

College of the Redwoods
Dental Assisting Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 12, 2023
AT 101- Dental Health Center Waiting Room
11:00AM – 2:30 PM

Members Present: Nicole Johnson (RDA), Natalie Martin (RDA), Teresa Moore (RDA/ Program Instructor) John Willis (DDS), Hillary Reed(RDAEF/ Program Coordinator), Raynell Tindall (RDA/ Program Instructor)

1. Called to order at 11:15 am by Hillary Reed.

2. Approved the meeting minutes from May 13,2022.

3. Provided Legislative Update:

- AB 481 was recently passed increasing the 3 pathways to RDA licensure to 5 pathways.
- According to ADEA, graduates among CODA approved Programs is down by 45% throughout the United States since the pandemic. According to Dental Board of California statistics the number of active RDA licenses are declining as well. Reasons for the decline is currently being investigated by ADA.

4. Provided Program Update:

- Reported that of the 20 students enrolled in August 2022, 14 students graduated. In the spring semester one student returned from 2009 to complete DA 163, Advanced Dental Assisting Science and is working towards a “Certificate of Achievement”. She is employed with Southern Trinity Health Services (Scotia). Additionally, two other former students petitioned to graduate with their associate degree in dental assisting and needed course substitution paperwork to qualify.
- Informed that 10 graduates are currently employed locally, 4 are currently seeking employment. Starting wages ranged from \$19-\$23 per hour. Most hires were in general dentistry. However, students were hired in pediatrics, orthodontics, and oral surgery settings.
- Reported 18 students have been accepted for the 2023-2024 academic year so far. The application period is February 1- August 1. Informed the Committee that our hope is for 24 students, so that the Program is at full capacity for enrollment this upcoming academic year. Efforts have been made to put out information in area high schools, dental offices, and social media. The Program Coordinator attended the American Indian Career Fairs in Hoopa and Eureka. Furthermore, advisory members strongly advised that Program ads use social media to capture the demographic.

5. Provided Dental Health Center Update:

- Reported revenue of \$52,112 for Dental Health Center the 2022-2023 academic year.
- Reported that Dr. Kochendorfer worked fall semester but took on a full-time job with UIHS in January. Dr. Willis and Dr. Jaso worked spring semester and both plan to return in the fall semester. Additionally, other dentists may be asked to work next academic year to increase revenue.
- Announced that Covid restrictions had been lifted in the spring semester and now the Dental Health Center was allowed by the District to have more than one provider per day.

- Announced that new Administrative Office Assistant II, Tammy Hoalton would begin on Monday, May15, 2023 to support both the Dental Health Center and Dental Assisting Program.

6. Petitioned for Community Updates:

- Inquired which labs the local dental offices were using. The members stated K-Lab for single unit cases, Dandy Dental Lab for digital cases from dentures/orthodontics to crown and bridge and Functional Art Studio for extensive crown and bridge cases.
- Inquired which skill could be improved within the Program. Members stated digitally scanning. Asked which scanners worked the best and were user friendly for Program use. Members stated Trios and iTero. It was stated by one member that iTero does not require weekly updates and is easy to use. She also stated that iTero has a digital caries detector feature.
- Inquired what orthodontic skills had changed for assistants in the orthodontic setting. Natalie reported that traditional braces are still being used and that students need to be able to tie and untie ligatures and power chain. She also stated that the iTero was used extensively for scanning patient records and fabrication of Invisalign trays. Natalie offered faculty an opportunity to come and observe in the orthodontic setting at Humboldt Orthodontics.
- Inquired about equipment purchases for the future. iTero scanning device was highly recommended. Committee members felt it was more user friendly than the Trios. Additionally, reported that Strong Work Force funding had been used to update office computers and the front desk printer. Also, Strong Workforce funding has been used to replace radiographic equipment, both natural DXTR's have been replaced and a plastic panoramic DXTR had been ordered but has not yet arrived. Program staff were very excited about these purchases.
- Inquired what "Covid" protocols were remaining in the offices after the mandates were no longer required. Members reported that some providers and personnel were still wearing N95 masks or face shields. All offices reported taking down physical barriers and patients were able to enter the waiting room without masks.

7. Solicited Community Updates:

- Feedback was provided from Committee members on soft-skills necessary for the students to be successful in the field. They felt that students were not picking up on non-verbal messaging from the dentist. One provided an example of pulling out the HVE too soon, not paying attention to ques. Another provided an example of not emptying the ultra-sonic or stocking during downtime but checking their phone first. As a group we discussed how the internship evaluation may be changed to better reflect the necessary soft-skills.

8. Adjournment.