Dental Hygiene Board of California
Full Board
Meeting Minutes

Friday and Saturday, March 27-28, 2026

DHBC Headquarters Building
2005 Evergreen Street
1st Floor Hearing Room
Sacramento, CA 95815

DHBC Members Present:
President – Joanne Pacheco, Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) Educator Member
Vice President – Sonia "Pat" Hansen, RDH Member
Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice (RDHAP) Member – Michael Long
Public Health Dentist Member – Dr. Sridevi Ponnala
Public Member – Dr. Julie Elginer
Public Member – Sherman King
Public Member – Nicolas Kiet Quach

DHBC Members Absent/Vacant:
Secretary – Naleni "Lolly" Tribble-Agarwal, RDH Member
Public Member – Unappointed

DHBC Staff Present:
Anthony Lum, Executive Officer
Adina A. Pineschi-Petty, Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), Education, Legislative, and Regulatory Specialist
Crystal Yuyama, Administrative Analyst
Yuping Lin, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Legal Counsel

Joanne Pacheco, President of the Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC, Board) reviewed meeting guidelines and called the meeting to order at **9:01 a.m.** The President stated that Lolly Agarwal and Michael Long have changed committee assignments. Lolly Agarwal moved to the Legislation and Regulatory Committee. Michael Long has moved to the Education Committee. Executive Officer (EO) Anthony Lum provided directions to the nearest emergency exits and restroom locations. EO Lum encouraged staff attending the meeting to introduce themselves to the Board.

The meeting began on Friday, March 27, 2026, with the Full Board meeting for Full agenda items one (1) through seven (7). Then transitioned to allow for the Education Committee meeting and the Legislative and Regulatory Committee to meet. Open Session was recessed

at the end of the committee meetings. The Full Board meeting then recessed until Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

1. FULL Board Agenda Item 1: Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum.

Joanne Pacheco, Board President called the meeting to order at **9:08 a.m.** Board Staff completed the roll call, and a quorum was established with seven (7) members present.

2. FULL Board Agenda Item 2: Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda.

Board Member comment: None.

Public comment: None.

3. FULL Board Agenda Item 3: President's Report.

Joanne Pacheco, Board President, reported on the following:

- President Pacheco participated and co-chaired the Board's taskforce to address the creation of a violation rubric for the dental hygiene educational programs who are non-compliant of the California laws and Commission on Dental Accreditation Standards. Taskforce meetings took place in January and February 2026 to progress on a draft rubric. She stated that the draft will be presented at the Education Committee meeting for review and approval where more information and discussion will occur.

- She participated in the DCA President's Training in February where new updated information was presented for board members working in the Board's President role. The President stated that it was very informative and provided an opportunity for individuals to ask questions and directly interact with the DCA Executive staff.

- The Board conducted an additional teleconference meeting on March 13, 2026, where the members addressed the issues proposed in Assembly Bill 1952 – Berman. The bill has the Board license internationally trained dentists (ITD) to be registered dental hygienists once specific qualifications are fulfilled. The Board reviewed the bill and had a lengthy discussion on the issue and voted to take the position of "Oppose, unless Amended" to have the Dental Board of California (DBC) oversee this ITD population, as the members believe it's inappropriate for the Board to oversee "dentists."

- The President stated she and EO Lum maintain frequent communication for updates on Board issues and for items that need her attention.

Board Member comment: None.

Public comment: None.

4. FULL Board Agenda Item 4: Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Report on Departmental Activities.

Luci Saldiver, Deputy Director, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Board and Bureau Relations reported on the following:

She announced that following the retirement of DCA Director Kimberly Kirkmeyer, Chief Deputy Director Christine Lally has been selected as Acting Director of DCA until a Director is formally appointed by the Governor's Office.

She reported that DCA continues outreach to licensees who received renewal fee postponements due to the 2025 wildfires, reminding them of the one-year deadline to submit renewal payments. Licensees can pay renewal fees through BreEZe where available, or by mail if their license type is not supported online.

Deputy Director Saldiver also summarized the state government reorganization approved July 5, 2025, which restructures the former Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency into two new agencies: the California Housing and Homelessness Agency and the Business and Consumer Services Agency. DCA will fall under the latter. The reorganization becomes operative July 1, 2026, and DCA continues to participate in transition workgroups; updates will be provided to board leadership.

She reminded members to practice fiscal prudence when traveling for board business, including booking early, considering alternatives to rental cars, carpooling, and maintaining receipts for reimbursement of expenses such as baggage fees.

Deputy Director Saldiver provided training updates, noting that DCA has added an unconscious bias training to board members' Learning Management System (LMS) accounts as part of onboarding. She also announced upcoming Board Member Orientation Training (BMOT) sessions on April 1, June 24, and October 21, 2026. BMOT must be completed within one year of appointment, and registration is available through LMS. Members needing assistance may contact Member Relations at memberrelations@dca.ca.gov.

She concluded by thanking the board for its ongoing work to protect California consumers and made herself available for questions.

Board Member comment: Member Elginer asked whether directors for the two newly formed state agencies had been named. Deputy Director Saldiver responded that appointments had not yet been announced and confirmed that the Board would be notified when additional information becomes available.

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President Pacheco congratulated Christine Lally on her new position as Acting Director of DCA.

Public comment: None.

5. FULL Board Agenda Item 5: Dental Board of California (DBC) Report on Matters of Interest to DHBC.

Bryce Docherty, Executive Officer of the Dental Board of California, thanked EO Lum and members of the Board for the opportunity to provide an update.

EO Docherty reported on the following:

- He stated that he was appointed Executive Officer on November 24, 2025, and has completed 122 days in the role.
- He expressed appreciation for the developing collaborative relationship with the DHBC's Executive Officer, Mr. Lum, and emphasized a shared commitment to consumer protection, acknowledging that the two boards may not always align but can work through differences respectfully.
- He congratulated the DBC's newly elected officers for 2026 and thanked the DHBC members and staff for their continued regulatory efforts on behalf of California's 104,000 dental licensees.
- EO Docherty reported that the DBC recently adopted its 2026-2029 Strategic Plan, with initiatives underway in licensing and examination, enforcement, consumer protection, communications, customer service, and administrative services.
- The upcoming Dental Board meeting dates in Sacramento are scheduled for May 13-14, August 12-13, and November 5-6, 2026.
- He concluded by expressing his commitment to ongoing partnership between the boards in support of protecting the oral health of Californians.

Board Member comment: President Pacheco and EO Lum congratulated EO Docherty on his new position and commented that they look forward to continuing the collaborative relationship between the DHBC and the DBC.

Public comment: None.

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6. FULL Board Agenda Item 6: Presentation from the Attorney General's Office on their DHBC Annual Report.

Senior Assistant Attorney General Carl Sonne delivered the annual enforcement report via Webex. He explained that the Office of the Attorney General prepares a yearly report for the Legislature summarizing enforcement work performed for Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) boards, including the DHBC. The report is mandated by Business and Professions Code section 312.2 and began after passage of SB 467 in 2015. Data used in the report is tracked electronically through the ProLaw case management system, which records key milestones such as referral dates, accusation filings, hearing requests, and adjudications.

Mr. Sonne stated that statewide accusation referrals increased from the prior year, with rejection and further-investigation rates remaining stable. He then reviewed data specific to the Dental Hygiene Board. The number of accusations referred to the Attorney General's Office increased by 13% between Fiscal Years 2023-2024 and FY 2024-2025. Accusations filed increased significantly, from eight (8) cases to 23, reflecting heightened enforcement activity. Only one matter was withdrawn. The number of adjudicated cases increased from seven (7) to 21.

He presented case-processing timeframes and stated that the average time from accusation referral to filing increased from 67 days to 98 days. He emphasized that processing times can cross fiscal years and vary by case complexity, the necessity of discovery, expert review, and licensee due-process rights. He noted statewide improvements in overall enforcement timeliness and advised against comparing agencies directly due to differences in caseloads, statutory frameworks, and enforcement procedures.

Mr. Sonne concluded by commending the Board's enforcement staff for their high quality of work and effective collaboration with the Attorney General's Office.

Board Member comment: President Pacheco thanked Mr. Sonne for his compliments and for delivering a comprehensive and thorough report.

Member Elginer thanked Mr. Sonne for his presentation and acknowledged the value of the enforcement data provided. She stated that during her prior service on the Chiropractic Board (2012-2017), similar information was not available, and she commended staff for their efforts in measuring, monitoring, and reporting enforcement trends. Member Elginer emphasized that the Board takes enforcement matters seriously and that the data significantly supports members in reviewing, adjudicating, and voting on cases. She expressed appreciation for the work involved in compiling and presenting this information.

Mr. Sonne thanked the Board for the opportunity to present and stated that providing context and summarizing publicly available data for boards is an important part of his role.

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Member Quach asked why statewide Attorney General data showed approximately 3,400 referrals but only 2,500 adjudicated cases in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Mr. Sonne explained that cases often take more than one year to resolve, so referrals and adjudications span different fiscal years, creating a natural lag. He added that during the COVID period, both referrals and adjudications were lower, but post-COVID, referrals have increased over the last three years.

Member Quach also asked about the Board's 188% increase in accusations filed in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 compared to FY 2023-2024, and what might be causing the rise. Mr. Sonne stated that trends are best evaluated by enforcement staff, as increases may relate to complaint volume, staffing capacity, or the nature of cases meeting the threshold for accusation. He added that similar increases are occurring across other agencies.

Public comment: None.

7. **FULL Board Agenda Item 7: Recess the Full Board Meeting Until Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**

8. **FULL Board Agenda Item 8: Reconvene the Full Board Meeting – Roll Call & Re-Establishment of a Quorum.**

President Pacheco called the Full Board meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Board staff called the roll and a quorum was established with seven (7) members present.

Executive Officer (EO) Anthony Lum provided directions to the nearest emergency exits and restroom locations. EO Lum also introduced the new Assistant Executive Officer, Tifany Moore, to the Board.

9. **FULL Board Agenda Item 9: Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the November 8, 2025, Full Board Meeting Minutes.**

Motion: Member Elginer moved to approve the November 8, 2025, Full Board Meeting Minutes.

Second: Member King.

Board Member discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

Vote: Motion to approve the November 8, 2025, Full Board Meeting Minutes. Passed 6:0:2.

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Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain/Absent
Lolly Agarwal			Absent.
Julie Elginer	X		
Sonia "Pat" Hansen	X		
Sherman King	X		
Michael Long	X		
Joanne Pacheco	X		
Sridevi Ponnala			Abstain.
Nicolas Kiet Quach	X		

10. FULL Board Agenda Item 9: Executive Officer's Report. (Informational Only).

EO Anthony Lum reported on the following:

a. Personnel:

EO Lum reported that the DHBC has filled three positions including: an Assistant Executive Officer (Tifany Moore), a Continuing Education Analyst beginning in mid-April, and a Special Investigator scheduled to start in May. He stated that there is one remaining vacancy to fill. EO Lum emphasized that for a smaller program like the DHBC it is important to be very selective in who is hired to maintain the cohesiveness of the team and takes time to do this through the hiring process.

b. Budget:

EO Lum stated that the latest Budget Report documents were in the Full Board meeting materials on pages 2,893 through 2,895.

The Expenditure Projection Report on page 2,893 shows anticipated expenses through the end of the year. The EO stated that through January 2026 the Board is projected to have approximately 16% of its budget, or about $450,000, remaining at year-end. EO Lum states that it will be adjusted throughout the year depending on the expenses incurred including re-filling vacancies and the potential purchase of large expenditures, such as copier replacements, which may occur later this fiscal year.

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The Board's Revenue Projection Report is on page 2,894 and shows the amount of revenue the Board has received this year. He stated that the Board has approximately $2.4 million received to date, with an estimated total of $3.5 million by year-end.

The Fund Condition Report, which is our "savings account" by fiscal year, shows the amount of dollars available in the fund to indicate the fiscal health of the Board and the duration in months the Board could operate without any further revenue. He reported the fund continues to be good standing and is near its maximum balance. He stated that there will be gradual decrease in subsequent years as vacancies are filled although he states that this should not have a significant impact on the report to require additional revenue to be considered.

c. Administration – EO Updates:

Executive Officer Lum reported that 2026 is a major preparation year for the 2027 Sunset Review. A first draft of the Sunset Review Report will be presented at the July 2026 Board meeting for edits, with a final version scheduled for consideration in November prior to submission to the Legislature in December 2026 or January 2027. He noted that legislative hearings typically occur in March of the sunset year.

He stated that proposed legislative language approved in November 2025 did not secure a sponsor, but the Board may pursue statutory changes through the forthcoming Sunset Review.

EO Lum reported participating in all violation rubric task force meetings, the Board Member Procedural Manual Committee meeting, and several DCA administrative meetings. He reaffirmed continued collaboration with the Dental Board of California (DBC), including attending its February 6-7, 2026, meetings and meeting with their new Executive Officer (Bryce Docherty) to discuss shared issues and maintain open communication.

He reported that staff assembled the March 13, 2026, teleconference meeting on a short timeline to address Assembly Bill 1952, which concerns licensure pathways for internationally trained dentists.

He acknowledged the quick turnaround time to assemble the March 27-28, 2026, Board meetings and thanked staff for their efforts during an especially busy month.

Board Member comment: When asked by a Member Elginer why unscheduled reimbursements do not appear in the Fund Condition Report, EO Lum stated that the exact amounts vary significantly and cannot be reliably projected. He also clarified where Board members per diem costs appear in the budget.

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In response to Member Long's question, EO Lum clarified that existing statutes already allow dental hygiene students to participate in community health events, so there is no need for new legislation.

Member Quach inquired how the $500,000 projection for AB 1952 would impact the budget and where the funds would be taken from. EO Lum explained that if AB 1952 moves forward without amendments, the Board would require approximately $500,000 annually to absorb the associated workload and staffing costs, which would draw down the reserve fund more quickly.

Vice President Hansen expressed appreciation for staff's work in preparing for this meeting.

Public comment: JoAnn Galliano asked whether the Board's reserve funds could influence AB 1952's progress in Assembly Appropriations. He stated that the fund condition reflects how long the Board could operate without new revenue, but additional workload from AB 1952 would quickly deplete those reserves. He clarified that bills with projected costs exceeding $150,000 automatically move to suspense and the Assembly Appropriations does not consider an individual board's reserve level only the cost from the proposed legislation.

Susan McLearan of the California Dental Hygienists' Association (CDA) asked how the Dental Hygiene Board's overall budget compares with the DBC's reported $21 million budget. The Executive Officer responded that the Dental Hygiene Board's annual budget is approximately $3 million.

11. FULL Board Agenda Item 11: Discussion and Possible Action to Determine the November 2026 Date(s).

Motion: Member Long moved for the Board to accept November 13-14, 2026, as the November 2026 meeting dates.

Second: Member Elginer.

Board Member discussion: The Board revisited the selection of the November 2026 meeting dates, which had been tabled at the November 8, 2025, meeting due to multiple scheduling conflicts. Staff presented several available date options, including late October, early November, and the first week of December. Members discussed potential conflicts, including overlap with the Dental Board of California's November 5-6, 2026, Board meetings, and personal scheduling constraints related to holidays and family obligations.

Members noted a preference to avoid overlapping with the DBC's meeting to allow participation at both meetings. December dates were considered, though some members expressed concerns about holiday-related commitments and workload. Staff confirmed that all proposed dates would involve meeting in Sacramento and explained the cost considerations that have limited meetings outside the region since the pandemic.

Public comment: None.

Vote: Motion for the Board to accept November 13-14, 2026, as the November 2026 meeting dates. Passed 7:0:1.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain/Absent
Lolly Agarwal			Absent.
Julie Elginer	X		
Sonia "Pat" Hansen	X		
Sherman King	X		
Michael Long	X		
Joanne Pacheco	X		
Sridevi Ponnala	X		
Nicolas Kiet Quach	X		

12. FULL Board Agenda Item 12: Update Status on the Board Member Procedural Manual. (Informational Only).

EO Lum provided an update on the Board Member Procedural Manual. At the July 19, 2025, Board meeting, the Board requested that the manual be updated and that a two-member committee be established to complete this work. At the November 8, 2025, meeting, Members Long and Quach were appointed to the committee. The committee has met once, on February 13, 2026, to review and revise sections of the manual. Additional meetings will be scheduled in the coming months, with the goal of presenting a finalized draft for Board review and approval at the July 2026 Board meeting. No action was required for this item.

Board Member comment: President Pacheco thanked the committee members for their ongoing work on updating the Procedural Manual.

Public comment: None.

13. FULL Board Agenda Item 13: Discussion and Possible Action to Determine Board Member Per Diem Payments.

The Board revisited the topic of per diem payments, previously requested as a future agenda item at the November 8, 2025, meeting. EO Lum explained that, under Business and Professions Code section 103, Board members are entitled to a $100 per diem for

each day they perform official duties, regardless of the number of hours worked. He clarified that prior interpretations limiting per diem eligibility based on hours were incorrect. He stated that staff will develop a monthly tracking sheet for board members to record days spent on board duties, including time reviewing enforcement cases and meeting materials.

Second: Member Matthews.

Board Member discussion: Members expressed appreciation for the clarification and noted the significant amount of time required to review complex materials. Member Elginer offered her existing tracking template as a resource. Members discussed the possibility of retroactive reimbursement, and the Executive Officer stated he could apply the revised interpretation back to the start of the fiscal year if the Board wishes.

Questions were raised regarding auditing, budget impact, and fairness, especially given the extensive workload involved in enforcement review. The Executive Officer noted that increased per diem expenditures can be absorbed within the existing overall budget.

Public comment: Public comment sought clarification about whether per diem payments have a cap; staff confirmed the statutory amount is $100 per day with no additional limits. With EO Lum's clarification on Board member per diem payments going forward, the members collectively agreed that no motion was necessary for this agenda item.

14. FULL Board Agenda Item 14: Discussion and Possible Action on Education Committee Report and Recommendation(s).

Education Committee Chair Joanne Pacheco stated that because there were action items that required individual recommendations, she reported each item separately.

Chair Pacheco reported a quorum was established and asked for public comment for items not on the agenda. She stated there were no public comments.

FULL Board Agenda Item 14: EDU Agenda Item (3): Presentation from the Dental Hygiene Educational Program Violation and Fine Rubric Taskforce; Discussion and Possible Action to Move Forward on Taskforce Recommendations.

Education Committee Chair Pacheco reported that Dr. Petty informed the Education Committee In 2023, the Dental Hygiene Board of California (Board) promulgated regulations regarding "Reviews, Site Visits, Citations and Fines, and Probationary Status for Dental Hygiene Educational Programs" (California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 1104.3). Within the regulation, subdivision (b)(3) established factors to be considered in the issuance of any citation or fine to a DHEP due to noncompliance of California laws, regulations, and CODA Standards.
Due to the variance and extent of violations discovered during Dental Hygiene Educational Program (DHEP) site visits, and the desire to ensure penalties are applied evenly among the DHEPs, at the March 22, 2025, Full Board meeting, the Board voted to create a penalty rubric to allow the Board to be fair and consistent to all DHEPs in violation of CA law and

Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) Standards. The Board appointed Board members Joanne Pacheco and Julie Elginer as co-chairs of the DHEP Violation and Fine Rubric Taskforce (formerly named the Penalty Rubric Taskforce). After the meeting, the Taskforce co-chairs received requests from three interested stakeholders who were appointed to the taskforce based on their qualifications. These experts were JoAnn Galliano, Dr. Michelle Hurlbutt, and Lisa Kamibayashi who have extensive DHEP experience and knowledge of the subject to create an appropriate violation rubric.

Since the Taskforce conducted their first meeting on June 4, 2025, the Taskforce has met ten (10) times and created a draft "Violation and Fine Rubric" which includes listed issues, timeframes, and penalties DHEPs shall be given to remediate violations and deficiencies, thereby providing structure to follow in its outcome determination and eliminating any potentially perceived subjective result.

Motion: Member Long moved for the Full Board to approve the draft of the "Violation and Fine Rubric," allowing for future amendments to the rubric as deemed necessary by the Board, and allow for its application during DHEP reviews and site visits moving forward.

Second: Vice President Hansen.

Board Member discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

Vote: Motion for the Full Board to approve the draft of the "Violation and Fine Rubric," allowing for future amendments to the rubric as deemed necessary by the Board, and allow for its application during DHEP reviews and site visits moving forward. Passed 7:0:1.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain/Absent
Lolly Agarwal			Absent.
Julie Elginer	X		
Sonia "Pat" Hansen	X		
Sherman King	X		
Michael Long	X		
Joanne Pacheco	X		
Sridevi Ponnala	X		
Nicolas Kiet Quach	X		

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FULL Board Agenda Item 14: EDU Agenda Item (4): Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a New Dental Hygiene Educational Program by Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts

Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts (Gurnick Academy) is a private, California-based institution with six campuses located across the State. Gurnick Academy has offered Allied Health and Nursing Programs to Californians for over twenty years, since they opened the San Mateo campus in 2004. Gurnick Academy – Modesto began operations in 2007 with a Vocational Nursing program and is now seeking to expand their operations in the Central Valley to open a dental hygiene educational program.

On March 6, 2024, Gurnick Academy submitted a letter of intent to request Dental Hygiene Board of California (Board) approval to establish a new dental hygiene educational program based in Modesto, California to help meet the need for qualified dental hygienist graduates in the Central Valley

In August 2024, Gurnick Academy submitted a feasibility study to the Board for review. In working with Gurnick Academy, Board staff has now completed the review of Gurnick Academy's feasibility study.

Motion: Member Ponnala moved for the Full Board to conditionally approve the new Dental Hygiene Educational Program offered by Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts. The condition being an extendable 2-year probation period once the program begins operations.

Second: Member Long.

Board Member discussion: Education Committee Chair Pacheco commended Gurnick Academy on their thorough report.

Public comment: None.

Vote: Motion for the Full Board to conditionally approve the new Dental Hygiene Educational Program offered by Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts. The condition being an extendable 2-year probation period once the program begins operations. Passed 7:0:0.

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Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain/Absent
Lolly Agarwal			Absent.
Julie Elginer	X		
Sonia “Pat” Hansen	X		
Sherman King	X		
Michael Long	X		
Joanne Pacheco	X		
Sridevi Ponnala	X		
Nicolas Kiet Quach	X		

FULL Board Agenda Item 14: EDU Agenda Item (5): Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Potential Enforcement Action Against the Cabrillo College Dental Hygiene Educational Program.

The Education Committee Chair then reported that Dr. Petty informed the Education Committee that Board staff conducted an unannounced site visit at the Cabrillo College Dental Hygiene Educational Program (Cabrillo) on February 12, 2026. This site visit was generated due to a complaint received about the program. Evidence of program compliance with the minimum Dental Hygiene Educational Program (DHEP) standards set by the Business and Professions Code (BPC), the California Code of Regulations (CCR), and the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) was deficient.

Cabrillo was determined to have eight (8) violations (see “Cabrillo Site Visit Report,” attached.) The most egregious of the violations is that Cabrillo is failing to ensure dental hygiene students complete all required student clinical hours and requirements for competency established by Cabrillo, the Board, and CODA, as verified through documentation reviewed by Board staff.

Motion: Member Elginer moved that as Cabrillo demonstrates repeated violations of California laws, regulations, and CODA Standards by promoting students lacking Cabrillo, CODA, and California state mandated requirements for licensure, she moves for the Education Committee to recommend to the Full Board to require the Cabrillo College Dental Hygiene Educational Program’s Class of 2026 to complete all deficient clinical hours, requirements, and competencies prior to graduation of the class, issue a citation and fine of $5,000, and place Cabrillo on a 3-year probation period with quarterly reporting requirements identifying corrective measures where the program will be reassessed. Additionally, during the probation period, Cabrillo may experience announced and unannounced site visits from Board staff to check on the progression toward compliance or further Board action.

Second: Member King.

Board Member discussion: None.

Public comment: Member Quach expressed serious concern regarding Cabrillo College's longstanding compliance issues and disappointment in the explanations provided by program representatives. He stated that the Board's role is to protect consumers and that continued deficiencies pose risks to students and the public. Member Quach recalled the program's commitment to notifying faculty of its probationary status and asked staff to ensure follow-up. He emphasized the need for accurate documentation, completion of required clinical hours, and corrective action across all future cohorts. Member Quach concluded by expressing support for the motion.

Vote: Motion that as Cabrillo demonstrates repeated violations of California laws, regulations, and CODA Standards by promoting students lacking Cabrillo, CODA, and California state mandated requirements for licensure, she moves for the Education Committee to recommend to the Full Board to require the Cabrillo College Dental Hygiene Educational Program's Class of 2026 to complete all deficient clinical hours, requirements, and competencies prior to graduation of the class, issue a citation and fine of $5,000, and place Cabrillo on a 3-year probation period with quarterly reporting requirements identifying corrective measures where the program will be reassessed. Additionally, during the probation period, Cabrillo may experience announced and unannounced site visits from Board staff to check on the progression toward compliance or further Board action. Passed 7:0:1.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain/Absent
Lolly Agarwal			Absent.
Julie Elginer	X		
Sonia "Pat" Hansen	X		
Sherman King	X		
Michael Long	X		
Joanne Pacheco	X		
Sridevi Ponnala	X		
Nicolas Kiet Quach	X		

FULL Board Agenda Item 14: EDU Agenda Item (6): Dental Hygiene Educational Program Site Visit Report. (Informational Only).

Education Chair Pacheco stated that Dr. Adina Petty reported on the current status of the following DHEPs at Pasadena City College (PCC), Taft College (Taft), Concorde Career

College-San Diego (CCC-SD), Cerritos College (Cerritos), Concorde Career College-Garden Grove (CCC-GG), Concorde Career College-San Bernardino (CCC-SB), Diablo Valley College (DVC), and Cabrillo College (Cabrillo).

Dr. Petty also shared the upcoming Dental Hygiene Educational Program (DHEP) site visit schedule.

FULL Board Agenda Item 14: EDU Agenda Item (7): Discussion and Possible Action to Create a Dental Hygiene Educational Program Taskforce to Address Minimum Student Requirements.

Chair Pacheco reported that at the recommendation of the Dental Hygiene Board of California (Board), the California Legislature removed the requirement for graduates of California dental hygiene educational programs (DHEPs) to provide evidence of satisfactory performance of a clinical dental hygiene examination given by the Western Regional Examining Board or any other clinical or dental hygiene examination approved by the Board (Assembly Bill 1257, Chapter 677, Statutes of 2023), the Board was tasked with ensuring all graduates are competent in patient care and license ready at graduation.

During the many reviews of DHEP Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (CODA) self-studies (approximately 52 reviews) and Board site visits to the DHEPs (62 site visits), staff discovered several DHEPs who are not holding students accountable to student requirement standards established by CODA, as the intent of the CODA Standards are open to a program's interpretation. Although most DHEPs are following the Standards, there should be more prescriptive requirements established so there's no misinterpretation of what's required. Therefore, Board staff requests the Education Committee to recommend to the Board establishment of a "Minimum Student Requirement Taskforce" to review DHBC laws, regulations, and CODA Standards for potential amendments to regulations, thereby providing DHEPs with guidance as to the minimum requirements students are accountable for completing to ensure all graduates are competent with patient care and license ready at graduation.

Chair Pacheco stated that at the Education Committee meeting on Friday, March 27, 2026, it was noted that two licensee members would be allowed to join the taskforce to tackle the subject matter. There were two members who volunteered for the taskforce: Chair Pacheco and Michael Long.

Motion: Member Long moved for the Full Board to establish a "Minimum Student Requirement Taskforce," accept Michael Long and Joanne Pacheco as taskforce members, to allow the Board taskforce members to select subject matter experts to be appointed to the taskforce, and direct the taskforce to review DHBC laws, regulations, and CODA Standards for potential amendments to regulations establishing minimum student requirements to ensure all graduates are competent in patient care and license ready at graduation for recommendation to the Full Board.

Second: Member Elginer.

Board Member discussion: None.

Public comment: Jeanette Diaz-Olivera, Dental Hygiene Educator, thanked the Board for its work establishing standardized minimum requirements through the task force. She stated that educators have a responsibility to understand laws and requirements governing dental hygiene education and stated that clearer standards will help programs ensure competency.

Evangeline Ward, RDH, also expressed support for the task force. She highlighted the importance of safeguarding public health by ensuring students meet required hours and demonstrate competency before licensure, especially for those entering community health settings. She thanked the Board for its efforts to support dental hygienists and protect the public.

Vote: Motion for the Full Board to establish a "Minimum Student Requirement Taskforce," accept Michael Long and Joanne Pacheco as taskforce members, to allow the Board taskforce members to select subject matter experts to be appointed to the taskforce, and direct the taskforce to review DHBC laws, regulations, and CODA Standards for potential amendments to regulations establishing minimum student requirements to ensure all graduates are competent in patient care and license ready at graduation for recommendation to the Full Board. Passed 7:0:1.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain/Absent
Lolly Agarwal			Absent.
Julie Elginer	X		
Sonia "Pat" Hansen	X		
Sherman King	X		
Michael Long	X		
Joanne Pacheco	X		
Sridevi Ponnala	X		
Nicolas Kiet Quach	X		

FULL Board Agenda Item 14: EDU Agenda Item (8): Discussion and Possible Action on the November 8, 2025, Education Committee Meeting Minutes, and EDU Agenda Item (9): Proposal of Future Agenda Items.
Lastly, the Committee approved **EDU Committee Agenda Item 8** "Discussion and Possible Action on the November 8, 2025, Education Committee Meeting Minutes," of which there were no suggested changes. The Education Chair also stated that there were

no future agenda items suggested for **EDU Committee Agenda Item 9** "Proposal of Future Agenda Items."

Board Member discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

Motion: Member King moved for the Full Board to accept the Education Committee's full report.

Second: Member Elginer.

Board Member discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

Vote: Motion for the Board to for the Full Board to accept the Education Committee's full report. Passed 7:0:1.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain/Absent
Lolly Agarwal			Absent.
Julie Elginer	X		
Sonia "Pat" Hansen	X		
Sherman King	X		
Michael Long	X		
Joanne Pacheco	X		
Sridevi Ponnala	X		
Nicolas Kiet Quach	X		

15. FULL Board Agenda Item 15: Discussion and Possible Action on Legislation and Regulatory Committee Report and Recommendation(s).

Legislation and Regulatory Committee Chair Dr. Elginer reported that the Legislative and Regulatory Committee established a quorum and asked for public comment for items not on the agenda. There were not any public comments.

FULL Board Agenda Item 15: LEG REG Agenda Item (3): Status of Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC) Regulatory Packages.

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Chair Elginer reported that the Legislation and Regulatory Committee was advised of the "informational only" items including LEG REG Committee Agenda Item 3 "Status of Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC) Regulatory Packages." This was an informational only item.

FULL Board Agenda Item 15: LEG REG Agenda Item (4): Discussion and Possible Action on 2025-2026 Legislative Bills of Interest and Legislative Calendar.

Legislative and Regulatory Committee Chair Elginer reported on the Committee's current position on the bills listed below:

Legislation	Board Position
a) **Assembly Bill (AB) 1952** Berman: Dentistry: dental hygienists: licensure.	Oppose unless amended.
b) **AB 350** Bonta: Health care coverage: fluoride treatments.	Support.
c) **AB 2140** Johnson: Healing arts: reports: claims against licensees. (New)	Support.
d) **Senate Bill (SB) 1311** Wahab: Licensed Professions. (New)	Opposed unless amended position.
e) **Senate Resolution (SR) 82** Perez: Relative to Children's Dental Health Month. (New)	Support.
f) **AB 371** Haney. Dental coverage.	Watch.
g) **AB 873** Alanis**.** Dentistry: dental assistants: infection control course	Oppose.
h) **AB 966** Carrillo. Dental Practice Act: foreign dental schools.	Watch.
i) **AB 980** Arambula. Health care: medically necessary treatment.	Watch.
j) **AB 1130** Berman: Dentistry: outreach and support program.	Watch.
k) **AB 1232** Ávila Farías. Administrative Procedure Act: proposed regulations: cost of living impact on residents of the state.	Watch.
l) **AB 1307** Ávila Farías. Licensed Dentists from Mexico Pilot Program	Watch.
m) **AB 1558** Arambula. Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act (New)	Watch
n) **AB 1563** Gabriel. Budget Act of 2026 (New)	Watch.
o) **AB 1629** Haney: Dental Coverage. (New)	Watch.

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Legislation	Board Position
p) AB 1696 Stefani. Department of Consumer Affairs: director: powers and duties. (New)	Watch.
q) AB 1717 Castillo: Medi-Cal dental reimbursement: house/extended care facility call. (New)	Watch.
r) AB 1760 Arambula: Dentistry. (New)	Watch.
s) AB 2029 Sharp-Collins: Dental Plan Portal. (New)	Watch.
t) AB 2504 Bauer-Kahan. Dentistry: licensure. (New)	Watch.
u) AB 2625 Solache: Dental Practice Act: foreign dental schools. (New)	Watch.
v) AB 2694 Alvarez: Public postsecondary education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program. (New)	Watch.
w) SB 879 Laird. Budget Act of 2026. (New)	Watch.
x) SB 1187 Durazo: Open meetings: majority.	Watch.
y) SB 1390 Menjivar. Healing arts: standards for licensure or certification. (New)	Watch.
z) SB 1391 Wahab: Department of Consumer Affairs: retired category licenses. (New)	Watch.
aa) SB 1416 Wahab: Physicians and surgeons: dentists: unprofessional conduct. (New)	Watch.
bb) 2026 Tentative Legislative Calendar.	

Board Member discussion: Member King asked whether Senate Resolution (SR) legislation required any board action. Legislation and Regulatory Chair Elginer explained that the bill in question had already been enrolled and therefore no board position was needed.

Member King then asked about “watch” positions and what happens if no amendments occur. Staff clarified that a watch position simply means monitoring a bill for potential changes that may affect the Board. If no relevant amendments occur, no official action or position is necessary. Chair Elginer noted that legislative language frequently changes during the process, making periodic review important.

Members discussed “spot bills,” which are introduced with placeholder language allowing authors to later amend or completely rewrite the bill after working with sponsors or staff. This practice helps legislators reserve a number of bills while developing substantive content.

Public comment: None.

FULL Board Agenda Item 15: LEG REG Agenda Item (5): Discussion and Possible Action on the November 8, 2025, Legislative and Regulatory Committee Meeting Minutes. LEG REG Agenda Item (6): Proposal of Future Agenda Items.

Lastly, the Committee approved **LEG REG Committee Agenda Item 5** "Discussion and Possible Action on the November 8, 2025, Legislation and Regulatory Committee Meeting Minutes," of which there were no suggested changes. The Chair also stated that there were no future agenda items suggested for **LEG REG Committee Agenda Item 6** "Proposal of Future Agenda Items."

Board Member discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

Motion: Member Ponnala moved for the Board to accept the Legislation and Regulatory Committee's full report.

Second: Vice President Hansen.

Board Member discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

Vote: Motion for the Board to accept the Legislative and Regulatory Committee's full report. Passed 7:0:1.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain/Absent
Lolly Agarwal			Absent.
Julie Elginer	X		
Sonia "Pat" Hansen	X		
Sherman King	X		
Michael Long	X		
Joanne Pacheco	X		
Sridevi Ponnala	X		
Nicolas Kiet Quach	X		

16. **FULL Board Agenda Item 16: Enforcement Update: Statistical Report.** (Informational Only).

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Tifany Moore, Assistant Executive Officer, reported on the information for the Enforcement statistics consisting of complaint cases, investigation cases, citation and fines issued, and current number of probation cases current from July 1, 2025, through February 28, 2026 (pages 2904-2906). AEO Moore stated that she plans to update the way the statistics are entered and captured utilizing BreEZe and QBIRT programs.

Board Member comment: The AEO explained the definition of tolling, noting that a probationer's term is paused when the licensee is not practicing or has left the profession, including when they move out of state. Upon returning to active practice, the probation period resumes. She stated that additional data on delinquent licenses could be provided at a future meeting. The AEO added that probationers must maintain an active license, and licenses not renewed within five years are canceled.

In response to a board member question, AEO Moore described her initial priorities, stating that she has focused on enforcement activities, particularly citation and fine processing, improving coding accuracy in the database, and refining statistical reporting.

Board members asked about the recent increase in complaints. EO Lum and AEO Moore explained that complaint volume fluctuates year-to-year and may include matters outside the Board's jurisdiction. They noted that outreach and education for licensees may help address certain trends. They further clarified that many Attorney General (AG) cases relate to issues beyond dental hygiene practice, such as DUIs.

Board members requested additional breakdowns of complaint categories, including consumer versus AG cases and clinical versus non-clinical matters. Staff agreed to begin collecting this data. Members also requested a future report by county; the EO stated staff would explore developing this information.

Staff discussed improvements to the use of the Breeze system for enforcement tracking. AEO Moore noted she is reviewing current workflows to increase consistency and accessibility. Traci Napper, Licensing Manager, reported that new enforcement codes are being added to BreEZe to improve reporting capabilities.

Regarding aging cases, enforcement staff stated that older cases remain active until resolved and may be delayed due to external factors such as pending court actions, out-of-state proceedings, or difficulty obtaining third-party documentation. These cases are prioritized until a conclusion is reached.

Public comment: JoAnn Galliano asked how enforcement staff manages cases older than 24 months, noting that twelve cases currently exceed two years. Staff reported that these cases are prioritized, but delays often occur due to pending court actions, difficulties obtaining third-party documentation, and coordination with out-of-state or local law enforcement. Cases remain active until a final resolution is reached and are not closed due to age alone; long-aged cases typically involve ongoing investigative or disciplinary processes.

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Shanda Wallace requested information on the types of citations issued. The AEO stated that since being at the DHBC most citations were for non-compliance with continuing education audits, with additional citations issued for unprofessional conduct and criminal matters such as DUIs. EO Lum stated that detailed breakdown could be provided separately, as staff did not have the information available.

Jeannette Diaz-Olivera supported distinguishing consumer-originated complaints from Attorney General cases, emphasizing that such data would help demonstrate the profession's overall responsibility and support policymaking. The Executive Officer reminded attendees that the Board is still relatively new compared to other DCA programs and continues to strengthen its reporting and enforcement systems.

Shanda Wallace commended the Board for its professionalism, thoroughness, and dedication to public protection.

17. **FULL Board Agenda Item 17: Licensing, Continuing Education Audits, and Examination Update: Statistical Report.** (Informational Only).

Traci Napper, Licensing Manager, reported on the current licensing statistics from July 1, 2025, through February 28, 2026 (pages 2907-2919). She reported on the number of applications and renewals issued for RDHs, RDHAPs, Fictitious Name Permits, and Military Temporary Licenses, as well as the breakdown of total licensee population, by both license status (e.g. active, inactive, delinquent, canceled, revoked, surrendered, and retired) and by county. She reported on the passage rates for the DHBC Law and Ethics exams for RDHs and RDHAPs and provided updates on the current failure and pass rates of the Continuing Education (CE) audits.

Board Member comment: Board members asked questions regarding delinquency counts, retired license requirements, CE audit trends, and year-over-year percentage changes. Members also requested future charts showing trends over multiple fiscal years. The Executive Officer noted that CE audit failure rates have increased from 40% to 42%. Licensing Manager Napper stated that staff are planning outreach events to present information to potential licensees at dental hygiene programs.

Board members discussed potential outreach opportunities, including presentations at CDHA events and development of an online informational recorded webinar. Staff stated that comprehensive CE guidance is already available on the Board's website.

Public comment: Susan McLearan of the California Dental Hygienists' Association (CDA) commented on the county-level licensing data, noting that licensees may list either a home or practice address as their address of record, which can affect the accuracy of geographic distribution analyses. She explained that when comparing hygienist counts with dentist counts by county, some areas initially appeared underserved until she reviewed both datasets together. Ms. McLearan commented that she hopes HCAI will be able to confirm distribution of hygienists by geographical location, particularly in relation to patient need in order to help identify areas with limited access to dental care.

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Shanda Wallace commented on the topic of continuing education, stating that she had recently reactivated her inactive license and found the process straightforward. Ms. Wallace shared that one of her CE courses had been rejected because the provider's permit had expired, and she notified the provider of the issue. She suggested that additional public reminders be made through the CDHA to encourage licensees to verify that CE providers are approved and current before enrolling in a course, and to avoid taking non-qualifying courses. She thanked staff for their work behind the scenes.

In response to Ms. Wallace's comment, Member Long stated that while CDHA can assist in educating its members regarding continuing education requirements, many licensed hygienists in California are not CDHA members. He stated that responsibility for informing all licensees should not fall solely on CDHA.

Jeannette Diaz-Olivera thanked the Executive Officer for directing licensees to the comprehensive information available on the Board's website and stated that she regularly shares those resources with her students. She asked the Licensing Manager Napper about the data source used for county population comparisons and inquired why World Population Review was selected. She also asked whether the Board could begin reporting the number of brick-and-mortar practice locations in California, stating that this information would help illustrate where dental hygienists and RDHAPs are practicing and whether access to care is improving.

EO Lum responded that the Board intends to propose legislation requiring RDHAPs to report their practice locations at each renewal, and will allow the Board to collect and publish this information in the future.

18. FULL Board Agenda Item 18: Proposal of Future Agenda Items.

1. President Pacheco asked to schedule a teleconference meeting in May 2026 to discuss current legislation.

2. President Pacheco requested discussion on the location of future meetings.

3. JoAnn Galliano requested the Board staff to host a Townhall Meeting with Program Directors to gather their input.

19. FULL Board Agenda Item 19: Closed Session.

As announced earlier in the meeting, there was no closed session for this meeting.

20. FULL Board Agenda Item 20: Adjournment.

President Pacheco adjourned the Full Board meeting at **12:07 p.m.**

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