

## **REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION**

Committee Chair: Dr. Catherine Hayes. Committee Members: Dr. Hussein Assaf, Dr. Vinod Bhoopathi, Dr. Bruce Dye, and Dr. Kristina Petrocco-Napuli. Guests (Open Session Only, Virtual): Dr. Sheila Brear, chief learning officer, American Dental Education Association; Ms. Kelly Braun, executive director, American Board of Dental Public Health; and Mr. David Peña, Jr., executive director, American Association of Public Health Dentistry, attended the policy portion of the meeting. Staff Members: Ms. Taylor Weast, manager, Advanced Dental Education, Ms. Peggy Soeldner, senior manager, Administration and Committees; and Ms. Michele Kendall, senior project assistant, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Dr. Sherin Tooks, senior director, CODA, attended a portion of the meeting. The meeting of the Review Committee on Dental Public Health Education (DPH RC) was held on January 22, 2025 via a virtual meeting.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION**

**Informational Report on Dental Public Health Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Data (p. 600)**: At its Winter 2015 meeting, the Commission directed that all Review Committees consider the informational report on aggregate data from the Curriculum Section of the Annual Survey in years when this data is available. At this meeting, the Dental Public Health Review Committee (DPH RC) reviewed the informational report on aggregate data from the Curriculum Section for the dental public health programs conducted in August/September 2024, without comment.

**Recommendation**: This report is informational in nature and no action is required.

**Consideration of Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health Related to Administrative Oversight at Major Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs (p. 601)**: At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) directed an Ad Hoc or Standing Committee to investigate in-person, on-site work expectations for program directors to determine if changes are needed in the discipline-specific Accreditation Standards for dental education, advanced dental education, and allied dental education programs. As directed, in advance of the Summer 2024 CODA meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee, which was comprised of all current CODA Commissioners, reviewed the background materials, which included the Commission's action leading to the Ad Hoc Committee, and the Standards for each discipline related to program director (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 601**). The Committee noted that while all CODA Standards have a requirement for clinical supervision at all educational activity sites, most Standards do not address overall administrative oversight of the program, by the program director or a designee, at all sites where a student spends a majority or all their time. The Committee discussed whether virtual oversight or assignment of a responsible individual would be appropriate at all educational sites. The Committee believed there must be consistency in the educational program

at all program sites. Following consideration, the Ad Hoc Committee concluded that each Review Committee that does not currently have a Standard related to administrative oversight at major educational activity sites (e.g., off-campus sites where students spend a majority or all their time) should review this topic and determine whether a Standard is needed to address the Commission's expectation for administrative oversight, for consideration by the Commission in Winter 2025. In considering this matter, the Commission noted that inclusion of Intent Statements, in conjunction with proposed Standards, could further clarify the flexibility permitted for programs to oversee educational sites in a variety of ways, while ensuring administrative oversight and consistency in the educational program across all sites. At its Summer 2024 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation concurred with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee.

At its Winter 2025 meeting, the Review Committee on Dental Public Health Education (DPH RC) considered the dental public health Accreditation Standards (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 601**) related to administrative oversight at major educational activity sites (e.g., off-campus sites where students spend a majority or all their time) to determine whether revisions are needed to address the Commission's expectation for administrative oversight. The Review Committee noted that changes to Standard 2-1 related to teaching appointment percentage and a commitment to teaching and supervision will go into effect on July 1, 2025 and has an impact on the discussion of administrative oversight. There is no requirement in the Standards stating the percentage of time that a program director must be on-site. The DPH RC discussed whether **major** sites exist within the dental public health discipline, and it was noted that dental public health education programs must follow the supervised field experience Standards that address expectations off-site. The supervised field experiences may be considered a **major** site, depending on the type of experience attained, but **major** educational activity sites for dental public health education have an exception to the reporting policy. It was also noted that given the nature of the discipline, dental public health education programs could be partially or fully remote, and that administrative oversight needs may differ for programs offering distance education. The DPH RC discussed Standard 1-3 regarding supervision of educational activities and Standard 4-9 regarding program director responsibility for determining supervised field experience locations as examples of Standards that address oversight. The DPH RC agreed that the current standards are sufficient, but additional language addressing distance learning programs may be needed. The DPH RC determined that more information and discussion is necessary before taking further action. The DPH RC recommended a survey of programs to gather information related to distance learning to gain a better sense of its usage across the discipline.

Following consideration, the Review Committee determined that Standards already exist, which address overall administrative oversight of the program, by the program director or a designee, at all sites where a student/resident spends a majority or all their time. The Committee identified that Standards 1-3 and 4-9 address program director responsibilities for supervision of educational activities and supervised field experience locations, but more information is needed via a survey of programs regarding usage of distance learning to ensure any future changes to Standards regarding administrative oversight do not unintentionally negatively impact programs.

The DPH RC will revisit this topic and the results of the survey at the Summer 2025 meeting. Therefore, no further revisions are needed at this time within the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct a survey of dental public health education programs related to the use of distance education and administrative oversight with further analysis in relation to a potential revision to dental public health Standards, with a report to the Dental Public Health Education Review Committee and Commission in Summer 2025.

It is further recommended that there be no revision at this time to the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health related to administrative oversight at major sites where educational activity occurs.

**Consideration of Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health Related to Diversity and Humanistic Culture and Learning**

**Environment (p. 602):** On December 1, 2023, the Commission received a letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity (TNCDHE) (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 602**), which provided short-term and long-term suggestions to CODA to improve diversity in all academic dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education programs. In Winter 2024, each Review Committee of the Commission provided comment to CODA on TNCDHE letter. Following consideration of Review Committee Reports, the Commission directed establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee composed of all Commissioners who chair the discipline-specific Review Committees in dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education, and additional CODA Commissioners, to study the Accreditation Standards for possible revision related to the letter from TNCDHE.

In advance of the Commission's Summer 2024 meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee, which was comprised of all current CODA Commissioners, reviewed the background materials, which included the prior work of the Commission on this topic, the letters from TNCDHE, CODA Standards related to diversity and the humanistic culture including proposed revisions, Annual Survey data on dental programs related to diversity, and information from other accrediting agencies. The Committee noted that this is an important topic, but other considerations must also be acknowledged including differences among institutions related to missions, resources, funding, state and federal regulations, and legal considerations. It was noted that some states do not permit initiatives focused on diversity, and the Commission cannot impose Standards that would conflict with state or federal law. As such, the Committee noted the proposed predoctoral dental education Standard revision, which discusses diversity efforts, would be consistent with university policy and state law. At its Summer 2024 meeting, following consideration of the Ad Hoc Committee Report, the Commission directed that all Review Committees consider the proposed revisions for the Dental Standards 1-2 and 1-3 and revisions for the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Standards 1-11 and 2-1.7 (adopted Summer 2024), for possible inclusion of similar Standards within the Review Committee's own discipline(s) to address diversity and the humanistic culture, with a report to the Commission in Winter 2025.

At its Winter 2025 meeting, the Review Committee on Dental Public Health Education (DPH RC) considered the dental public health Accreditation Standards, and reference materials including the proposed Dental Standards 1-2 and 1-3 and adopted revisions for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Standards 1-11 and 2-1.7 (**Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 602**) for possible inclusion of similar Standards to address diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment. The Review Committee noted that conversations around the topics of diversity and inclusion are evolving within the current political and societal climate, and that the addition of language that specifically addresses diversity, inclusion, and/or learning environment to the Standards may present challenges for institutions and dental public health programs. It was also noted that programs must follow institutional policies that may also address these topics, and those policies may also be changing based on state and federal laws. The DPH RC agreed that working towards clarity in this area, especially regarding expectations of a safe learning environment, is important for the dental public health discipline. Although the proposed Dental Standards 1-2 and 1-3 have adjusted language to ensure programs comply with state and federal laws, the DPH RC agreed that additional discussion is needed on this topic.

Following consideration, the Review Committee determined that further discussion and consideration is warranted related to Standards on diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment. The Review Committee will revisit this topic at the Summer 2025 meeting for potential revision to dental public health Standards.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct there be no revision at this time to the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education in Dental Public Health related to diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment.

It is further recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Dental Public Health Education Review Committee to further consider the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health related to diversity and humanistic culture and learning environment, with a report to the Commission in Summer 2025.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATING TO  
MORE THAN ONE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Matters related to more than one review committee are included in a separate report.

**CONSIDERATION OF SITE VISITOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE  
COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION IN THE AREA OF  
DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION**

The Review Committee on Dental Public Health Education (DPH RC) considered site visitor appointments for 2025-2026. The Committee's recommendations on the appointments of individuals are included in a separate report.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ACCREDITATION STATUS**

Matters related to accreditation status of programs are included in a separate report.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Catherine Hayes  
Chair, Review Committee on Dental Public Health Education