REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON DENTAL ASSISTING EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

Committee Chair: Ms. Deanna Stentiford. Committee Members: Ms. Julie Bera, Ms. Margaret Bowman-Pensel, Ms. Dorothea Cavallucci, Dr. James Day, Ms. Carol Little, Ms. Martha McCaslin, and Dr. Debra Schneider. Ms. Carol Johnson attended a portion of the meeting. Ms. Nichole Magnuson was unable to attend the meeting. Guests (Open Session Only): Ms. Sidonia Peto, education director, American Dental Assistants Association, attended the policy portion of the meeting. Commission Staff: Ms. Michelle Smith, manager, Allied Dental Education, Mr. Daniel Sloyan, senior project assistant, Allied Dental Education, and Mr. Gregg Marquardt, manager, Communications and Technology Strategies, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Dr. Sherin Tooks, director, CODA, attended a portion of the meeting. The meeting of the Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education (DA RC) was held on July 16-17, 2020 via video conference meetings.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO DENTAL ASSISTING EDUCATION

Informational Report on Frequency of Citings of Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs (p. 300): The Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education (DA RC) considered the annual report of the frequency of citings of Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 300) and noted the most frequently cited areas of non-compliance for site visits conducted between January 1, 2014 and October 31, 2019.

The data indicates that a total of 1,568 citings of non-compliance were made. Of these, 115 (7.3%) were related to Standard 1–Institutional Effectiveness; 1,091 (69.6%) were related to Standard 2–Educational Program; 199 (12.7%) were related to Standard 3–Administration, Faculty and Staff; 69 (4.4%) were related to Standard 4–Educational Support Services; 80 (5.1%) were related to Standard 5–Health and Safety Provisions; and 14 (0.9%) were related to Standard 6–Patient Care Services.

Recommendation: This report is informational in nature and no action is required.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Dental Assisting Standard 2-11: The Dental Assisting Review Committee (DA RC) has observed an increase in dental assisting programs adding certificates and/or additional degree tracks for expanded functions training, beyond the entry-level dental assisting program accredited by the Commission. The Committee noted that there appears to be confusion as to when the Commission will evaluate a program’s curriculum related to additional functions delegable within a state. As such, the DA RC reviewed Standard 2-11 with regard to the additional functions defined by the program’s state-specific dental board or regulatory agency
that graduates are authorized to perform. The DA RC noted that programs may provide training in expanded (delegable) state-specific functions outside of the entry-level CODA-accredited program’s curriculum. The Review Committee further noted that enrollment in expanded functions training programs may require completion of the CODA-accredited program, credentialing by the Dental Assisting National Board, or other requirements prior to admittance into the expanded functions component, which suggests these training courses are beyond the CODA-accredited program that is considered entry-level into the profession of dental assisting.

The DA RC recalled that at the Winter 2020 meeting, the Review Committee discussed Standard 2-11 due to confusion among site visitors, dental assisting programs, and state dental boards, and the Committee proposed revisions to the standard for clarity, which were approved by the Commission and implemented on July 1, 2020. The DA RC noted that the Commission’s oversight of training in expanded (delegable) functions extends only to those functions that are taught within a CODA-accredited entry-level dental assisting program and not to additional programs or courses that a student may complete. Dental Assisting Standard 2-11 affirms that when a CODA-accredited dental assisting program includes advanced/expanded functions in the program’s curriculum, the program must include content at the level, depth, and scope required by the state. Students must demonstrate competence in these skills in the program facility prior to clinical practice, and students must be informed of the duties for which they are training in the educational program. Since this Standard was recently implemented, the DA RC believed that further monitoring of its application and citation is warranted. Additionally, the Review Committee felt that site visitors should be informed of the revisions to Standard 2-11 at future mandatory annual training sessions for calibration purposes in order to properly evaluate programs that may incorporate expanded functions within their CODA-accredited program’s curriculum.

**Recommendation:** This report is informational in nature and no action is required.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATING TO MORE THAN ONE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Matters related to more than one review committee are included in a separate report.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ACCREDITATION STATUS**

Matters related to accreditation status of programs are included in a separate report.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Deanna Stentiford
Chair, Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education