

**MEMORANDUM**  
September 2004



**TO:** ADAA State Presidents,  
ADAA Board of Trustees,  
DANB Certificants,  
DANB Board of Directors

**FROM:** ADAA/DANB Alliance  
*(formerly known as the ADAA/DANB Ad Hoc Committee to  
Enhance the Dental Assisting Profession)*

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**RE:** First ADAA/DANB Alliance Newsletter

The American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) and the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB) held a joint organizational Forum at the ADAA/AGD Annual Session in Anaheim, July 9, 2004. Thank you to all who attended. There was much energy in the room and synergy between our two organizations.

For those who were unable to attend, we have attached a copy of Mission and Goals of this Committee, and the expanded agenda for this Forum. As you can see, much of the Forum addressed collaboration between ADAA and DANB through the work of the ADAA/DANB Ad Hoc Committee to Enhance the Dental Assisting Profession. To reflect our strengthened ties and desire for future long-term collaboration, the Ad Hoc Committee is now known as the ADAA/DANB Alliance.

To keep both organizations and our mutual and independent stakeholder groups informed, the ADAA/DANB Alliance will be distributing a newsletter following each Alliance meeting. This is the first such newsletter. Each will contain at least three sections, among them:

- Activities the Alliance has completed thus far;
- Our plans for future collaborative efforts; and
- An opportunity for you to provide feedback and suggestions.

Please forward any feedback about our work thus far, or suggestions for other collaborative activities the Alliance may consider. Members can be reached by email – addresses are noted at the top of this memo.

The next meeting of the ADAA/DANB Alliance will be held on Thursday, September 30, 2004 in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with the American Dental Association Annual Meeting. Any feedback or suggestions we receive by this date will be reviewed at this meeting. Comments or suggestions received after September 30<sup>th</sup> will be reviewed at the February 2005 Alliance meeting, to be held in Chicago in conjunction with the Chicago Dental Society Midwinter meeting.

*Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you!*

## AGENDA

**DANB/ADAA Forum  
July 9, 2004, 9:30 am – 10:30 am  
Anaheim, California**

- I. Introductions and Procedures
- II. DANB CDA/GC Pilot Pathway IV Update – Final Results
- III. ADAA/DANB Ad Hoc Committee to Enhance the Dental Assisting Profession
  - A. Update – Study to Define and Rank Core Competencies for Dental Assistants, Phase III and Future Steps

This joint organizational work helps us to address the Ad Hoc Committee's 1<sup>st</sup> goal; it will form the basis for addressing a few 'grassroots dental assistant needs,' including:

- Providing empirical evidence to define and rank dental assistant competencies from most basic to most complex (information requested in some form by many state dental boards);
- Recommending minimum requirements (educational/experiential/credentialing) to perform these competencies;
- Defining and reinforcing the notion of a viable career ladder for dental assistants.

Next steps:

1. Resurveying CDAs, educators, and assistants who are not DANB Certified, using the same 'category title descriptions' as were used in the dentists' survey (Phase III), to allow us to make direct data comparisons (this will be Phase IV of the Core Competencies project)
2. Contacting the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation, specifically the Dental Assisting Review Committee, with the hope of linking Phases I – IV Core Competencies results with ADA dental assistant core curriculum requirements
3. Working with ADEA to make sure that the Core Competencies report(s) align with ADEA work defining competencies for allied health professionals
4. Aligning Core Competencies/ADA/ADEA work with DANB's Task Analysis – may involve a large-scale content validation study across all content areas
5. Re-surveying CDAs, educators, non-CDA assistants, dentists, basing survey on results of step 4 above
6. Consider providing an Executive Summary of Core Competencies data/results to-date, to ADA, AGD, AAO, the U.S. Surgeon General, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, state dental boards, and state dental associations/societies, defining the study's purpose, history, preliminary data, and future steps. Post the Executive Summary on both DANB and ADAA websites.

7. Working together (ADAA, DANB, and hopefully ADEA and ADA) to develop a position paper (focusing on study results as they relate to access to care, increased mobility of our population, increased patient safety, and the financial impact of expanded duties delegation), and to develop and implement a marketing plan for this information

B. How ADAA and DANB can continue to work together in the future.

1. How are we currently working together?

- a. ADAA promotes DANB credentials to ADAA members, and DANB promotes ADAA membership to DANB stakeholders.
- b. We sometimes share exhibit booth space.
- c. We distribute each other's organizational materials when one organization is at a meeting and the other is not
- d. DANB inserts ADAA CDE course listings in DANB's Certified Press.
- e. DANB provides annual lists of current Certificants and new Certificants to state ADAA presidents/membership chairs for CDE and ADAA membership mailings.
- f. DANB funds and provides staff expertise to Core Competency survey development, mailing, and analysis. ADAA and DANB provide dental assistant content expertise.
- g. DANB makes annual monetary contributions to the ADAA Foundation.
- h. We meet at least twice a year as the ADAA/DANB Ad Hoc Committee to brainstorm, in addition to regular individual staff and Ad Hoc Committee member contact by phone and email.

2. How can we work together in the future?

- a. Co-write and co-publish an article on why dental assistants should be involved in organized dental assisting and should be credentialed/certified, promoting ADAA membership benefits and the benefits of earning and maintaining DANB certification, and how these benefits interrelate and support each other.
- b. Co-write and co-publish an article on how to work with DANB and ADAA to effect change in your state (mentoring programs, access to legislative funding, organizational resources).
- c. Suggest ADAA join the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) - DANB is currently a member - to increase dental assisting's voice on Capitol Hill regarding lobbying for increased federal support for educational and credentialing issues as they relate to jobs, the economy, and public health and safety.
- d. What are YOUR ideas? *(Please email them to any member of the ADAA/DANB Alliance.)*

IV. Question and Answer Period *(Please email any feedback or suggestions to any member of the ADAA/DANB Alliance.)*

V. Adjourn

**THANK YOU!**