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CODA Communicator

From the Chair—May 2010

Accrediting body actions are sometimes not well understood by those in our profession not involved in the process. As a new commissioner four years ago, I asked questions such as: "What is our relationship with the U.S. Dept of Education (USDE) and the ADA? "Why do we operate at different levels of review as a Commission?" In the beginning, I felt that the Commission of thirty members tended to rubber stamp the various decisions of our fourteen Review Committees. However, as I have watched this process over the past four years, I have come to appreciate this three-level structure and process of review as a check and balance for insuring an accurate and fair review process.

As many of you are aware, the ADA formed a Task Force on CODA three years ago to provide an outside evaluation and study of the Commission. This process resulted in 34 recommendations for change. The ADA House of Delegates also formed the ADA Monitoring Committee two years ago to interact and assist CODA in assessing and implementing the various recommendations. This has been a monumental task and has generated significant improvements for the future. Many of the easier to implement recommendations were accomplished in the first year. This year, the Commission has moved forward on more difficult issues. A workgroup was formed between ADA and CODA to look at the structure and funding of the Commission. No rock was left unturned in



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this process and the Commission plans for a final recommendation to be made at the open session of Aug. Commission meeting and forwarded to the House of Delegates.

Another area that the Task Force on CODA suggested the Commission address is the accrediting education programs in interest areas of general dentistry. Some ADA members feel that accrediting these educational programs somehow implies specialty "recognition" of these areas. To help overcome these perceptions, CODA recommended that the 2009 House of Delegates relook at the 2006 resolution to change the ADA *Bylaws*. This *Bylaws* change would enable the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) to set up a process to "recognize" non-specialty interest areas of general dentistry prior to the Commission accrediting the educational programs. In addition, CODA also coordinated a Definitions Workgroup made up of CODA, CDEL and the Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs (CEBJA) to clarify the definitions of accreditation, recognition, certification, credentialing and licensure. We hope these efforts will result in consistent understanding of their meanings and use.

This year could not be more unique because of requests that CODA begin accrediting programs for new team members in the workforce. We have received requests to accredit Dental Therapy (DT/ADT) programs and Expanded Function Dental Assisting (EFDA) programs from states whose laws have been passed to train these new team members in the workforce. CODA has formed a Workgroup to conduct an exhaustive review of the issues involved in accreditation of these new areas and will report to the full Commission in Aug.. Any potential recommendations could be reported to the ADA House of Delegates in Orlando. Should the initiative move forward, CODA would solicit input broadly from its communities of interest.

Throughout my year as Chair, I believe the Commission has become even more responsive to the concerns and questions of all of its communities of interest. I have made it my mission to personally meet with as many groups as possible to talk about the importance of quality education and the accreditation process. This has included meetings with the members of the ADA House of Delegates, CDEL,

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Deadlines for Education Programs

Self Study: submit 60 days
prior to visit

Reminder:

Please review email addresses to ensure that you receive all Commission related information and documents in a timely manner. If you have a new email address, please send it to: doheartyp@ada.org.

Links:

- [Submit a Question](#)
- [Accreditation News](#)
- [Accredited Programs](#)
- [Commissioners List](#)



CEBJA, the "Boston Group," the Association of Professional and Specialized Accreditors, and the American Association of Dental Boards. It is my hope that more communication and transparency will continue to increase everyone's understanding of the Commission's pivotal role in assuring educational quality throughout the dental profession.

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Upcoming Events

It's not too late to sign up to be a registered observer for the Open Policy Session of the Commission on Dental Accreditation Meeting on Aug. 6th. If you're interested in attending, or just receiving the materials, please email doheartyp@ada.org.

Also, if you're interested in attending the Community of Interest Information Session Thursday, Aug. 19th, also RSVP via email. This Information Session will be held by webinar and address current CODA policies and issues.

Commission calendar for remainder of 2010

Aug. 6	Open Policy Session of CODA, Chicago, IL, 8:30 am until close of business (usually noon)
Aug. 19	Community of Interest Information Session, Online Webinar, 9am until noon (CDT)
Sept. 24	Advanced Education Survey Deadline
Oct. 8	Dental Hygiene Education Survey Deadline
Oct. 9	ADA Annual Session Open Hearing, Hilton Orlando, Lake Florence, A&B; 11am until noon
Oct. 10	ADA Annual Session Open Hearing; Hilton Orlando, Orange Ballroom, A; 10am until 11am
Oct. 15	Dental Lab Technology Education Survey Deadline
Oct. 22	Dental Assisting Education Survey Deadline
Nov. 15	Final Progress Reports Due
Dec. 1	Site Visit Responses Due

Dec. 16-17	New Review Committee & Commissioner Training, Chicago, IL Predocutorial Education Survey Deadline Critical sheet: due two weeks from when it is sent out (likely mid-Aug.) Groups I and II: Oct. 1, 2010 Group III: Dec. 3, 2010 Group IV: Nov. 5, 2010
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Open Hearings

Please note, when you are turning in written statements during an open hearing, please include names and institutions so we can properly credit and file your comments.

HIPAA updates

In order to comply with new federal regulations, revised Business Associate agreements have been sent to programs and CODA consultants have been asked to complete a training and take an assessment of their HIPAA knowledge.

Policy and Procedure Manual

Currently, the CODA policy and procedure manuals are undergoing revision. In addition, two separate manuals are being combined into one document to eliminate redundancies and for ease of use. In the next issue of the Communicator, some of the revised policies will be highlighted.

Email Reminders

Please take note if you have new staff or officers that have joined your organization, they may be interested in getting the CODA Communicator as well. If you know someone else that is interested in receiving the CODA Communicator, just use the "Forward to a Friend" button in the right column and they can join our mailing list.

Updated Commission Links

With the rebuilding of ADA.org, some of our links have

changed. Please use these new links:

Accredited Program Listings

[ADA.org/267.aspx](http://ada.org/267.aspx)

Accreditation News and other CODA Documents

[ADA.org/117.aspx](http://ada.org/117.aspx)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Clayton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair

This email was sent to: doheartyp@ada.org

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