**2024 CDSS Winter Council Registrar Report**

Happy New Year.

In the past two months since the Fall Council Meeting in October, the following are some of the highlights from a regulatory perspective:

**Proposed Umbrella Legislation – Regulated Health Professions Act RHPA**

The RHPA was announced approximately one week after the Fall Council Meeting. Consequently, many hours were invested in reading, reviewing, and developing a response to the key stakeholder questions requested by the ministry. Meetings were held with the other oral health professions, the Network of Interprofessional Regulatory Organizations NIRO, the optometry and chiropractor associations, the ministry of health, and the minister of health. The legislation is expected to receive assent in the Spring of 2024. However, the Act is not expected to be implemented until the regulations for each profession are developed, approximately 2 to 3 years. With respect to the College, the main concerns are restricted activities, authorization of practices, divestment, amalgamation, and public appointee requirements. In comparison to the other oral health profession associations, the prioritization of regulation by the College has provided for a solid foundation to hopefully ease the transition to satisfying the requirements of the proposed RHPA.

**Regulatory Bylaws**

The draft Regulatory Bylaws were sent to the ministry approximately one week after the Fall Council meeting. The good news – the draft was well received and expediently returned by the ministry with few suggested changes. The bad news – although I had sent a general summary of changes, the ministry requested a side by side detailing each individual change. The draft is 18 pages and recorded approximately 1800 changes. A Christmas miracle – the Coordinator of Professional Standards and Complaint Process, Lisa Cassidy, finished the seventy plus page side by side document just before Christmas. The intention is to address the suggested changes from the ministry and to include some of the best practices from the proposed RHPA umbrella legislation prior to resubmission.

**Dental CBCT Facility Permits and Dental CBCT Prescribing Dentist Authorizations**

Application forms for Dental CBCT Facility Permits and Dental CBCT Prescribing Dentist Authorizations were developed and are being formatted to incorporate directly into the College database.

The permit and authorization applications are expected to be put forward to the facilities and registrants in February. The timeline for the sedation permit is March April, the neuromodulator permit is May June, and the facility permit is October November.

**College Database**

A meeting was held with the information management company for the College regarding modernizing and upgrading the College database. At the moment, the database captures all of the important and required information. However, the database is disorganized, does not align with current practices of the College, is not synchronized with the complaint process, and is difficult with respect to reporting. Along with the Executive Assistant, Jessica Gumm, we have been identifying and mapping necessary changes and additions to be incorporated in stages throughout this coming year.

**Jurisprudence and Ethics Course Website**

A meeting was held with the information management company for the College regarding the development of a Jurisprudence and Ethics Course Website. At the moment, the network of the College is being upgraded in general with an expected completion date of January 16, 2024, after the completion of the licence renewals. Consequently, that project has been the main priority and the website development has been a lower priority. During the College Database meeting, the information management company was reminded about developing a jurisprudence and ethics course website.

**Registration and Licence Application and Renewal Forms, Change of Practice, and Complaint Forms**

All of the registration and licence application and renewal forms for each category (general dentists, specialists, academic, student, locum, temporary, and associate) have been updated and reformatted to align with the proposed bylaws and current practices of the College.

Also, the College has updated the CDSS Complaint Form to better define the abilities, the procedures, the expectations, and the outcomes of the process.

**Critical Incident Reporting Form and Process Implementation**

Acritical incident is a serious adverse health or procedural event that was unexpected or unanticipated and did not necessarily result from known risks inherent of the procedure that occurred during the provision of any authorized practices.

A reportable incident is an unexpected and unanticipated event resulting in the need for transfer of the care of the patient to another provider, a non-hospital surgical facility, or hospital.

It is mandatory that such critical and reportable incidents be reported to the Registrar.

The mandatory reporting is for quality assurance purposes only, is confidential, and is prohibited from being used as evidence in professional conduct or legal proceedings.

The intention of critical incident reporting is to lead to improvements in patient care and safety and encourage trust in the health care system through transparency.

A critical incident reporting form was developed; a process for reporting, investigation by the quality assurance committee, and determination of findings was implemented, and documentation in a register for review and reporting to Council has been established.

The College will communicate the critical incident process to the registrants in the New Year.

**Complaint Process**

The recent amendments to the Dental Disciplines Act regarding the available powers and actions of the Professional Conduct Committee have now been implemented into the CDSS Complaint Process.

**Standards, Guidelines, and Policies**

The College has communicated to the registrants the introduction of the Criminal Record Check Policy and the amendments to the TMD Standard and the Radiation and Imaging Standard.

**New Registrant Orientation Meetings and College of Dentistry Student Lectures**

While at the CEO and Registrars Meetings, I was able to borrow resources from Manitoba, Alberta, and Nova Scotia to develop orientation presentations for new registrants and regulatory lectures for College of Dentistry students. The goal would be to implement orientation meetings for June and student lectures for September.

**Permanent Licence Numbers**

The information management company had concerns about implementing a permanent licence number with a short timeline to the licence renewal period with respect to database requirements and acceptability concerns from external stakeholders. However, it appears that most of the stakeholders utilize the Dentist Unique Number already, and consequently it is favourable to incorporate the Dentist Unique Number as a permanent licence number in 2024.

**Meetings**

October

CDSPI – How to Avoid and Manage a Complaint

November

5x5 – Jurisprudence and Ethics Course Website Development

Area Practitioner Advisory Committee –

Sask Polytechnic - Dental Assistant Curriculum

NIRO – Umbrella Legislation

Optometry and Chiropractor Associations – Umbrella Legislation

Ministry of Health – Umbrella Legislation

CEO and Registrars Meeting – current and future issues from association and regulator perspectives

December

CDRAF – Provincial Fairness Commissioners Concerns with respect to Credentialing, Licencing, and Mobility

UofS College of Dentistry – Dental Student Curriculum

Saskatchewan Dental Therapist Association – Introduction, Umbrella Legislation, Regulation Issues

Minister of Health – Umbrella Legislation, Amalgamation, Hospital Dentistry

5x5 – College Database Redevelopment

CDSPI – Malpractice Insurance Plan Details

UofS College of Dentistry – Faculty Update

UofS College of Dentistry Dean – CDCP Student Licences, CE Part Time Faculty Request, Remediation Program Development, Student Licence

Respectfully,

Dean Zimmer