

**UNAPPROVED DRAFT**  
**NH BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**  
**7 Eagle Square, Suite 300**  
**CONCORD, NH 03301**  
**MONDAY, October 5, 2020**  
**PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Puneet Kochhar, DDS, President, the NH Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”), convened a public meeting of the Board on October 5, 2020 at 3:06 pm. 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:

Join Zoom Meeting

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83002394202?pwd=N2dQSXZJRjlldmNyUjV1MUN3N0pPQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 830 0239 4202**

**Passcode: 315724**

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](mailto: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)

Attendees: Christine Senko, Administrator

1. **Review of Public Minutes –August 31, 2020:** Upon motion by LT and second by EL, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes of the August 31, 2020, meeting as submitted. It was noted that the Board agenda referenced Dental Hygiene Society rather than Association. The agenda will be corrected to reflect Association.
  
2. **Update Dental Hygienist Committee (DHC) and NH Dental Hygienist Association (NHDHA)**
  - a. Minutes from the August 31, 2020 Dental Hygiene Committee (DHC) - Upon motion by LS and second by EL, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes as submitted.
  - b. Report from DHC – Myra Nikitas, RDH reported the following:
    - i. The hygienists on line renewal is being started. An email blast is being prepared that will include information regarding CEU requirements outlined in Executive Order #29 and the new requirement of Medical Emergency education. Also included will be information regarding NPI and prescribing abilities.
    - ii. Oral facial myology certification is being researched by the committee members as an option.
  - c. Report from New Hampshire Dental Hygiene Association (NHDHA) – Myra Nikitas, RDH, President, NHDHA reported the following:
    - i. The educational calendar now includes an on-line medical emergency course that will be held October 20, 2020.
  
3. **Dental Society Update** – Mike Auerbach, Executive Director, NHDS submitted the following comments:
  - NHDS Presidential Visits began last month, with all meetings conducted in an online setting.
  - Dentists and dental team members on Friday heard from NHTI that it was canceling its sealant course amid concerns about COVID-19 and aerosols. As this and other training courses offered by NHTI are essential to maintaining a qualified workforce of hygienists, EFDAs and dental assistants, the NHDS is reaching out to NHTI to offer our assistance.
  - Over the last few weeks, NHDS has been working with DHHS to obtain and distribute among dentists 1,000 bottles of disinfectant. This area is one of particular need among dentists – we have already exhausted our supply and have ordered more.
  - NHDS is preparing our online Fall/Winter Annual Meeting on November 6. CE programs will be virtual, as will our Annual Business Meeting.
  - Members are still reporting shortages of dental assistants and dental hygienists. We are working with area educational institutions to increase training and recruitment initiatives.
  - Earlier this year, NHDS endorsed Ms. Jessica Card for the BoDE’s open RDH position. However, Ms. Card withdrew her candidacy, due to the fact that she changed positions during the delays caused by the pandemic. Last week, NHDS submitted its endorsement of Virginia Moore as a candidate for the position.
  - Finally, NHDS is submitting Dr. John Girald (former supervising dentist at NHTI and two-term NHDS Secretary-Treasurer) as our endorsed candidate for an open position for a general dentist on the NH Board of Dental Examiners.

At 3:24 p.m. the Board voted by roll call to recess the public meeting for the purposes of consulting with legal counsel. At 3:50 p.m., the Board voted by roll call to resume public session.

4. **Smile Direct Presentation – Susan Greenspon, Chief Legal Officer and EVP, Business Affairs and Jeffrey Sulitzer, DMD, Chief Clinical Officer-** Susan Greenspon and Dr. Sulitzer provided an overview of the business model of Smile Direct, the mission of Smile Direct and discussed several myths and truths relative to teledentistry. Information was provided on the safety of teledentistry and the providers. It was reported that 85 % of individuals suffer from some type of malocclusion and only 1 % have access to treatment. Smile Direct includes in its mission to increase access to dental care for individuals.

Lisa Scott requested a list of NH licensed providers. Ms. Greenspon indicated that several providers are licensed in NH however, Smile Direct is not releasing a list because of current anti-competitve litigation occurring in other states.

Dr. Kochhar explained that some of the concerns with this virtual model is patients not knowing who their dentist is, how the patient is clinically cleared for a treatment, the referral process and how to assign accountability when a patient complaint is presented to the Board. It was explained that Smile Direct communicates directly with a patient, a dentist performs an assessment. The patient knows who the treating dentist is and the license number. The treating provider may be licensed in NH but working out of state. Additionally, Smile Direct will only accept mild to moderate cases. It was also reported that performing x ray functions is decided after the dentist reviews the complaint, the medical history and the dental history.

The topic of teledentistry will continue to be discussed at future meetings.

5. **Board Office Comments**

A. **Changing Roles** - CS indicated that Jeanne Clement is transitioning into a different role within OPLC. She will be working with Attorney Broderick on Rules Administration. She continues to assist with some dental board responsibilities such as anesthesia permits and public health. Paula Domenici-Godlove continues to work remotely and processes licenses for dental and other boards.

B. **Vacancies on Board** - It was reported that some information is being received from interested dentists.

6. **Adopt Rules (Survey Rules Den 301.03 and 301.04)** – Members reviewed the language to Den 301.03 and 301.04 as presented from JLCAR. Upon motion made by JP and second from MS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to adopt the rules Den 301.03 and 301.04 as presented.

7. **COVID – 19 Vaccination Proposal from Dr. Pasternack**–Members reviewed and discussed Dr. Pasternack’s request to assure that dental providers will be considered essential healthcare workers in order to obtain the COVID 19 vaccination, when available. Dr. Pasternack reiterated the concern of the risk of transmission within the dental community by either dental team members or patients. Upon motion by MS and second by EL, members voted unanimously by roll call to forward Dr. Pasternack’s request to the Department of Health and Human Services.

8. **AADB Survey-** It was noted that the survey expired. CS will verify if AADB needs the responses from NH.
9. **CDCA Annual Meeting Information** – the meeting is on line and to be held in January.
10. **Email Inquiry from Core Physicians** – members reviewed and discussed at length the request received from Jennifer Daley, RN regarding scope of practice for a dental assistant or hygienist to administer or order medications in an emergency situation. Upon motion by PK and second by MS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to inform Ms. Daley that anyone can administer a life saving drug and to use professional judgement.

**11. Licensure and Reports**

**A. Dentist Applications Approved**

Gulamhussein, Zahra, DMD	04600
Jarvela, J. Scott, DMD	04599
Kikuchi, Ryota, DMD	04598
Nelson, Ayla, DMD	04596
Pradhan Gayatri, DMD	04597

**B. Hygienist Applications Approved**

Aramian, Jill, RDH	03680
Burroughs, Pamela, RDH	03679
Calvagna, Sidney, RDH	03673
Cheever, Hannah, RDH	03675
Colbert, Rebecca, RDH	03678
Corrigan, Danielle, RDH	03674
Daniels, Jessica, RDH	03672
Devoss, Elizabeth, RDH	03668
Francis, Nicole, RDH	03676
Goewey, Julie, RDH	03666
Gough, Jill, RDH	03667
Meisner, Jennifer, RDH	03665
Menesale, Elizabeth, RDH	03670
Rodriguez, Jennifer, RDH	03677
Simeone, Siobhan, RDH	03669
Therrien, Shelby, RDH	03671
Walker, Susan, RDH	03664
White, Krista, RDH	03663

It was noted that these applications were previously approved.

**C. September Public Health Summary Report** - members reviewed the locations. Upon motion by MS and second by LS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the report as presented. Thank you letters will be sent to the locations.

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

1. Zachary Schonfield, DDS
2. Kyle Stiefel, DMD

3. Jason Lee, DMD
4. Anesthesia Sedation Chart

Upon motion by RA and second by LS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the reports and recommendations as presented in Section D above.

12. **Hearing Date**–Blake Wullbrandt, DDS – a date has not yet been determined.
13. **Motion to Continue** – Praveena Bhat, DMD – members reviewed the motion submitted by Dr. Bhat to conduct the hearing until such time that it can be held in person. Upon motion made by MS and second by LT to accept the Motion to Continue and conduct the hearing at such a time that it can be live, the Board discussed and voted unanimously by roll call to deny the motion. Motion failed.
14. **Motion for Pre Hearing Conference** – Praveena Bhat, DMD – Upon motion by PK and second by RA, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the Motions for a Pre Hearing Conference. Motion carried.

At 5:22 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), and upon motion by PK, 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 6:57 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 6:57 p.m.