox/_blank), phone number [916-576-1760](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm" \l "inbox/tel:(916) 576-1760" \t "https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm" \l "inbox/_blank).

**Re-Evaluation of Board-Approved Dental Assisting Programs and Courses:**

The Board has begun the reevaluation process for previously approved programs and courses to compliance with statue and regulations. Board staff have been contacted Board-approved programs and courses to initiate the reevaluation by asking the programs and courses to complete the program and course application and include all applicable attachments.  There is no fee for this re-evaluation. Site visits for the purpose of re-evaluation are discretionary and may not be required of the programs being re-evaluated.

**Subject Matter Expert Recruitment (Educators are not eligible to serve as SMEs in this recruitment; however sharing this information with interested eligible licensees would be greatly appreciated.):**

The Dental Board of California (Board) is recruiting Subject Matter Experts (SME) to participate in an examination workshop. Under the facilitation of an OPES testing specialist, licensees will participate in reviewing test items and reclassifying test items to the new examination outline.

There are two upcoming workshops that will be conducted, for two days on Friday and Saturday. **You must be able to attend both days.**The first one will be held on**April 20-21, 2018**and the second one will be held on**June 8-9, 2018.**There is a maximum of 10 licensees per workshop, so please confirm your interest in participating as soon as possible to guarantee a spot.  **Newly licensed (within the last five years) RDA’s that are interested in participating  are strongly encouraged to apply.** The workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. and will be held at the Department of Consumer Affairs’ Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES).

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) has been authorized to enter into a contract with an expert consultant using an abbreviated contract process. Therefore, please be advised that upon your arrival at OPES you will be required to sign a consultant contract in order to participate in the workshop process.

**According to the provisions of the OPES’s Examination Security procedures, you will be required to show valid identification and allow for personal belongings and electronic devices, including cell phones, to be secured in the reception area while you participate in the workshop.**

The Board appreciates your professional contribution and commitment to developing a successful licensure examination program.

**To qualify to serve as a Subject Matter Expert, a licensee must**:

1. Possess a license with an active status;

2. Be in good standing with no current or pending accusations;

3. Agree to not participate at any time, either now or in the future, in any examination coaching or preparation activities **(SMEs must not be teaching or working at one of the RDA prep schools);** and

4. Enter into an Expert Consultant Contract with the Dental Board of California.

If you are interested in attending, please email Tina Vallery at [tina.vallery@dca.ca.gov](mailto:tina.vallery@dca.ca.gov" \t "https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm" \l "inbox/_blank). Please include your license number in the e-mail.

**Dental Assisting Council Recruitment:**

The Board currently has vacancies on the Dental Assisting Council (DAC). A recruitment notice was posted on the Board’s website and applications were received to fill vacancies for two (2) members who are employed as faculty members of a registered dental assisting educational program approved by the Board and one (1) member employed clinically in private dental practice or public safety net or dental health care clinics. The application deadline was Friday, February 16, 2018. Board staff expects possible appointment to be presented at the May meeting for the Board’s consideration.

**Update Regarding Launch of Combined RDA Written and Law and Ethic Examination**

At its December 2016 meeting, the Dental Board of California (Board) and the Dental Assisting Council (Council) agreed to combine both the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Written and the RDA Law and Ethics examinations into one examination. The Board worked with the Department of Consumer Affairs’ (DCA) Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) to implement the combined test plan based on the results of the 2016 RDA Occupational Analysis (OA) to ensure that the combined examination is legally defensible and meets the requirements of Business and Professions Code Section 139.  The examination plan for the combined RDA Written and Law and Ethics Examination was posted on the Board’s web site in November 2017 and minor revisions were made to the document in January 2018. The examination plan is posted on the Board’s web site at: [http://www.dbc.ca.gov/formspubs/rda\_law\_ethics\_combined.pdf](http://www.dbc.ca.gov/formspubs/rda_law_ethics_combined.pdf" \t "https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm" \l "inbox/_blank).

At its February 2018 meeting, the Board received a request from dental assisting educators to delay the implementation of the examination so the dental assisting programs would have an opportunity to prepare their students for the new examination. Additionally, those dental assisting educators were concerned the examination plan posted on the Board’s web site did not include references to specific textbooks used for the development of examination questions. Additionally, they were concerned that the Psychological Services Incorporated (PSI) Candidate Handbook was not yet available for their students to begin reviewing in preparation for the anticipated May 2018 launch of the combined examination.  In response to these concerns, the Board requested staff consult with the OPES to see if delaying the implementation of the examination was feasible.

The OPES advised that a delay would not be warranted and that sufficient notice has been provided regarding the examination format changes because this is the combination of two existing examinations and not the development of an entirely new examination.  The question pool will be very much the same.  All study guide references remain the same, with the exception that references to the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) have been removed.  As a result of the findings of the OPES, the Board will continue to move forward with the launch of the combined examination in May 2018.

The implementation of the combined RDA Written and Law and Ethics Examination is anticipated to occur on Thursday, May 24, 2018.  To prepare for the conversion to the singular exam, PSI will not administer the separate RDA Law and Ethics and the RDA Written Examinations from Tuesday, May 15 through Wednesday, May 23. Current applicants may schedule their RDA Law and Ethics and the RDA Written Examinations with PSI through Monday, May 14. If a candidate does not successfully pass both the RDA Law and Ethics and the RDA Written Examinations by Monday, May 14, the candidate will be required to take the combined RDA Written and Law and Ethics examination once it becomes available on May 24.

The combined RDA Written and Law and Ethics Examination will consist of one-hundred-fifty (150) questions.  The fee for the examination will be $38.50. The PSI Candidate Handbook will be available on the Board’s web site no later than March 30, 2018.

Comparable to any new examination, there will be a slight delay in providing results due to the Board performing a quality assurance assessment on examination items. Candidates will receive a letter of participation, after completing their examination, that will explain that their exam results are being held for a period of four to six (4-6) weeks and that they will receive their examination scores by mail. Once the assessment has been completed, immediate release of examination results will resume.

Please note that the implementation of the combined RDA Written and Law and Ethics Examination is contingent upon the DCA BreEZe system.  Issues related to the DCA BreEZe conversion are outside the Board’s control and delayed implementation of the combined examination is possible.  If in the event, the implementation is delayed the Board will provide notification on it’s web site as well as send out an email to all subscribers.  The Board encourages you to subscribe to its email communications.

The Board will continue to do its best to make this transition as smooth as possible and will provide notification of any implementation issues or delays. Please feel free to contact the Board with any questions by telephone at [(916) 263-2300](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm" \l "inbox/tel:(916) 263-2300" \t "https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm" \l "inbox/_blank) or by email at [da.program@dca.ca.gov](mailto:da.program@dca.ca.gov" \t "https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm" \l "inbox/_blank).

**Update Regarding Proposed Regulations Relating to Dental Assisting**

The Dental Assisting Council has held several stakeholder workshops to develop its comprehensive rulemaking proposal relative to dental assisting. The last regulatory workshop was held on March 2, 2018 in Sacramento.  As a result of these workshops, Board staff has been able to develop proposed regulatory language which is anticipated to be presented to the Board at its August 2018 meeting. Once completed, this rulemaking will include educational program and course requirements, examination requirements, and licensure requirements relating to dental assisting.