



Date: October 3, 2008
To: Allied organizations
From: Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB)
Re: Summary of DANB Board Actions Taken at its August 22 – 23 Meeting

Below please find a summary of actions taken by the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB) at its August 22 – 23 2008 meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The DANB Board of Directors consists of Chair Brenda Fell, CDA, CDPMA; Vice Chair Howard Bell, D.D.S.; Secretary Patricia Sippel, CDA and Directors Marlene Futterman, M.A.; Richard Hunt III, D.D.S.; Donna Kotyk, CDA, RDH, M.A.; Karen Minca, CDPMA; Carla Schneider, CDA, RDA and James Watkins, D.D.S.

The DANB Board heard reports from representatives of the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL), American Dental Association (ADA); Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA); Council on Dental Practice (CDP), ADA; and American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), summaries of which are also included in this email. For further information, contact Cindy Durley, MEd, MBA, DANB Executive Director at 1-866-357-3262 or cdurley@danb.org.

- **Job Corps Webinar**

On September 15th, Cindy Durley, DANB Executive Director, Liz Koch, DANB Chief Operating Officer, and Johnna Gueorguieva, DANB Director of Testing and Measurement will participate in a webinar sponsored by the National Office of Job Corps, U.S. Department of Labor. The webinar will provide the Job Corps community with an overview of the Department of Labor's dental assisting certification initiative and address questions about integration of DANB Dental Assisting Certification standards into the Job Corps' Training Achievement Records (curriculum). The Job Corps Dental Assisting Training Achievement Record was updated to align it with DANB Certification in partnership with DANB in July of 2007.

- **Exam Content Validity Studies**

DANB is in the process of conducting two content validation studies to make sure that national dental assisting exam content continues to be aligned with dental assisting practice. The Orthodontic Assisting (OA) Exam Committee has reviewed the results of the DANB OA content validation study as it relates to OA exam content. DANB's ICE content validation survey is scheduled to be distributed to CDAs in December.



- **DANTES Test Sites**

DANB has signed an amendment to the DANB-Pearson VUE agreement, to allow DANB to test on computer at Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Services (DANTES) test sites on military bases. DANB is now able to administer its exams on computer at secure, proctored DANTES test sites, as they have been available in the civilian sector since 1995.

- **Employer Information**

DANB is collecting information on Certificants' employers in order to offer items for employers to purchase for their Certificants on anniversary milestones.

- **ADAA Annual Session**

DANB will be participating in a panel discussion with representatives of the ADAA and ADEA at the ADAA's Annual Session in San Antonio, October 15 – 19. The multi-organizational panel will address how the organizations might work together to investigate promotion of a National Uniform Education and Credentialing Model for Dental Assisting.

- **Reports from Guests**

The DANB Board heard reports from the following guests:

- Nanci Yokom, Manager, Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL), ADA
- Patrice Renfrow, RDH, Manager, Dental Assisting Education and Anthony Ziebert, DDS, Director, Dental Education, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)
- James Willey, DDS, Director, Council on Dental Practice (CDP), ADA
- Kimberly Bland, CDA, American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) President, and Larry Sepin, ADAA Executive Director

CDEL

In her oral report, Ms. Yokom indicated that, upon approval by the 2008 ADA House of Delegates, the Oral Prevention Assistant (OPA) curriculum would be packaged and presented to state dental associations to assist dentists with office-based training. Ms. Yokom also provided an overview of a recent ethics seminar presented by the ADA. Ms. Durley asked if the groups addressed an issue that DANB Certificants note with unfortunate frequency: dentist employers asking dental assistants to perform duties that they are not qualified to perform, either because the dentist is unaware of the state dental practice act requirements, or because he or she is aware, but independently deems these assistants as qualified to perform these functions, noting that 'the dentist is ultimately responsible for dental procedures performed, under the law.' Ms. Yokom indicated that this topic was not addressed during the ethics seminar, and



asked Ms. Durley to make a written request to CDEL, should DANB believe that this topic should be considered during future ethics seminars

CODA

Dr. Ziebert mentioned that a CODA survey would be distributed this fall. Ms. Durley asked Dr. Ziebert if CODA could survey the dental assisting programs as to whether they ask questions of their students related to criminal background. Dr. Ziebert recommended that DANB forward any questions of interest to CODA for inclusion in future surveys. Ms. Renfrow provided a summary of CODA actions, specifically updates to the number of CODA-accredited dental assisting programs.

CDP

Dr. Willey presented a PowerPoint overview of CDP functions and recent initiatives. (Ms. Dietrich had previously provided DANB with a written report summarizing items of potential interest to dental assistants, discussed during the May 2008 CDP meeting.) Dr. Willey invited Ms. Durley to attend the November 2008 CDP meeting, to provide CDP members with an update of DANB activities and to answer any questions.

ADAA

Ms. Bland described ADAA's new Future Vision Committee, which is assisting the organization in its focus on remodeling from within and increasing outreach. Mr. Sepin invited all DANB Board Directors and staff to attend the presentation of the Future Vision Committee report, from 10 am to Noon on October 17 at the ADAA Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

To promote a uniform national dental assisting model, Ms. Bland noted that the ADAA House of Delegates will consider a resolution supporting an outreach to all state dental boards, encouraging them to agree to one set of national requirements for dental radiographers.

Mr. Sepin noted that ADAA continues to be engaged in active agreements with the Army (5-year agreement) and Air Force, providing membership and continuing dental assisting education. ADAA has entered into a two-year agreement with the ADA, focused on building relationships including holding joint annual meetings. Mr. Sepin noted that ADAA currently has approximately 18,000 members, including military dental assistants.



- **DANB Contributions**
DANB will contribute \$1000 to the ADAA Foundation for its scholarship fund and \$1000 to become a “Project Friend” to a NOCA research project related to recertification.
- **Hazel O. Torres Award**
The criteria for the Hazel O. Torres award (offered by Hazel Torres’ estate as a bequest to DANB) were defined by the Board and were published in the Fall 2008 Certified Press.
- **Election of DANB Officers**
The DANB Board elected Brenda Fell, CDA, CDPMA, DANB Board Chair, Howard Bell, DDS, DANB Board Vice Chair, and Pat Sippel, CDA, DANB Board Secretary.
- **Election of Certificant-At-Large to DANB Board**
Solicitation for nominations for the election of Certificant-At-Large for the DANB Board will be published in the Fall 2008 Certified Press. The deadline for nominations will be December 31, 2008. The ADAA and the AADE will be asked to nominate candidates for the other two DANB Board positions, which will become vacant August 2009.