

At the August 25, 2023 Board Meeting the Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) established a new standing Advisory Committee named the “Dental Assistant Workforce Shortage Advisory Committee (DAWSAC)” per ORS 679.280, to review, discuss and make recommendations to the Board on addressing workforce shortages in accordance with HB 3223 (2023).

The section of HB 3223 relevant to this is included for reference:

8 **SECTION 5. (1) The Oregon Board of Dentistry shall convene an advisory committee of**
9 **at least seven members to study the dental assistant workforce shortage and to review the**
10 **requirements for dental assistant certification in other states. The committee shall provide**
11 **advice to the board on a quarterly basis on how to address the dental assistant workforce**
12 **shortage in this state.**
13 **(2)(a) In appointing members to the advisory committee, the board shall prioritize di-**
14 **versity of geographic representation, background, culture and experience.**
15 **(b) A majority of the members appointed to the committee must have experience working**
16 **as dental assistants.**
17 **SECTION 6. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023**
18 **regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

This advisory committee will meet no less than four times per calendar year once established, and generally be scheduled concurrently with regular OBD Board Meetings. The OBD President will designate two Co-Chairs of the Committee whom will be OBD Board Members. Preference will be given to Board Members who have past experience working as a dental assistant.

The advisory committee shall include five representatives from the Oregon dental assistant community who are currently or have worked as an Oregon dental assistant. The OBD President will select the members, and utilize the legislative criteria, if more than five people volunteer to serve on this advisory committee.

The advisory committee will also include one representative from each of the professional associations: The Oregon Dental Association, The Oregon Dental Hygienists’ Association and the Oregon Dental Assistants Association and eventually one from the Oregon Dental Therapy Association (should that be established).

The Advisory Committee members will bring relevant topics and agenda items to the meetings, be meaningfully engaged on the relevant issues, offer solutions and assist in gathering speakers, data and information.

The inaugural DAWSAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 27, 2023.