

The Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure (CMDL) [dentalicensure.org] held its inaugural meeting in October. More than 35 organizations have joined the coalition founded by ASDA, the ADA and ADEA.

The mission of the CMDL is to ensure patient safety, increase access to care, and promote professional mobility by modernizing the dental licensure process. The CMDL has two goals:

- Achieve adoption of valid and reliable examinations for dental licensure that do not involve the use of single-encounter procedure-based examinations on patients.
- Achieve portability of dental licensure among all licensing jurisdictions in the United States for the benefit of the public and the profession.

Today three states, Minnesota, Colorado and Washington accept the Objective Structured Clinical Examination, a non-patient based exam. Oregon has passed legislation to allow this type of examination. Four additional states, New York, Ohio, Connecticut and California accept completion of a PGY1 residency or portfolio review as a pathway to initial licensure.

The first meeting focused on reviewing the history of the coalition licensure reform success stories and discussing the most effective strategies for achieving reform in each state. Craig McKenzie, ASDA President and current Coalition Executive Committee representative, shared this about the meeting: “[It] was invigorating. It demonstrated just how far our profession has come. Success stories from students, faculty and practitioners left attendees not only inspired, but with a detailed action plan to bring about change. I hope that organizations continue to join the coalition and I look forward to achieving reform in every state.”

ASDA chapters will have access to toolkits to support advocacy for state licensure change. In states ready for licensure reform, ASDA chapters will be invited to stakeholder meetings. “The climate for change to eliminate the single-encounter procedure-based exam and to expand portability is here to stay,” said McKenzie.

Read ASDA’s monthly Advocacy Briefs [<https://www.asdanet.org/utility-navigation/Publications/E-newsletters/Advocacy-Brief>] and watch for Action Alerts via email for breaking licensure news.