

NH BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

7 Eagle Square, Suite 300

CONCORD, NH 03301

MONDAY, August 3, 2020

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Puneet Kochhar, DDS, President, the NH Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”), convened a public meeting of the Board on August 3 at 3:05p.m. Due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. There is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor’s Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, it was confirmed that public access to the meeting by telephone or other electronic means was possible. Zoom teleconferencing technology was in use for this electronic meeting.

All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 646 558 8656, or by clicking on the following website address:

<https://zoom.us/j/91068129748?pwd=MGoxMmhWWjYUVpZQ3haUS93TnZ6UT09>

Meeting ID: 910 6812 9748

Passcode: 867131

Public notice with the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonic instructions have also been provided on the website of the Board at: <https://www.oplc.nh.gov/dental-medicine/index.htm>. Additionally, the public notice indicated to contact Christine Senko at 271-7618 or Christine.Senko@oplc.nh.gov if there were problems with access.

It was noted that no one from the public expressed issues in accessing the meeting platform. In the event the public was unable to access the meeting, the meeting would have been adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that **all votes** taken during this meeting were done by **roll call vote**. The following members announced their presence and confirmed no one else was in the room with them:

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

Attendees: Christine Senko, Administrator

1. **Review of Public Minutes –July 3, 2020:** Upon motion by LT and second by EL, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes as submitted. TV abstain.

2. **Update Dental Hygienist Committee (DHC) and NH Dental Hygienist Association (NHDHA)**

- a. Minutes from the July 3, 2020 Dental Hygiene Committee (DHC) - Upon motion by EL and second by LS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes as submitted. TV abstain.
- b. Report from DHC – Myra Nikitas, RDH reported the following:
 - i. The committee has been informed that the Pharmacy rules are in place, however the question remains as to whether or not RDHs have been added as prescribers. This is being researched.
- c. Report from New Hampshire Dental Hygiene Association (NHDHA) – Myra Nikitas, RDH, President, NHDHA reported the following:
 - i. The spring conference was held virtually.
 - ii. Job vacancies are beginning to be posted through the NHDHA website

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

- The NHDS Foundation met last week, and during the meeting elected Dr. Donna Kalil as President and Dr. James DeLeo as Vice President.
- The NHDS is pleased to announce that last week, Governor Sununu signed into law two very important bills for dentists: first, a bill expanding telehealth and teledentistry in New Hampshire; and second, a bill that prevents insurers from setting rates on non-covered services. We are grateful for the coalitions that worked with NHDS to ensure passage of these important bills.
- The NHDS would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Tara Levesque-Vogel for her service to the Board of Dental Examiners and to dentists around New Hampshire. We wish her all the best and look forward to working with her outside the Board.
- NHDS President Dr. Josh Osofsky will begin his Presidential Visits in September. It is likely at this point that he will be conducting these meetings online.

4. **Board Office Comments**

- A. Election of Board President and Board Vice President- All members voted via email and Ellen Legg, RDH has been appointed as Vice President and Puneet Kochhar, DMD as President.
- B. Vacancies on Board – Notification of two current vacancies has been posted on the website. Interested individuals are to submit letter of interest, CV and recommendation letters. Chris Senko will instruct them on the process.

5. **Temporary License Process and Other New Graduate Topics:**

- A. Executive Order (EO) #29, Exhibit N - Members were presented with information on EO #29, Exhibit N, allowing a temporary license to be issued to those applicants for both dental and hygiene who meet all qualifications and are waiting to take a clinical exam either with a manikin or live patient. Once the clinical exam is successfully completed, then the permanent license will be issued.
- B. Request from Gary Lindner – Dr. Linder wrote expressing concern over 2020 hygienist graduates and their ability to obtain a license. He will be forwarded Executive Order #29, Exhibit N.
- C. Information from JCNDE – members reviewed and discussed. No action needed.

D. Letter from Deb Albrecht – members reviewed the request from Deb Albrecht, to grant licensure to qualified 2020 hygiene graduates. However, given the recent approval of EO #29, N there was no need to take action on this request.

6. **Motion to Waive Den Rule 302.06 (j) and comments from Board Attorney** – Members reviewed the comments submitted by Attorney Lavallee and Chris Senko regarding the motion made to waive the requirements of Den 302.06 (i) to allow a graduate of a CODA accredited dental hygiene program who passed the written ADEX exam, and who is functioning as a dental assistant, to perform radiology functions. It was noted that before a Board can waive a substantive rule, it must provide affected parties with notice and an opportunity to be heard pursuant to Den 215.01 (f). It was noted that the temporary license process will assist those hygiene graduates functioning as a dental assistant.
7. **Proposal for Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) and licensure requirements for supervision** – Dr. Steffany Chaumt submitted an inquiry regarding licensure requirements for graduates who did not attend a CODA accredited school. She is working on a training grant through Harvard Dental School for additional post graduate training programs to address oral health in rural areas. Members discussed and agreed that she should be directed to RSA 317-A:20, IIb , IIIId. Chris Senko will respond back to her with this information.
8. **Mandatory Infection Control for Dental Assistants** – Janice Negron, CDA and President of the NH Association of Dental Assistants submitted a request for the Board’s support to increase the standard of infection control education for dental assistants. Members discussed at length and although Dental Assistants are not licensed in NH, the training qualifications are define din the Administrative Rules.

Upon motion by MS and second by EL, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to recommend all clinical staff in office take an infection control course adhering to the latest CDC recommendations.

9. **Teledentistry** – It was reported that representatives from Smile Direct will be contacted to see if they are available for the August 31, 2020 meeting.

New Business:

10. Steering Committee for ADEX exam – Dr.Patel reported that CDCA (dental) has been administering the Typodont exam. A recent presentation was held to show what states are doing for the exam requirements.
11. NH Physician Health Program (NHPHP) Update – Dr. Sally Garhart, Medical Director of the NH PHP provided an update on the NHPHP. A change in the previous decision was made and the contract was awarded to the NHPHP. The NHPHP will also be supporting other boards within OPLC. Dr.Garhart will be looking at reports and design of the reports and mentioned that if anyone is interested in being involved, to reach out to her. It was also reported that HB 15-20 may create a nonlapsing fund; which may result in fee reductions for the NHPHP.

12. **Licensure and Reports**

A. **Dentist Applications Approved**

Balsom, Mia, A, DMD	04577
Brann, Julie L. DMD	04576
Garcia, David, A, DMD	04581
Khan, Mona, N, DDS	04575
Lamontagne, Kathleen C, DMD	04578
Senkiw, Katie M, DMD	04574
Stevens, Michael, T, DMD	04580
Yang, Fan, DDS	04573

B. **Hygienist Applications Approved**

Boisselle, Tessa, M, RDH	03639
Buzzell, Greta, E., RDH	03643
Brown, Bonnie L, RDH	03641
Clinton, Brianna, E., RDH	03640
Mccarthy, Laura A, RDH	03642

Upon motion by EL and second by LS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the report of items A- B above.

C. **Anesthesia/Sedation permits and updates**

1. **Stiefel, Kyle, DMD** (application for 4 permits)(#20-182) – Upon motion by TV and second by LS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve Dr. Stiefel’s applications.
2. **Jason Lee, DMD** (application for 2 permits #20-183) – Upon motion by LS and second by TV, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve Dr. Lee’s applications.

D. **August 2020 Public Health Summary Reports**– Upon motion by TV and second by MS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the report.

13. **OPLC Presentation and Legislative Priorities** – Lindsey Courtney, Executive Director of OPLC provided a detailed update on recent activities within OPLC. The power point presentation will be forwarded to members. The update included information on the recent office relocation to Eagle Square, the budget process, personnel reorganization, the strategic plan, legislative priorities. The strategic plan includes goals to move more functions to electronic methods, reduce time frame for licensure and renewal, reduce time frame to process complaints and investigations. The reorganization includes three divisions of the OPLC agency: licensure, board administration and enforcement. Legislative priorities include revisit SB 576, HB1520 (NHPHP), and creating one process for investigations.

Members were informed that if the Board has any legislative priorities, that the deadline is October. It was noted that legislation to license Dental Assistants may be a priority.

14. **Dr. Vogel** – It was noted that this is Dr. Vogel’s last meeting. Members expressed their gratitude to Dr. Vogel for her years of service to the Board and wished her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

At 3:59 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), and upon motion by TV, and second by MS, the Board voted unanimously 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 5:07 p.m., upon motion by PK and second by MS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to go out of non-public meeting and into public session.

Dr. Kochhar adjourned the meeting at 5:45p.m.