



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: The Professional Practice Committee
FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech
SUBJECT: Update on the Dental Profession
DATE: November 3, 2011
AUTHORIZATION(S):

Summary

Issue for Discussion

This item will present a general update on the dental professions.

Reasons for Consideration

For information.

Proposed Handling

This item is submitted for information and discussion at the November 2011 meeting of the Professional Practice Committee.

Procedural History

The Office of the Professions routinely briefs the Professional Practice Committee with respect to the status of various professions and their professional boards in an effort to present the current state of the regulated professions. This item is the latest in a series of presentations.

Background

The State Board for Dentistry oversees the practice of three professions: dentistry, dental hygiene, and certified dental assisting. As the practice of dentistry continues to evolve and new technology is developed, the professions have changed as a result.

Some of the issues currently facing the dental profession involve the scopes of practice of the three dental professions, access to care, and an aging workforce. These issues, as well as others, are brought to the State Board for Dentistry and the State Board office in various ways. The State Board and the Board office consider practice issues, trends in licensure, enrollment in professional schools, and capacity issues such as the geographic distribution of our professionals. The Dental Board also assists in the resolution of complaints of professional misconduct in fulfilling their role of assisting the Board of Regents and the State Education Department.

At the November meeting of the Professional Practice Committee, the Executive Secretary for the Dental Board will provide an update and discuss some of the trends and issues facing the dental professions. In addition, she will be available to answer questions from the Committee.