

**DENTAL HYGIENE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING 4/7/2026**  
**FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE**

In attendance:

Ms. Crystal Riggs, RDH  
Ms. Kristina Sinhold, RDH  
Ms. Karen Molumby, RDH  
Ms. Laura Hudson, RDH  
Ms. Natalie Schmidt, RDH  
Ms. Danyelle Smith, RDH  
Ms. Jade Chanda, RDH  
Ms. Chris Weygant  
Ms. Selina Martinez, RDH  
Jessica Larson, RDH  
Maddie Millican, Class of 2026  
Macy Shotkowski, Class of 2027  
Dr. Carol Stevens  
Dr. Magdaline Britto  
Dr. Suni Koshy  
Ms. Dejnane Fevrier, RDH  
Ms. Jami Ware, RDH  
Ms. Yessenia Iglesias, RDH  
Ms. Christy Bessette RDH  
Alex Schimel  
Katie Gayle, RDH  
Alyssa Reyes, RDH  
Deborah Santiago Gonzalez, RDH  
Rosa Linda Rego Alvarez, RDH  
Marilyis Nunez, RDH  
Mariela Chavez, RDH  
Jessica Shivers, RDH  
Ms. Johanna Najera, RDH  
Ms. Jade Chanda, RDH  
Ms. Dejnane Fevrier, RDH

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Karen Molumby.

Introductions and Advisory Board Meeting Agenda Review

The meeting began with attendees checking in and being welcomed to the 2026 Advisory Committee meeting. Karen introduced several new members from the Class of 2025, including Katie Gale, Jessica Larson, Alyssa Reyes, Rosalinda Rego Alvarez, Deborah Santiago, Mari Nunez, and Macy Shotowsky (Class of 2027), as well as returning member Maddie for the Class of 2026. The meeting focused on reviewing the minutes from the previous year's meeting, with Karen requesting attendees to review them and prepare to approve the minutes. No questions were raised about the minutes during the

discussion. After a few minutes, Dr. Stevens approved the minutes, and Danyelle Smith seconded the approval.

### **Committee Agenda Topics**

A. Class of 2026 and Class of 2027 Updates:

The meeting focused on updates from the Class of 2026 and 2027. Maddie reported that the Class of 2026 is finishing up board exams and clinical days, with all students having passed their exams. Macy shared that the Class of 2027 is starting finals and looking forward to the summer semester to gain more confidence and experience.

B. FSW College-wide HLC Accreditation site visit: Karen provided an update on the college's accreditation status, noting that the transition from SACS to HLC was approved in February after submission of a required report by CODA.

C. Community Outreach Program Updates

Christy provided a community update on various outreach programs, including participation with WIC, Zion Lutheran School, Cypress Cove Nursing Home, Buckingham, and the Community Oral Health Program at Lighthouse Commons. The main challenge discussed was low patient turnout for the Community Oral Health Program, with only 12 out of 48 registered students attending screenings and implementation. Karen and Alex expressed disappointment about the low participation rate at Lighthouse Commons, which has 500 residents, and discussed potential strategies to improve attendance.

Natalie then reported on the successful Give Kids a Smile Day event on February 28th, where 34 children received dental services including 51 sealants, and students conducted educational activities at Heritage Charter Academy of Cape Coral.

The discussion concluded with Magdaline providing an update on the implementation of PlanMeca MLS intraoral scanners in dental education, describing a gradual progression from student training to clinical use in the summer clinic.

D. Fluoride Treatment Patient Responses

The group discussed experiences with fluoride treatments in dental practices following its removal from public water systems. Most participants reported mixed responses from patients, with about half accepting fluoride treatments and the other half refusing them. Several dentists noted increased patient inquiries about fluoride's benefits and scientific evidence supporting its use.

E. AI Integration in Dental Education

Jami shared that they recently integrated Pearl AI software and are determining the best semester to introduce it to students. The Committee was asked to discuss how their dental offices are utilizing AI software and what recommendations the group would make for us as educators.

The discussion focused on security protocols for AI-generated software, with participants sharing their current practices. Selina described their limited access system, while Marilys mentioned their integration of Urbidea AI into Dentrax software.

The committee encouraged the program to explore the integration of AI technology in education, particularly for student studying and course materials, with feedback indicating students use AI for study scheduling and generating questions from PowerPoint materials. The discussion included insights about AI's potential benefits when used to build analogies and facilitate learning, as long as students can apply their knowledge without relying solely on technology.

Karen raised concerns about HIPAA compliance and patient data security when providing student access to AI tools. The conversation highlighted the need to balance student exposure to AI technology with data protection requirements.

Jessica Shivers discussed her partnership with Pearl and clarified that AI tools integrated with Pearl have HIPAA protection and responsibility. She offered to connect Karen with Sheila, who handles clinical education at Pearl, to provide more information about AI implementation.

F. Accessibility Updates

Karen then updated the group on recent federal accessibility requirements, explaining that all college communications and course materials must now be accessible, and that course syllabi must be published 45 days prior to enrollment.

G. Sociology Program Course Changes

Karen informed the Committee that sociology was removed from general education requirements due to a Department of Education directive, though the specific reason was not provided. Karen also announced that sociology courses can no longer count as general education credits in Florida, though they will remain available as program requirements for dental hygiene students.

H. Application Updates

Karen reports that 108 out of 140 applicants met minimum requirements for the program, with 18 students accepted and 13 already confirming attendance. Karen also updated that Concord's status remains uncertain as they haven't been able to start spring classes due to faculty issues and lack of clarity on clinical timing.

I. Concorde College – Dental Hygiene Program

The group discussed delays to a competitor program at Concord, which has been pushed to September due to high fees and concerns about program quality. Mari reports that students were not informed of the cost by Concorde which is estimated at \$79,000.00 versus \$20,000.00 at FSW.

Another issue this new program has is the lack of instructors to teach at the satellite location.

J. Local Anesthesia Training Enhancement

Deborah suggested adding additional hands-on training sessions where students could practice injections on each other to build confidence. The group discussed the need for more practical experience with local anesthesia during the dental program. Karen agreed to consider implementing this as an exit requirement before graduation. The discussion also touched on how recent graduates are using local anesthesia in their practices, with Marilisy reporting frequent use during SRP treatments, while Laura noted she rarely uses local anesthesia due to lack of confidence. The conversation ended with Kristina asking about the use of lead aprons in dental practices, sharing that her office had removed them with minimal patient complaints.

K. Other Dental Practice Topics Discussion

The group discussed several dental practice topics including lead aprons, irrigation solutions, and implant care. Jami confirmed that lead aprons are no longer required and the clinic doesn't use them. Marilisy raised concerns about chlorhexidine irrigation potentially affecting fibroblast formation after SRP treatments, leading to a discussion where Carol explained that while chlorhexidine does inhibit fibroblasts, its use after scaling and root planning likely doesn't cause harm due to serum flow.

The group also discussed alternative mouth rinses including I/O Rinse and Closys as potential alternatives to chlorhexidine. Regarding implants, Natalie shared that students are seeing more implant cases recently, with one student treating a patient with an upper arch of implant bridges, though the clinic doesn't see a high volume of implant cases overall.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m was approved.

**Respectfully submitted 4/9/2026**

**Karen Molumby**