



Summer 2019 Newsletter

2020 WSSO Annual Meeting

- **February 14, 2020** at Meydenbauer Convention Center in Bellevue, WA
- Featured Speakers: TBD



Legislative Changes

There are several items that the Department of Health is dealing with currently that are important to orthodontists



The AAO submitted a complaint to the board about the illegal practice of dentistry by DTC corporations in 2017. The board turned it back to the Department of Health which has now sent it back to the Dental Quality Assurance Commission again under the dentist that is assigned to the case. Here is the explanation from the program manager,

"In order to take action against an unlicensed person/entity or a dentist, the department and the Dental Quality Assurance Commission (commission) must prove misconduct by clear and convincing evidence. This is a higher standard of proof than civil litigation and requires more and stronger evidence in order to successfully prosecute a case. The department's or commission's decision not to proceed on a case is most often not an endorsement of the action, but a recognition that the department or commission would not be able to prove by clear and convincing evidence that a violation occurred.

The commission currently has several cases pending related to unlicensed care providers. The investigation and disciplinary process can be delayed for a variety of reasons; complexity of the case, communicating through attorneys, additional investigations, obtaining expert witnesses, and multiple cases under consideration. The commission is carefully reviewing these cases to determine whether violations of Washington state law have occurred.

The department and the commission must comply with chapter 18.130 RCW, Uniform Disciplinary Act. This law requires all regulatory boards and commissions to follow the same process when considering discipline of a health care professionals.

I recognize that you may not be pleased about the lack of regulatory action on the AAO's complaint related to dental practice by unlicensed individuals. However, you can be assured that the case was carefully reviewed the Department of Health operated within the bounds of its authority and responsibility. **You may request a copy of the case file through our Public Disclosure Records Center office at PDRC@doh.wa.gov."**

As you may have also been privy to through your ADA membership, the ADA has filed a petition with US food and Drug administration.

<https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/medwatch/index.cfm?action=reporting.home>

Please know that dentists and the public can use the FDA's MedWatch voluntary reporting form to inform the FDA about problems patients encounter with direct to consumer products, such as aligners, partial dentures and snoring appliances. More general information about the FDA medical device reporting program can be found on [the FDA's website](#).

If you are asked about the issue of "DIY dentistry," the ADA offers these talking points that you can share with your patients:

- The American Dental Association and member dentists across the country are dedicated to the health and safety of the patients they serve.
- ADA policies oppose Do-It-Yourself Teeth Straightening and Direct to Consumer Dental Laboratory Services because dentists are concerned about the potential for irreversible harm to patients.
- For example, orthodontic treatment, if not done correctly, could lead to potential bone loss and receding gums, changed bites, and other issues.
- The ADA believes that for the health and well-being of the public, patient supervision by a licensed dentist is necessary for all phases of treatment.

You can find more information on MouthHealthy.org, the ADA's website for the public at MouthHealthy.org/DIYdentistry.

DQAC changes

DQAC is still in the process of proposed rule changes. 2 of the important issues for orthodontists are infection control and duties delegated to hygienists under general supervision.

Infection control:

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WADOH/2019/05/08/file_attachments/1207707/OTS-9086.8%20updated%20March%2029.docx.pdf

Hygiene scope of practice:

We had WSSO Board Members, many orthodontists and legal representation from the AAO at the DQAC meeting regarding proposed modifications to the scope of practice for dental hygienists under general supervision.. We were successful in altering many of the proposed changes to the current regulations that we feel would negatively impact our patients. Here are the recent changes. Thank you to all that have been involved!

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WADOH/2019/03/29/file_attachments/1183168/OTS-9769.4.pdf

Specialty Advertising:

WSSO is closely monitoring the possible rule modifications by DQAC to [WAC 246-817-420](#) regarding the specialty representation and advertising. Further meetings about these proposals are upcoming and the WSSO will be well represented by board members.

Welcome New WSSO Members!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members of the WSSO! We look forward to meeting you soon and having you play a positive role in our society!

Dr. Hyun Lee
Dr. Neal Bastian

Dr. Yelena Akselrod Beygelman
Dr. Willam Brown
Dr. Sepideh Torka
Dr. Veronica Toro-Obregon

WSSO Board of Directors

Dr. Tori Matthys	President
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Dr. Christopher Riolo	Treasurer
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Dr. Barbara Sheller	PCSO Director
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Dr. Patra Alatsis	Membership Division
Dr. Mariana Mugerza	Communication Division
Dr. Geoff Greenlee	Member at Large
Ms. Sally Gee	Administrative Assistant



We are happy to announce that starting July 1st, Dr Michael Pickard and Dr Corwyn Hopke will be joining the WSSO board and some members will have new roles.

Also, we want to give our special thanks to Dr Tori Matthys, Dr Mohammad Mainayar, Dr Christopher Riolo, and Dr Aaron Molen who are ending their current terms after incredibly dedicated service to the board and all WSSO members.

Important Dates/Events

- PCSO Annual Meeting October 3rd - 5th, 2019. Honolulu, Hawaii. Please note the WSSO Business Breakfast Saturday October 5th. With advance registration the breakfast is complimentary for WSSO members
- AAO Winter Conference, Austin, Tx
- WSSO Annual Meeting Friday February 14th 2020. Bellevue, Seattle