



Newsletter

May, 2010

RDAEF2 Suzy Jordan has a "passion for dentistry"

Suzy Jordan is a busy mother, wife, aquatics instructor, Special Olympics director, and...a new RDAEF2. She told us that she took on the challenge of the RDAEF2 training and licensure because she has a "passion for dentistry."

Starting as a dental assistant in 1983, she became an RDAEF in 1998 and has worked for Dr. Sam Gittings' general practice in Napa for 20 years.

The training at Sacramento City College was "exciting, fantastic, and very rewarding". Most of the didactic training was conveniently done online, hosted live by program director Joan Greenfield.



The training "prepared us for everything" when it came time to take the State exam. She said it was actually more difficult to perform the procedures on typodonts than on the patients she now sees, because typodont teeth move so easily.

She observed that the exam was "intense, stressful, and surreal."

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Dental Board may seek legislation to change EF duties, training, and exams

The Dental Board voted at its May meeting to investigate whether it should seek legislation to change the EF duties, education, and exams established by AB2637.



The Dental Assisting Alliance expressed concern about amending the provisions of AB2637 in view of the many years of negotiation that led to its passage. The California Dental Association voiced similar concerns.

See Evolution of AB2637 – p.3

A two-member Board committee is to investigate the following and report back at the July 26 meeting:

- *Should the training, and/or the State exam, be performed on patients for composite placement, or other duties?*

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New DA and RDA duties can also be performed by EFs

An RDAEF is allowed to perform all duties that DAs and RDAs are permitted to perform.

AB2637 added the following duties to the unlicensed dental assistant and RDA scopes of practice:

New dental assistant duties:

- (1) Perform intraoral and extraoral photography
- (2) Take intraoral impressions for all nonprosthodontic appliances
- (3) Take facebow transfers and bite registrations

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See the April, 2010 Newsletter at www.efdaaservices.com -

- Sacramento Business Journal Interviews New RDAEF2 Susan Cecil
- Improving your composite techniques
- Panel to establish two-year dental therapist training program
- Report details training of new Dental Professionals
- Approved RDAEF programs
- What's Happening at the Dental Board?

RDAEF2 Suzy Jordan

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Even so, the Sacramento City College class had an 85% pass rate.

She now does six or more composite fillings per day, plus all crown impressions, seating of crowns, assisting with exams, and other duties that her license allows.

Dr. Gittings is seeing more patients, and has more time for chart review and administrative responsibilities. The entire team embraces the change, and production has significantly increased.

Dr. Gittings tells us that "Suzy has excellent skills and has brought new innovative techniques to the practice through her excellent, extensive training." He feels much more productive and energized, while feeling less stressed.

He notes that the "investment in EF training has already shown to be one of the best business decisions ever for my practice, and over time may prove to be the best business decision."

" investment in EF training has already shown to be one of the best business decisions ever for my practice" – Dr.

Asked about any advice she could give to aspiring RDAEF2s, Ms. Jordan said "It's so exciting - Go for it – be the change!"

Suzy Jordan continues her journey – she's been appointed by the California Dental Board as a member of the Dental Assisting Forum, which makes recommendations to the Board on dental assisting issues.

Dental Board may seek EF legislation

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- *Should the EF2 duty of cementing endodontic points be eliminated?*
- *Should the Board have more options in choosing which procedures will be tested on the clinical and practical exams?*

EFDAA will closely monitor and participate in the Board's discussion of these issues in the coming months.

The Board may consider matters pertaining to RDAs in the future as well, including whether the dentist should be allowed to determine supervision levels for RDA duties.

Free CE course for EFDAAs members



Each licensee must complete mandatory 2-hour CE courses in both Infection Control and the California Dental Practice Act every two years.

As an EFDAAs member, one of these courses will be provided to you free through home study or online.

For these and other courses, go to www.efdaaservices.com

Dental Board appoints Dental Assisting Forum

SB853 directed that the Dental Board establish a Dental Assisting Forum (DAF), following COMDA's elimination in mid-2009.



[SB853 also created a new Dental Hygiene Committee, which is separate from the Dental Board.]

Five members were appointed to the DAF by the Board in 2009, leaving two current vacancies.

To apply to be a DAF member, go to www.dbc.ca.gov – click on "Licensees", then "Registered Dental Assistants".

Members include RDAEF Barbara Blade, who chairs the Forum, and RDA Pam Baldwin, RDA Brenda Gyllenswan, RDAEF2 Suzy Jordan, and RDA Lois Parento.

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Board-Approved RDAEF Programs for RDAs and existing RDAEFs



Northern California

J Productions -

Web: www.rdakits.com

Email: rdaef4you@sbcglobal.net

Southern California

EFDAAs –

Web: www.efdaaservices.com

Email: efdaa4u@earthlink.net

UCLA –

Web: www.dent.ucla.edu

Enhanced Scopes of Practice: Evolution of AB2637

AB2637 was signed by the Governor in 2008, and in 2010 established new scopes of practice and requirements for EFs, RDAs, and DAs, and created OA and DSA categories.

While the roots of AB2637 emerged in 2000, the history of amalgam and composite placement for EFs reaches back four decades.

1970's and 1980's

The October 2002 Supplemental Sunset Review Report of the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries reported:



“At the time of the creation of the EF categories in the 1970's, the statutorily-created Advisory Committee on Utilization and Education of Dental Auxiliaries and the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries both recommended that the list of allowable duties for EFs include placing, condensing, carving, and removal of restorations. The Board of Dental Examiners at that time rejected those recommendations, and instead adopted a regulation specifically prohibiting auxiliaries from performing such duties. “

COMDA's report also cited a 1978 Department of Consumer Affairs' report and a 1980 Comptroller General report to the U.S. Congress
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New DA and RDA duties can also be performed by EFs
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duty)

- (4) Place and remove rubber dams or other isolation devices (broader definition of past duty)
- (5) Place patient monitoring sensors
- (6) Monitor patient sedation, limited to reading and transmitting information from the monitor display during the intraoperative phase of surgery for electrocardiogram waveform, carbon dioxide and end tidal carbon dioxide concentrations, respiratory cycle data, continuous noninvasive blood pressure data, or pulse arterial oxygen saturation measurements, for the purpose of interpretation and evaluation by a supervising licensed dentist who shall be at the patient's chairside during this procedure.

New RDA duties:

- (1) Use of automated caries detection devices and materials to gather information for diagnosis by the dentist
- (2) Obtain intraoral images for computer-aided design (CAD), milled restorations.
- (3) Place bonding agents
- (4) Chemically prepare teeth for bonding
- (5) Place, adjust, and finish direct provisional restorations (broader definition of past duty)
- (6) Fabricate, adjust, cement and remove indirect provisional restorations, including stainless steel crowns when used as a provisional restoration (broader definition of past duty)
- (7) Adjust dentures extra-orally
- (8) Remove excess cement from surfaces of teeth with a hand instrument (broader definition of past duty)

Dental Assisting Forum
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Two Board members, also members of the Board's Dental Assisting Committee, are liaisons to the DAF: RDA Judith Forsythe and Dr. Bruce Whitcher.



Judith Forsythe

At its second meeting in April 2010, the DAF discussed their future role, and began a review of various regulations, the new RDA written and law and ethics exams, and other issues.



Bruce Whitcher

Business and Professions Code Section 1742 specifies the following regarding the DAF:

It is the intent of the Legislature that the board create and implement an effective forum where dental assistant services and regulatory oversight of dental assistants can be heard and discussed in full and where all matters relating to dental assistants in this state can be discussed, including, but not limited to, all of the following matters:

- (a) Requirements for dental assistant licensure and renewal.
- (b) Allowable dental assistant duties, settings, and supervision levels.
- (c) Appropriate standards of conduct and enforcement for dental assistants.

The DAF will meet on July 6 in Sacramento, and on November 3.

To receive all Board meeting notices go to www.dbc.ca.gov - click on "About Us" - then "Email Mailing List".

Evolution of AB2637

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supporting the placement of restorations by auxiliaries.

The 1974 legislation creating created COMDA also established the RDA, RDAEF, and RDHEF license categories, and directed the Board to establish duties by regulation within one year. It was nearly 5 years before regulations were adopted, and those were later repealed and revised amid legal challenges to the RDHEF scope of practice. It was not until 1986 that the first RDAEF exam was given, 12 years after the legislative establishment of the EF category.

Legislation was often tied to “sunsetting” of the Board and COMDA, explained in a future Newsletter.

1990’s

COMDA’s 2002 Supplemental Sunset Review Report also noted the following:

“The Dental Board rejected COMDA’s recommendation in August, 1999, that EF’s be allowed to place, condense, carve, and polish amalgams, and place composites...”

“COMDA’s recommendation followed an extensive occupational analysis of EF practice, meetings and hearings held by a special COMDA Subcommittee, COMDA meetings, and a joint COMDA/Board hearing.”

2000 – 2003 Task Force

The most recent journey began in 1999, when the Board requested that COMDA begin reviewing RDA duties, required by law every seven years.

COMDA appointed a 14-member Task Force that held four lengthy meetings in 2000 to review the entire regulatory structure. Disagreements were so pervasive that the Task Force disbanded in May, 2001, after making only preliminary recommendations.

As a result of a concurrent legislative sunset review process, SB26 mandated that an independent consultant review dental assisting scopes of practice and report in 2002.

The consultant’s report to the Legislature was far-reaching, and COMDA found its conclusions to be nearly identical to its own. The Board voted in late 2002 to support all of COMDA’s positions, including the addition of amalgams and composites for EFs.

2004 and 2005 – SB1546



As a result of the 2003/04 sunset review process and the consultant’s report, SB1546 became law on January 1, 2005, enacting a new dental assisting regulatory scheme January 1, 2007.

SB1546 required that unlicensed dental assistants complete certain courses, established RRA, ROA, RSA, and RRAEF license categories, and increased allowable RDA and EF duties. Only Class I, III, and V composites were allowed for EFs, and finishing was not included.

While the Dental Assisting Alliance was not philosophically

supportive of creating specialty licensure, it ultimately supported the bill because it required formal education for those categories, and provided important expansions of the RDA and EF scopes of practice.

CDA later sponsored SB1541, which created on-the-job training pathways to RRA, ROA, and RSA licensure, including on-the-job training for duties that previously required formal education. The bill was unsuccessfully opposed by the Alliance, CDHA, and others.

2006 to present

Several bills passed in 2007 that delayed implementation of SB1546 and SB1541, and modified work experience pathways. Many regulations were necessary to implement SB1546, which were drafted by the Alliance and reviewed by COMDA and the Board in 2007.

As the Board began another review of the regulations at its January 2008 meeting, it felt that the entire scheme was overly burdensome and voted to review the entire concept at their next meeting.

The Alliance and CDA immediately began collaboration on a new scheme that was introduced via AB2637 in May, 2008, and signed by the Governor in September.

AB2637 was the result of significant negotiation and compromise among the Dental Assisting Alliance, the California Dental Association, and many specialty dental organizations.