



May 4, 2023, DHC Meeting Minutes

Dental Hygienists Committee

May 4, 2023 at 2:00 PM EDT

@ OPLC - 7 Eagle Square, Concord, NH 03303 - Meeting in person required

Attendance

Present:

Members: Virginia Moore, Jay Patel, Jennifer Pearl, Barbara Stowers

Guests: Jessica Whelehan - Board Administrator, Bethany Cottrell

Absent:

Members: Mary Duquette

I. Call to Order

Barbara Stowers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm.

II. Approval of Public Minutes

Motion:

Approve the April 6, 2023, public minutes as submitted.

Motion moved by Jay Patel and motion seconded by Virginia Moore. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business - No Items

A. Observations No. 25 and 26 - LBA Audit

1. Items from Committee for review (no items received)

The Committee discussed the research they had completed over the past month. It was noted that a large majority of the States researched did not permit local anesthesia or nitrous oxide. Several States did place the responsibility of hygienists administering local anesthesia or nitrous oxide on the supervising dentist, requiring that the dentist verify that the hygienist was qualified, and be able to provide proof of those qualifications if requested by their governing Board. The Committee discussed whether the permits should be continued in NH. Virginia Moore noted that the permit was a point of pride, and she felt that people who had worked towards that goal would be disappointed if they no longer had the certificate to show for their effort. Jay Patel said he

understood wanting to display the proof of their efforts, in the form of a permit, but also noted that he felt like it made sense to make the administration of local anesthesia and/or nitrous oxide a duty that was simply allowable under the supervision of a dentist. He noted that, by making this just another “qualification”, it would allow the Board to develop rules, or use the rules already in place, with some edits, and would not require a legislative change, nor would it be in violation of the current practice act. Bethany Cottrell, OPLC, noted that rule Den 302.05 (i) and (j) provided a framework for local anesthesia and did not appear to require that the Board issue permits whatsoever, highlighting that rule Den 302.05 (k) presented an option for obtaining a permit. Similarly, Den 302.05 (l), (m), and (n) detailed notorious qualification and administration, and Den 302.05 (o) presented an option for obtaining the permit. Virginia noted that the rules do state that the hygienist must display the permit, if obtained. She also stated that there were still some hygienist licenses, such as hers, that were not displaying the permits attached to the license, while some of her peers had licenses, newly renewed, that displayed the attached permits. Bethany stated she would look into this issue. The Committee agreed to consider suggesting rules changes to the Board, drafted by Jay Patel, that would eliminate the permit, while still providing the qualification framework, as well as the details surrounding supervision from the dentist.

IV. New Business

A. OPLC Update regarding Press Releases and Notice of Emergency Orders (Bethany Cottrell)

Bethany Cottrell introduced herself to the Committee. She informed them that she has been working on improving communications between OPLC and the stakeholders/licensees. To that end, a Public Information Officer has been hired, and the members are sure to see an increase in communications from office regarding rules changes, procedural changes, etc. The Committee thanked Bethany and agreed that communication improvements were long overdue.

V. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm.