REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

Committee Chair: Dr. Steven Levy. Committee Members: Dr. Victor Badner, Dr. Linda Kaste, Dr. James Leonard, and Dr. Michael Wajdowicz and Dr. Benjamin (Alex) White (substitute as needed for discipline specific program review). Guests (Open Session Only): Dr. Frances Kim, executive director, American Association of Public Health Dentistry and Dr. Ana Karina Mascarenhas, executive director, American Board of Dental Public Health attended the policy portion of the meeting. Staff Members: Dr. Sherin Tooks, director, Ms. Peggy Soeldner, manager, Advanced Dental Education, Ms. Jennifer Snow, manager, Advanced Dental Education, and Ms. Danielle Patrick-Wade, senior project assistant, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The meeting of the Review Committee on Dental Public Health Education (DPH RC) was held on July 12, 2019 and July 22, 2019 via telephone conference call.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

Informational Report of Frequency of Citings of Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health (Implemented July 2014) (p. 600): The Review Committee on Dental Public Health Education (DPH RC) discussed the frequency of citings, noting an analysis of the data indicated that the most frequently cited area of non-compliance, with two (2) citings is found in Standard 1 and related to planning and evaluation of improvement of the educational quality of the program being broad-based, systematic, continuous and designed to promote achievement of program goals. The next most frequently cited areas of non-compliance in dental public health-specific standards fall under Standard 4 and Standard 5. Revised Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health were adopted and implemented in August 2018. Therefore, this report concludes the Frequency of Citings for the January 2014 Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health.

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

Informational Report of Frequency of Citings of Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health (Implemented August 2018) (p. 601): The Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health were approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation on August 3, 2018 with immediate implementation. Since that date, one (1) dental public health site visit has been conducted by a visiting committee of the Commission utilizing the August 2018 Standards. At the time of this report, the Standards include 71 “must” statements addressing 99 required areas of compliance. Frequency of Citings reports will not be made available where a limited number (three or less) of program have been site visited. The Commission will continue to receive reports annually summarizing the updated data on the frequency of citings of individual Standards.

Recommendation: This report is informational in nature and no action is required.
Consideration of Proposed Revision to Accreditation Standards Definition of Terms Related to Special Needs (p. 602): On May 28, 2019, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a request from the Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA) asking its review committees to consider the standardization of a definition for “Special Needs” across the various Accreditation Standards under the Commission’s purview instead of using different iterations of the definition of special needs. The Special Care Dentistry Association believed that the definition of special needs in many of the educational program Accreditation Standards are missing vulnerable older adults and proposed a definition for “Special Needs” that is derived from the Dental Education Standards.

The DPH RC considered the proposed revision to the Accreditation Standards Definition of Terms (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 602) submitted by the Special Care Dentistry Association and noted that the Review Committee, at a prior meeting, recommended no changes to its standards based upon a request from the National Council on Disability. Again, upon review of the SCDA request, the DPH RC concluded that no changes to the standards is warranted at this time. The DPH RC noted that the SCDA’s definition is clinically focused, whereas dental public health programs are not clinically based educational programs. The DPH RC noted that the Preface of the Accreditation Standards already includes a philosophical definition of patients with special needs, which is applied in the context of public health dentistry. Further, since the term “special needs” is not used within the dental public health standards, the DPH RC did not believe a definition was warranted.

Following discussion, and based on the existing language within the Accreditation Standards for dental public health, the DPH RC determined that no further changes to the standards are warranted at this time related to the SCDA’s request.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct that the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health be retained as written.

Consideration of Proposed Revision to Dental Public Health Accreditation Standards Intent Statements Related to International Experiences (p. 603): On June 11, 2019, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a request from the Dental Public Health Residency Directors to consider the revision of current intent statements within the Accreditation Standards to allow the use of international experiences within the curriculum of advanced dental education programs in dental public health (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 603).

The Dental Public Health Educators believe appropriate international experiences should be allowed for Dental Public Health students/residents as part of their field experience and/or research/scholarly activity requirements, but not for clinical care aspects of training or other core learning and are requesting revisions to current intent statements for Dental Public Health Standards 4-7, 4-8, and 6-3 (Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 603).
The Dental Public Health Review Committee considered the proposed revisions to current intent statements for Dental Public Health Standards 4-7, 4-8, and 6-3. The DPH RC noted that a proposed intent statement for Dental Education Programs was recently circulated for a period of comment to clarify that international experiences may not interfere with the curricular content, requirements, or program length of the predoctoral dental education program. The DPH RC noted that the Commission will consider comments on the dental education standards at its Summer 2019 meeting.

The DPH RC believed that, in the dental public health curriculum, international site rotations could provide valuable learning opportunities related to international systems for global oral health assessment and implementation, with special interest in dental public health field experiences and research as these are educational components of the dental public health curriculum. The DPH RC further noted that the field experiences and research components of a dental public health curriculum are non-clinical and, as such, should be allowed in international locations. The DPH RC agreed in principle with the tenets of the proposal submitted by the Residency Directors; however, the committee noted that inclusion of intent statements to allow international site rotations for field experiences and research opportunities does not align with the current philosophy and practice of the Commission, since there is no mechanism to monitor these sites as educational components of a CODA-accredited program. The DPH RC strongly believed that the Commission should consider a method to permit international site usage for graduate programs in dental public health as a critical educational component of this discipline.

Following lengthy discussion, the DPH RC concluded that consideration of the request from Residency Directors to revise Dental Public Health Standards 4-7, 4-8, and 6-3 should be tabled until the Commission can broadly study the topic of international site usage for U.S.-based, CODA-accredited programs for all disciplines under its purview. The DPH RC believed further study through the appropriate Commission Standing Committee, such as Documentation and Policy or Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning is warranted. Through this mechanism, the DPH RC believed the Commission should consider the feasibility of international rotations for U.S.-based programs related to the overall impact to educational programs and the Commission, including the interests and requirements of educational disciplines and potential use of international rotations to fulfill program or Accreditation Standards requirements. The DPH RC suggested that the Commission consider mechanisms by which it can: 1) ensure the quality of education provided at international sites, 2) ensure that programs monitor the safety of students, 3) oversee and continuously monitor use of international sites by programs, and 4) evaluate the impact of regulations (state and federal) that may affect CODA’s ability to continuously monitor international sites.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation postpone action on the Dental Public Health Residency Directors’ request to revise Standards 4-7, 4-8, and 6-3, pending further study the feasibility of allowing international rotations for U.S.-based, Commission-accredited programs.
It is further recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the appropriate committee (e.g. the Standing Committees on Documentation and Policy Review and/or Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning) to make every effort to address the feasibility of allowing international rotations for non-clinical field experiences and research opportunities for U.S.-based, Commission-accredited programs.

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,

Dr. Steven Levy
Chair, Review Committee on Dental Public Health Education