

College of the Redwoods
Dental Assisting Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday May 13, 2022
AT 101 – Dental Health Center Waiting Room
11:30 AM – 12:55 PM

Members Present: Hillary Reed (RDAEF), Teresa Moore (RDA), Amber Hunt (RDA), Nicole Nelson (Johnson) (RDA), Carla Santsche (Secretarial Support), Kelly Herring (RDA), Taylor Walsh (RDA), Stefanie Titus (RDA)

- 1. Called to order at 11:30 AM by Hillary Reed**
- 2. Approved the meeting minutes from May 17, 2019**
- 3. Provided Legislative Update:**
 - Legislation passed Assembly Bill 2276 (Carillo) introduced February 16th, 2022 which expands the Dental Assistants scope of work with completed course for coronal polish and sealant placement without licensure. Graduates will be able to perform coronal polish as well as pit and fissures sealants upon graduation with no Registered Dental Assistant licensure. Assembly-member Jim Wood, DDS was contacted by Hillary. Hillary expressed opposition about unlicensed dental assistants placing pit and fissure sealants as well as performing coronal polish. Assembly-member Jim Wood, DDS response assured adequate safeguards were provided in the bill.
- 4. Provided Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA):**
 - The future possibility of hybrid-online courses were discussed in the areas of radiography and office management. In-person labs would still be required. Hillary informed the Advisory Committee that CODA has a rigorous process and must approve all hybrid-online courses. It was identified that students have difficulty completing examinations online prior to due dates. It was noted that in general students seem less motivated to complete online quizzes and examinations, lowering overall grade point averages. Hybrid-online courses will be re-evaluated this for the upcoming year.
- 5. Provided Assessment Results:**
 - Reported 10 students graduated and 3 were to finish communications or nutrition requirements over the summer. All 13 students got hired on at their intern offices or at other offices.
 - Discussed attendance issues involving hour requirements and “excused absences” due to Covid-19.
- 6. Provided Program Update:**
 - Informed that as of now there are 11 applicants for the upcoming 2022/2023 academic year, but that incoming students have expressed hesitation regarding the Covid-19 vaccination series. Recruitment efforts have been made with counseling and advising due to high demand in the area. Also was discussed about putting information on the Dental Assisting program in reception areas in dental offices.
 - Discussed starting pay rates locally. Private practice dentists without competitive compensation are not able to compete in the job market.

- Discussed the need for more Dental Assistants in our area. A local dentist is suggesting the Program take on 48 students but CODA only gives us accreditation for 24 students. It was agreed that taking on 48 students would be too many and would drive the pay down for upcoming graduates and existing dental assistants in the field.
- Discussed soft skills needed by area employers. Discussed attendance issues regarding absences occurring on a monthly basis.

7. Provided Dental Health Center Update:

- Reported Revenue of \$31,973.00 for Dental Health Center for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- Reported Dr. Kockendorfer will return on Mondays and Wednesdays. Additionally, hoping to recruit a hygienist to pick up some days periodically in the Dental Health Center.
- Reported the business office suggested we raise our current fees. We discussed getting fee schedules from other offices so that the clinic can keep their fees lower.

8. Solicited Community Updates:

- Humboldt Open Door is hiring Dental Assistants and training them as there is a shortage in our local area.
- UOP is attempting to help our our shortage of Registerd Dental Hygientist by providing a local schooling/internship in our area. UOP has been meeting with others to try to figure out a way to make this sustainable.
- UIHS will be expanding in Eureka area, they will need 2 Dentists, several assistants and hygienists as well.
- Humboldt Open Door will be expanding in the near future as well.