



December 12, 2017

Dr. Debra Daniels
President, Taft College
29 Cougar Court
Taft, CA 93628

RE: Withdrawal Status

Dear Dr. Daniels,

This letter identifies the status of the withdrawal for the Taft College Dental Hygiene Program (TCDH) by the Dental Hygiene Committee of California (DHCC).

BACKGROUND:

On April 10, 2017, the Dental Hygiene Committee of California (DHCC) received a student complaint regarding violations by the Taft College Dental Hygiene Program (TCDH) of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Commission on Dental Accreditation Standards (CODA), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and Cal-OSHA Infection Control procedures. On April 20, 2017, the DHCC received a faculty complaint corroborating the student complaint of April 10, 2017. Furthermore, on May 1, 2017, the faculty member provided additional evidence to the DHCC of additional violations with supporting documentation.

On Thursday, April 20, 2017, DHCC Interim Executive Officer (IEO) Anthony Lum contacted the TCDH Program Director Stacy Eastman, DDS, by phone informing her of the complaints filed with the DHCC. Mr. Lum requested Dr. Eastman's permission for a DHCC visit to review the TCDH program to gather information in the interest of consumer protection. On April 20, 2017, per verbal agreement, and confirmed via Email on April 20, 2017, Dr. Eastman agreed to the visit by the DHCC.

On May 8, 2017, an on-site visit was conducted at the TCDH Program by DHCC Educational Consultant JoAnn Galliano, MEd, RDH, and DHCC Educational Specialist Adina A. Pineschi-Petty, DDS. During the visit, violations of the CCR, CODA Standards, HIPAA, and Cal-OSHA Infection Control procedures were discovered substantiating the above complaints. In addition, further deficiencies were identified and recorded during the visit.

On May 15, 2017, Ms. Galliano, Dr. Petty, and Karyn Dunn, DHCC Special Investigator returned to Taft College to determine whether the TCDH Class of 2017 had completed the required patient care competencies and the required number of experiences for administration of local anesthetic, nitrous oxide analgesia and soft tissue curettage (SLN).

On October 4, 2017, an Informal Conference was held and Taft College representatives Dr. Debra Daniels, Dr. Vickie Kimbrough, and Board President Billy White provided evidence of compliance to the DHCC.

On October 13, 2017, Ms. Galliano and Dr. Petty conducted a Post-Informal Conference inspection to determine compliance status. At that visit, it was determined that evidence of noncompliance remained.

DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE DENTAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE OF CALIFORNIA

On October 27, 2017, the Executive Officer of the DHCC determined that the TCDH program is still in violation of the California Code of Regulations and CODA Standards that address dental hygiene educational programs. Due to the remaining violations and in the interest of consumer protection, the Executive Officer of the DHCC affirmed the withdrawal of the TCDH program approval.

DECISION OF THE DENTAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE OF CALIFORNIA:

At the DHCC's November 17-18, 2017 meetings, the Committee directed the DHCC's Executive Officer to issue a stay of the October 27, 2017 final decision of the Executive Officer to withdraw Taft's approval, pending final adjudication of the matter before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), pursuant to the provisions specified under Government Code section 11500, et seq. (Formal Administrative Adjudication). In the interim, Taft will maintain its approval pending the outcome of the formal hearing.

If Taft deems itself as compliant with the law and CODA Standards prior to the hearing date, DHCC staff will conduct site visit(s) to confirm such compliance and present their findings at an additional DHCC meeting (possibly by teleconference) for the Committee to vote on the school's approval status. If Taft is found to compliant, the withdrawal would be rescinded.

During the public comment portion of the November 2017 meeting, Taft indicated to the Committee that it would withdraw its request for a formal hearing if the program is found to be fully compliant.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Adina A. Pineschi-Petty DDS, DHCC Educational Specialist at adina.petty@dca.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Anthony Lum
Executive Officer
Dental Hygiene Committee of California

cc:
Dr. Vickie Kimbrough, TCDH Program Director
Noel Kelsch RDHAP, MS, President, Dental Hygiene Committee of California