

The CRDTS Report

Over 50 Years of Testing Excellence

Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc.

Spring 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sam Jacoby, DDS
President

EXPRESS YOURSELF

For those of us who enjoy watching sports of almost any variety, football, basketball, track, baseball, it doesn't matter, there is something we see at nearly every contest. It is the vision of some participant who has just completed an amazing feat of athleticism, who in an expression of self-approval

beats on his chest like Tarzan, thrusts his arms with fingers pointed skyward and bellows a primal howl that would wake the dead. This could happen at any point in the game when the outcome is still uncertain.....Is that really necessary? I didn't used to think so, but I have changed my mind lately. If someone wants to beat on their chest because they have devoted countless hours of hard work and preparation to accomplish something, then praise the Lord for the opportunity and ability to do it, they have every right.

I feel that way now because for the better part of two years I have been working with a group of people at CRDTS who deserve to beat on their chest some. CRDTS dental hygiene has increased exam sites by over 25% the previous year. That doesn't just happen by accident. It is the result of great public relations, exam content, exam administration, cooperation and coordination with Central Office staff, outstanding leadership from their professional staff and committees, and a high level of performance from their examiners. CRDTS dental has streamlined the administration of their exam, revamped all the manuals, and with excellent professional staff leadership and ad hoc committee work, has developed and instituted a psychometrically valid and pertinent diagnosis and treatment planning written exam to supplement the clinical exams. All of the independent test sites, developed through the vision and commitment of the Executive and Steering Committees, have hosted multiple dental exams to supplement our school-based exams. CRDTS dental and dental hygiene have been working together with our

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partners in Europe, SIMtoCARE, to develop virtual haptic technology that augments our examinations and remediation. The CRDTS CARE Program has been developed and is available for dental boards to obtain reliable and verifiable remediation results when needed for licensees. Our organization is making progress and growing, and with all this increased activity, our amazing Central Office staff manages to continue to build schedules, arrange meetings, organize exam supplies, handle finances, and crunch exam data with accuracy and efficiency. We are also fortunate to have an Executive Director who has worked extremely hard to gain an understanding of our organization and profession so that she can communicate effectively in any situation. As a result of that process, she has developed a tenacious loyalty to CRDTS.

There is no question that what I have just described is the definition of great teamwork by an outstanding team. CRDTS has an excellent group of examiners to draw from when leadership asks for help to achieve goals, so the response is usually quick and effective. Even so, sometimes it feels like the hard work, long hours, and extra effort result in ever so small gains. So as individual members of a great team, if you have a small victory in whatever you are doing for CRDTS, and it helps your psyche to beat on your chest and scream like a banshee, I say go for it! All your efforts are appreciated!

Sam Jacoby, DDS
CRDTS President



*Sheli Cobler,
Executive Director*

CRDTS AND THE STATE DENTAL BOARDS

One thing I've come to understand better in my role as Executive Director for CRDTS is the importance of the state dental boards and each state dental board member, not only

monitoring dental professionals in their state, but in understanding the content, criteria, and scoring for each of the dental licensure examinations. By working with dental testing agencies to ensure the most valid, reliable, and fair initial licensure examinations are administered, the state dental boards take the first step to ensure graduates are competent to enter the world and provide safe service to the public. It is because of the important work of each and every state dental and dental hygiene board or commission member that the United States has the highest quality of dental and oral health care available.

As a national examining agency with more than 50 years of testing excellence, CRDTS' goal is to continue our work with the state dental boards to help you meet your mission. That is why we value the collaboration we have with each of our CRDTS state board Members and why we carefully monitor the rules and regulations of all state dental and dental hygiene boards, including those that are not currently members – to ensure our exams are meeting laws and regulations nationally.

CRDTS leadership has gone to great lengths the past couple of years to renew relationships with each state dental board and provide updates regarding the importance of our organization and the development of our exams. That work will continue on a regular basis going forward. We are anxious to visit each and every state dental/dental hygiene board and collaborate with you on the great work we are doing and learn how we can better serve you, with the same goal to protect the safety and welfare of the public in dental care. We encourage you to contact us if there is ever a time you would like to hear from us on any of the great initiatives we are working on.

As one of just a few testing agencies in the business, we especially appreciate the great work of the dental boards that are going the extra mile to ensure that each of the initial licensure examinations meets the requirements of their state laws and board rules. For example, one state dental board recently did a thorough review and side by side comparison

of each licensure exam and recognized discrepancies in the examinations administered by each testing agency. In January 2023, that state's dental board members voted that the other agency examinations do not meet the standards set out in their state statutes and that CRDTS is the only acceptable dental and dental hygiene examination in that state for any clinical exam initiated after November 1, 2022. While the review of each agency exam requires a great deal of work, we appreciate that state boards are not shying away from it and are diligently completing the responsibility they have been charged with. It is through this work that CRDTS continues to provide the gold standard in dental and dental hygiene licensure examinations.

Without a regular and thorough review of the examinations, it would be difficult to ensure each exam meets the standards set forth by the states. It is for that reason that CRDTS involves the state dental boards in the development and enhancement of our examinations on a regular basis. Who better to have input and decision-making authority on what is best for a dental or dental hygiene examination than state board members? Each CRDTS Member State enjoys a seat on our governing board, our dental exam review committee, and our dental hygiene review committee. Thus, if rules or regulations change that impact our examinations, CRDTS is immediately able to factor that information in our regular review of each examination. Furthermore, state board members are welcomed and encouraged to examine for our agency, so you have firsthand knowledge of how the exams are administered.

Without competing agencies to keep each other accountable, the state dental boards run the risk of losing control of the quality of the examination, the costs associated with the exams, and the efficiency in how the exams are administered. A monopoly in any business is a detriment to the public and that is why CRDTS works so hard to continue the more than 50 years of excellence we are known for.

Since the day I walked through the doors of my office at CRDTS, I could tell that relationship building was the cornerstone of this organization. Our current President Elect, Dr. Otto Dohm, has stated many times that "CRDTS is all about the people." That is a statement that I think everyone associated with CRDTS understands. CRDTS is not just a business. It is an organization made up of genuine, thought provoking, sincere professionals who have the best interest of the public and upcoming dental professionals at heart. It's not about making money. It's about the people!

If your state dental board is not currently a member of CRDTS I encourage you to ask why that is. CRDTS is the only dental and dental hygiene testing agency that regularly collaborates with each and every one of our members to ensure the best quality exam and the most efficient and professional way of administering every single exam.

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CRDTS and the State Dental Boards Continued...

Thank you to all CRDTS Members! Your participation in the development and continued enhancement of the initial dental and dental hygiene licensure examinations is crucial to the quality of minimal competency assessments for newly graduating dental professionals as they enter the workforce. Your voice matters to us!!

If your state is not already a member and you would like more information about becoming a member of CRDTS, please contact me at richael@crdts.org or 785.273.0380.

Sheli Cobler
CRDTS Executive Director



Otto Dohm, DDS
President Elect

THE PHOENIX/ AKA CRDTS

The Phoenix is a mythological creature that is said to perish only to reinvent itself and rise from the ashes.

I am excited to tell you that the Phoenix is not mythical but is in fact embodied in CRDTS today. The CRDTS organization has retooled, reimagined and reinvigorated itself and is

now rising from the ashes!

CRDTS, unlike the Phoenix, is not seeing this resurgence via some supernatural power. No, this re-emergence is the fruit of the labors of a dedicated and professional group of people that have devoted themselves to retooling and reimagining the organization after 50 years. I stated previously that for me, CRDTS is “all about the people” and I stand by that statement. The effort expended by individuals for the good of this organization has been and continues to be remarkable. The effort has been relentless. CRDTS has conducted itself with professionalism and integrity that should make all members proud.

The development and execution of a fluid strategic plan is now showing concrete results. The dental/dental hygiene tests are significantly increased as of last year and there are reasons to expect continued growth. The development and rollout of the CARE program provides a much needed

remediation service to dental boards and practitioners throughout the country. This program is an amalgamation of the highest tech available in dentistry with industry leaders in continuing education. It will quickly become the national standard for remediation.

CRDTS today represents the highest iteration of Dental/ Dental Hygiene testing in the country and the CARE program is unrivaled.

We are growing, we have the products to meet the needs of the profession, but we must continue to rise from the ashes. The work has been started but we have more to do. Where do we go?

We must continue to modify and improve upon our exams to ensure they are the gold standard. The quest to have every state board accept CRDTS results as meeting the requirements for licensure will remove more impediments to CRDTS providing testing at various schools. The rollout of the CARE program and marketing to state boards should increase activity at the Topeka testing site as the years progress.

The rise is not complete. We must continue to push forward, encourage and support each other. We must be imaginative, creative and rigorous in our effort. We can't compromise our principles or our integrity but we can move forward. I would urge all to recommit to the endeavor. It is a quest worthy of the effort. I am humbled to be a part of this group.

Otto Dohm, DDS
President Elect



Andrew Johnston, RDH
Vice President

MID-YEAR CHECK-IN

I cannot believe it is already almost halfway through 2023! Looking back at our New Year's Resolutions, how are we all doing? I made a resolution to be more positive, to keep a more open mind when presented with difficult situations, and to think longer before I spoke. Depending on who you

talk to, I am either doing amazing or failing spectacularly! Another resolution was to spend more time dedicated to CRDTS, taking the role seriously and among other responsibilities, trying to improve upon the amazing Annual Meeting we had in 2022.

It will be a tall order to do better than last year's Annual Meeting, but we will surely try. This year, the meeting will be held in Kansas City on August 25th-26th. The feedback we received from the last meeting was overwhelmingly positive and our plan is to bring you some more dynamic

speakers to help you with your CE needs, in a location that is near all of the action. The hotel is located in the heart of a shopping district and just a short ride away from endless downtown possibilities. We have also restructured the schedule for Saturday's events so that everyone is able to attend all of the events and we are excited to bring back Casino Night after the President's Dinner!

As a member of the Executive Committee, I am excited by the goals we are setting for ourselves - to do better for our candidates, our state board members, and for you. I am pleased by the achievements CRDTS has made this past year with commitments from schools for additional exams, improved relationships with program directors and deans of dental schools, and candidates utilizing our independent exam options. Our professional and administrative staff is among the best I have seen in any organization, which bodes well for our future growth and success.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

Andrew Johnston, RDH
Vice President

CRDTS DENTAL HYGIENE CCAP PROGRAM COMING JANUARY 2024!

The CRDTS Dental Hygiene team is excited to announce the official release of the Clinical Calibration and Assessment Program (CCAP) Program. This program has been occurring in a trial form for the last two years. It has been presented to approximately 15 dental hygiene programs that have stated the CRDTS CCAP Program is beneficial for the calibration of all their faculty - new and experienced, and well worth the time to help their programs become even better.

Available to all dental hygiene programs across the nation and U.S. territories, the CCAP program will assist dental hygiene programs and their clinical faculty with some of the accreditation requirements for the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The Program can be given in conjunction with a dental hygiene exam or independently and a nominal fee will be charged.

With over 50 years of expertise in calibrating examiners, CRDTS can work with your program to help ensure your faculty is adequately calibrated to each other. We can also

help you review your current calibration plan and discuss methods that will help with improving and/or maintaining calibration.

Some of the benefits include:

- ▶ Documentation for CODA accreditation
- ▶ CE credit available
- ▶ Methodology discussions
- ▶ Hand Skills calibration
- ▶ Clinical assessment that includes your current grading criteria for clinic

Watch your email for more details and if you are not on our email list currently but would like information, please send a note to info@crdts.org and we will make sure you get added to the list.



An email with instructions for registration and travel has been sent out and may also be found at www.crdts.org/AnnualMeeting.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

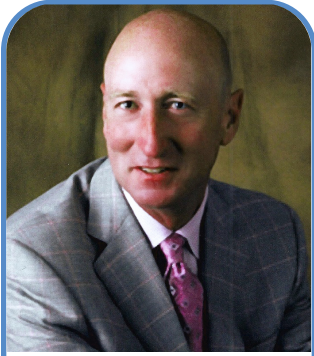
7:30 AM - 6:00 PM Committee Meetings

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

7:30 AM - 3:30 PM Committee Meetings
 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM State Board Meet & Greet
 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Happy Hour (Cash Bar)
 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM President's Dinner - Past Presidents Recognized
 Retiree Recognition
 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Casino Night

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast
 8:00 PM - 9:45 AM Business Meeting
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CE Speaker
 11:10 AM - 12:40 PM CE Speaker
 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM Luncheon
 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Dental Exam Changes 2024
 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Dental Hygiene Changes 2024
 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM Dental Educator's Meeting
 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM Dental Hygiene Educator's Meeting



*Mark Edwards, DDS,
Director of Dental
Examinations*

FROM THE OFFICES OF THE DENTAL EXAM REVIEW COMMITTEE CHAIR AND THE DIRECTOR OF DENTAL EXAMINATIONS



*Rod Hill, DDS,
ERC Committee Chair*

Here's hoping that 2023 is off to a safe and strong start for all. The CRDTS Dental ERC has been busy continuing to modify simulated patient examination typodonts as well as simulated patient content, criteria, and policy. Following careful psychometric review and analysis of simulated patient examination scoring and candidate performance statistics from 2019-2022, Dr.

Brett Foley of Alpine Testing Solutions has supported a modification to the retake policy for all procedures within the CRDTS simulated patient exams. Beginning in the 2023-2024 Dental testing year (Class of 2024), candidates will be able to bank all procedures passed, and only retake those procedures with less than a 75% score.

CRDTS continues to embrace and explore new avenues and the impact of technology in dental and dental hygiene licensure assessment, education, and remediation. CRDTS continues to work in a collaborative relationship with SIM-toCARE to develop and refine virtual haptic technology to be used in education and remediation at our independent testing site in Topeka, KS. CRDTS has also entered into a partnership agreement with Acidental relative to utilizing Teo virtual reality technology as a remediation tool for distance learning via 3-D evaluation and critique of licensee work.

CRDTS dental leadership on February 17-19 attended the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) meeting in Seattle, Washington, and also attended the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) meeting in Portland, OR on March 11-14. These events provided excellent opportunities to share the CRDTS vision and mission with both students and educators as we continue to spread the word on services that CRDTS can offer in dental examination for initial licensure as well as in remediation/re-training and re-education.

Again, the dental leadership team is open to your thoughts and ideas on how we can most effectively serve the parties whom we represent. From State Dental boards in their mission to protect the welfare of the public, to dental candidates and dental schools, CRDTS continues to develop and implement fair, valid and reliable scoring criteria and examination policy.

Mark Edwards, DDS
Director of Dental Examinations

Rod Hill, DDS
ERC Committee Chair

CHANGE AND INSPIRATION

2023 is nearly 6 months in or halfway over whichever way you want to look at it! What a successful and eventful year it has been so far! At the end of this year, CRDTS Dental Hygiene will have completed dental hygiene exams for around 104 schools at more than 90 sites. This means that we will have had an opportunity to provide a fair, valid, and reliable dental hygiene examination to more than 1500 candidates in our member states. (These numbers are estimates and projections for 2024 are even higher!)

A BIG change is the increased number of total examinations that CRDTS is able to provide for not only Dental Hygiene but also Restorative Auxiliary, Written Anesthesia, and Clinical Anesthesia Examinations. Our CRDTS Dental Hygiene Leadership Team is also collaborating with our Dental Leadership to refine our Dental Therapy Examination. This was the first Dental Therapy Examination ever given in the United States and that was in Minnesota! Now DT is an even bigger national change as seven states have already voted to accept Dental Therapy Candidates for licensure. Several more states are either considering it or have already voted on accepting mid-level providers for the benefit of the public we serve and to help with the shortage of dental professionals that we are currently facing. It is an exciting time to be in the dental and dental hygiene testing field and we know that more changes are on the horizon.

Another BIG change is the increase in exam sites that are only hosting the CRDTS simulated (manikin) examination. With the Dental Boards of Georgia, New Mexico, and Wyoming moving to a permanent acceptance of the simulated examination (instead of the emergency actions that were taken during COVID) we are seeing a decrease in the number of patient-based examinations. Some candidates are more comfortable using a live patient for testing and we are able to accommodate them with creative planning and scheduling by some of the talented members of the CRDTS Dental Hygiene Team.

Research says that change is good for our brains and lives – so look out to the Dental World as you hear and have an opportunity to learn more about what we have been working so hard on! You will soon be able to acquire more knowledge about the CRDTS Clinical Calibration and Assessment Program which is growing and helping dental hygiene programs meet some of the criteria for CODA Accreditation. You can also check out our website to see information about the CRDTS CARE Program that is already assisting State Boards with remediation. It is also a current and efficient method for professionals that want to develop skills they are interested in or need more one-on-one guidance to become clinically competent and more self-confident in their skills and abilities. One thing we know for sure is that to succeed

as a dental professional in this day and age you have to develop a love for lifelong learning and we all like to advance our skills to be the best that we can be.

The World of Artificial Intelligence is another Big Big world change and CRDTS is already advanced far into the ability to use virtual training, the Sim-to-Care digital technology, TEO software and virtual reality, and MORE. I never really wanted to attempt an endo procedure, prep a crown or bridge, or try placing an implant; but I had opportunities to do all of that at our Educational Facility in Topeka, KS. What an unbelievable opportunity for learning and collaborating with our future dental and dental hygiene professionals and current colleagues.

It takes some time to process, along with serious contemplation, to grasp how much CRDTS is growing and expanding to meet the needs of our dental and dental hygiene programs in our member states plus the State Boards. We at CRDTS are leaders in keeping up with all the changes, challenges, and advances in our beloved profession. We are deeply involved in all the changes and what we are doing as a Testing Organization. We are constantly inspired by the talented, intelligent, and dedicated individuals on our CRDTS team who are forward-thinking and making all this and more happen. We constantly look back and appreciate all the work that was done before us to get us to this point. Everyone is appreciated and valued, including our Executive Director, Sheli Cobler, and all those important, mostly behind-the-scenes, team members who work out of the Central Office and support all of us so that together we can make all this happen.

We are all excited about the CHANGES and advances CRDTS is achieving! There is an old saying, “Hold On Tight” and also one that says, “Don’t blink so you won’t miss anything” – these sayings appropriately apply to what CRDTS is experiencing now and in our future as we continue to provide excellence in dental hygiene and dental testing.

Your Dental Hygiene Team,

Cindy Gaskill, RDH, MAE
Janine Sasse-Englert, RDH, MS, DHEO
Trelawny Saldana, RDH



CRDTS CARE PROGRAM

CRDTS is excited to announce the introduction of our new program for remediation and reeducation. The CRDTS Calibrate, Administrate, Remediate, and Educate (CARE)

Program is all about Professionals helping Professionals to ensure the best in Dental Health Care across the nation.

WHO: State Dental and Dental Hygiene Boards and Commissions, individual licensees, educators, and students.

We are proud to be working directly with the following organizations: SIMtoCARE, Spear, Acadental, CEZoom, EBAS and Alpine Testing

WHAT: To assist State Dental Boards and individual licensees in meeting the standards of the dental profession to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

The program is customized to licensee deficiencies, outlines a detailed program structure, creates potential partnership with leaders in the profession, utilizes progressive technology and is equipped with an ample supply of educators.

WHERE: On-site at the CRDTS state of the art Topeka, KS Education Facility; and/or, remote/virtual learning from the comfort of home or office.

WHEN: As per State Board order or at convenience as mutually agreeable and scheduled.

WHY: To comply with State Board orders, refresh or improve hand skills, brush up on ethics, re-enter the workplace after a long-term absence, and meet standards of the profession.

HOW: CRDTS will work directly with respective State Dental/Dental Hygiene Boards or Commissions to develop a plan for a licensee ordered to undergo a remediation program, training, or education; and/or, CRDTS will work directly with individual licensees who are not under discipline or order by a state board to establish a plan based on need and request.

We were pleased to have so many State Dental Board and Commission Executive Directors and even some board members participate in our Zoom presentations regarding the CARE Program the first week of June. If you were not able to participate and would like more information, please contact Richael Cobler, Executive Director at richael@crdts.org.

