

**NH BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

**121 S. FRUIT STREET, SUITE 302**

**CONCORD, NH 03301-2412**

**MONDAY, April 6, 2020**

**PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Puneet Kochhar, DMD, President of the NH Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”), convened a public meeting of the New Hampshire Board of Dental Examiners on April 6, 2020 at 3:03pm. Due to the current state of Emergency, the meeting was held electronically, via Zoom technology, with the following members present:

Puneet Kochhar, DMD, President (PK)  
Dennis Hannon, DDS, Vice President (DH)  
Muhenad Samaan, DMD (MS)  
Lisa Scott, RDH (LS)  
Ellen Legg, RDH (EL)  
Linda Tatarczuch, MSW, Public Member (LT)  
Tara Levesque Vogel, DMD (TV)  
Roger Achong, DMD (RA)  
Jay Patel, DDS (JP)

Attendees: Christine Senko, Administrator

Other Public Members present: Myra Nikitas, RDH; Barbara Stowers, RDH; Deb Albright, RDH; Sally Garhart, MD; Lori Pelke, RDH; Mike Auerbach

1. **Review of Public Minutes –March 2, 2020:** Upon motion by PK and seconded by MS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes as submitted. RA and JP abstain.
2. **Review of Public Minutes – March 17, 2020.** Upon motion by LS and seconded by EL, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes as submitted. MS and DH abstain.
3. **Readopt Rules – Den 401.03, 402.01, 403.03 and 403.07 –** The changes to the Den Rules (400s) were presented. It was noted that these rules have been reviewed and approved by the board and reviewed by JLCAR and the next step is to record the Boards vote to adopt these revised rules. Members discussed the revisions and it was noted by EL that in Den 403.03(a) (and 403.03 (b)), *should state 2 CEUs shall be earned in Medical Emergency Training in a live or on-line course*. Members discussed whether or not the words: *in a live or on-line course* were needed; it was indicated, the recommended change does not necessarily change the meaning of 403.03 (a), as we would interpret the emergency medical training could be live or on line (without the words being present). However the consistency with the requirement of the infection control course *in which live or on-line course* is indicated is preferred.

Upon motion made by EL and seconded by LT, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to adopt the rules with the recommended change, if the change can be made without delaying the approval process of the revisions. If the change cannot be made, then the Board unanimously by roll call adopts the rules as submitted.

#### **4. Update Dental Hygienist Committee (DHC)**

- a. Minutes from the March 2, 2020 meeting – Upon motion by LS and seconded by MS, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as submitted.
- b. Report from Committee – Myra Nixon, RDH reported the following:
  - i. The committee is addressing questions from an EMT instructor who may be developing a course for dental offices to address this medical emergency training requirement.
  - ii. NPI Communication - a draft was presented that the Committee develop to use as a communication tool for hygienists to apply for an NPI number in order for the hygienists to be identified as prescribing providers. A change was suggestion to the third paragraph to avoid confusion.
  - iii. EFDA Application – changes were presented to this application based on changes in the CEU requirements. It was not that the rules will need to be checked to determine what other steps need to be taken to implement this change.

Upon motion made by PK and seconded by LT, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the report and recommendations from the DHC.

#### **5. Dental Society Update** – Mike Auerbach, Executive Director, NH Dental Society, provided the following comments:

- a. As you know, the NHDS has recommended that New Hampshire dentists continue to see only emergency patients through May 4.
- b. Dental practices who have adopted these recommendations are experiencing great hardship at present – many dentists, hygienists, assistants and practice managers have been laid off, furloughed or given greatly reduced hours. The financial impacts on dentists will be experienced for a long time after they go back to work.
- c. We are greatly concerned about the shortage of PPE – specifically N95 masks – that are helping our dentists see emergency patients who otherwise would go to overtaxed hospital ERs.
- d. NHDS is appreciative to the Board for its flexibility in helping dentists renew their licenses in March. We are hopeful that all qualified dentists’ licensure is up to date despite the pandemic’s impacts.
- e. We have a concern about D4 students who are scheduled to graduate in May and hopefully enter the NH dental workforce. Has the Board seen (or does it expect to see) any disruption in licensure for pending graduates in light of COVID-19?
- f. NHDS is grateful for the allowance of billable teledentistry through commercial insurance and Medicaid.
- g. Given the impacts of the pandemic on continuing education, does the Board plan to approve a larger percentage of online CE, during and after the pandemic?
- h. Finally, the NHDS is happy to work with the Board to help our dentists and hygienists find as much relief as possible during this challenging time. If the Board has any initiative designed to help dentists continue to function despite the ongoing financial and logistical difficulties, please let me know.

Members engaged in a conversation regarding some of these points and the current state of emergency. It was noted that some live patient exams are being deferred. Some dental students are graduating on time if they have completed their requirements. Deb Albright, RDH, indicated they are seeking waivers to the live patient exam for this year’s graduating class. RSA 317.A.21(a) defines the exam requirements for hygienists. It was also reported

that some students cannot take the computer portion of the ADEX exam and some cannot complete the process of the clinical portion.

Den 215.01 addresses petitions for waivers. Licensees may request waivers to rules following Den 215.01. The Board can receive and review these waivers. It was noted that licensees cannot request waivers to the statute.

6. **Commission on Dental Competency Assessment (CDCA) Update** – currently closed for examinations.
7. **Board Administrative Office Report** – Chris Senko, Administrator, provided the following comments and updates.
  - a. **Investigator Request for Proposal Process** – a proposal was presented for review. LT indicated that the applicant requested that her application be kept confidential and that this was a public meeting. LT asked that the applicant be informed that the process is to be discussed in the public forum prior to any further discussion. CS indicated she would contact the applicant.
  - b. **COVID 19 Information** – Information has been added to the FTP Secure site from different organizations regarding current initiatives.
8. **Teledentistry Discussion – information items**
  - a. **Smile Direct** – the visit and presentation from Smile Direct representatives is being rescheduled to June or July.
  - b. **The TeleDentists** – this organization is reaching out to State Boards to collaborate and provide opportunities for dentists in private practices to see patients through alternative methods, other than an office visit.
  - c. **Northeast Delta Dental and Vitrucent** – information was circulated regarding provisions on telehealth and methods to share information. It was noted the Boards website will have the most current information.
9. **CEU Process, Extension and/or Recommended Changes** – Members discussed at length the current state of emergency and the impact on dental providers, specifically as it relates to meeting CEU requirements. The renewal process will be over on April 30 and the CEU audit is expected to begin in May. Providers indicate on their renewal application whether or not they have completed the 40 required CEUS. However, no documentation is required unless a provider is randomly audited. Some have expressed concern that they have not met the requirement due to conference cancellations. Providers are being directed to complete the renewal application and indicate if their CEU is incomplete. Members discussed changing the rules to increase the amount of allowable on-line credits, delaying the audit, and/or extending the time period to submit information. LT reported that the Board of Medicine recently voted to extend the period for those licensees until June 30, 2020 for the 2018-2019 reporting period.

Upon motion made by TV and seconded by EL, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to allow licensees to submit a request, by contacting the Board office, to waive the CEU requirement for this biennium reporting period. The licensee is also required to provide documentation of registration of the course as well as cancellation due to COVID 19 concerns.
10. **Blake Wullbrandt, DDS – Reschedule Hearing Date** - Members discussed rescheduling the continuance of Dr. Wullbrandt’s hearing. Hearing Counsel submitted, and Respondent’s

Counsel agreed to defer until late May due to Hearing Counsel's availability. Members discussed holding the hearing on July 17 or July 24.

## 11. Licensure and Reports

### A Dentist Applications Approved

- i. Sunny T.X. Gaudet, DMD
- ii. Andrew M. Janiga, DMD
- iii. Mahek H. Mehta, DMD
- iv. Kelsey K. Ro, DMD

Dr. Samaan reported that he continues to approve the applications when they are complete and forwarded from OPLC. Upon motion made by PK and seconded by JP, the Board voted unanimously to approve the applications as presented.

### B Hygienist Applications Approved

- i. Nina C. Gosselin, RDH
- ii. Vang K. Le, RDH
- iii. Erin N. Murphy, RDH
- iv. Ann Marie Renaud, RDH
- v. Christina M. Woodd, RDH

Lisa Scott reported that she continues to approve the applications when they are complete and forwarded from OPLC. Upon motion made by PK, and seconded by JP, the Board voted unanimously to approve the applications as presented.

### C. Anesthesia/Sedation Permits

- i. Anesthesia/Sedation Evaluation Chart #20-88
- ii. Comprehensive Evaluations for General Anesthesia/Deep Sedation permits for:
  1. Imran Ahson, DMD, MD
  2. Jonathan Bean, DMD
  3. Cameron Braasch, DMD
  4. Nader Moavenian, DDS
  5. Jesse Snow, DMD
  6. Gopi Voonna, DDS

Upon motion made by PK and seconded by JP, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve items listed in C.i and C.ii above.

- iii. Lily Hu, DMD – Application for General Anesthesia/Deep Sedation Permit (#20-64)

It was noted that Dr. Hu's application would require an additional facility inspection for her additional anesthesia permit.

Upon motion made by PK and seconded by RA, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to require Dr. Hu to obtain a facility inspection for the new permit.

12. **Resource Information submitted by NH Physician Health Program (NHPHP)** – Dr. Garhart, Medical Director of the NHPHP was present to report that she is seeing an increasing amount of

stress management related issues from providers. A list of resources was provided and will be available to all providers on the website.

At 4:24 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, the Board voted by roll call to go out of public session and into non-public session because public disclosure may render a proposed action ineffective or adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a Board member.

At 4:58 p.m., the Board voted by roll call to go out of non-public meeting and into public session.

Dr. Kochhar adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.