

NH BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

121 S. FRUIT STREET, SUITE 302

CONCORD, NH 03301-2412

MONDAY, November 2, 2020

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Puneet Kochhar, DMD, President, the NH Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”), convened a public meeting of the Board on November 2, 2020 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/88546817507>

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, DMD, President (PK)
Ellen Legg, RDH (EL)
Linda Tatarczuch, MSW, Public Member (LT)
Roger Achong, DMD (RA)
Jay Patel, DDS (JP)
Muhenad Samaan, DDS (MS)

Absent: Lisa Scott, RDH (LS)

Attendees: Christine Senko, Administrator

1. **Review of Public Minutes –October 5, 2020:** Upon motion by LT and second by EL, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes as submitted:
2. **Update Dental Hygienist Committee (DHC) and NH Dental Hygienist Association(NHDHA)**
–Myra Nikitas, RDH reported the following:

A. **Dental Hygiene Committee** – The committee discussed further investigating RDH certification in orofacial myology. The founder of the IAOH institute is willing to attend a meeting to discuss the concept further. Members of the Board agreed to gather more information. It was uncertain if the Dental Administrative Rules would need to be changed. The committee is also developing an email that will be sent to hygienists regarding renewals that will be sent in January.

B. **NH Dental Hygiene Association** – A virtual education calendar for 2021 is being developed.

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

- The NHDS Annual Fall/Winter Meeting is this Friday, November 6. We will offer online three two-hour CE courses on infection control, team communication and the clinical science behind COVID and its impact on dentistry.
- With COVID-19 cases increasing in New Hampshire and around New England, many dentists are asking about the Board’s policies on online CE after the holidays and New Year.
- Amid a workforce shortage (dental assistants and hygienists), many dentists are asking if the Board can offer any guidance on recruitment from out of state. For example, some dentists are recruiting EFDAs from other states, but are unsure if they may be subjected to different rules in NH. Perhaps the Board can offer its assistance on such issues at least during the pandemic.
- During the ADA’s House of Delegates two weeks ago, delegates voted in favor of statements on vaccinations, teledentistry and point of care testing. To the latter’s end, we are hoping that the NH Board of Dental Examiners can provide for NH dentists its rules and guidelines for Clinical Laboratory Improvements (CLIA).
- ADA is reporting strong positive feedback from the 3 states in which the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Examination (DLOSCE) is now accepted. NHDS invites the Board to learn more about the benefits of the DLSOCE, particularly in light of the ongoing pandemic and its impacts on live patient-inclusive exams.

Earlier in October, the NHDS met with leaders at NHTI to discuss its ongoing issues with assistant and RDH training. We understand that NHTI is working to find a system by which sealant training can continue despite the pandemic. NHDS would therefore like to support the NHTI proposal.

4. Board Office Comments –Chris Senko, Administrator, reported the following:

A. Hygienist Renewals - the process will begin in December. Continuing education credits will be waived through December 31, 2020 pursuant to Executive Order #29, H.

B. Office Structure – the third floor of Eagle Square which houses the licensing and board administration staff was recently reconfigured to be more ADA compliant and to meet the current COVID prevention standards.

5. New Business

A. ADEX Examination –It was previously reported that Ellen Legg, RDH was NH’s representative on the ADEX House of Representatives. However, the Board has recently been informed that a dentist needs to be the representative. Ellen will continue to serve as Hygiene Exam Representative to ADEX. Dr. Kochhar agreed to be the representative and will be forwarded the link for the November 7 webinar.

B. NHTI Sealant Course – Barbara Stowers, RDH provided an update on the COVID related changes occurring at NHTI. A different model that will be temporarily implemented for sealant training during COVID was presented for review. It is currently recommended by NHDHHS to not perform aerosol generating procedures on live patients. Upon motion by MS and seconded by RA, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the NHTI model until such time it is safe to resume training with aerosols.

C. Presentation – NH PHP New Hampshire Professional Health Program - Mary Behnke, RN, Clinical Advocate – Mary provided an overview of the NHPHP. Currently 13 Boards are contracted with NHPHP from OPLC. NHPHP provides management services, support and advocacy for enrolled participants. Testing and treatment fee costs are the responsibility of the provider. Mary noted that the dental community has not had providers volunteer to participate whereas many of the other health care boards have. It was noted that the OPLCs websites are being updated and a consistent message regarding the NHPHP will be present. Ellen indicated that the monthly reports received by the Board do not indicate who or how someone is referred and whether or not that individual is in compliance. Members discussed the reports and inquired if there was any plan to change them. Chris volunteered to work with Mary and Sally.

6. Review of Executive Order #29, Exhibit H:

The waivers to continuing education were briefly discussed. This change does address the questions for accepting remote learning, including webinars for credit. It was noted that the audit for the dentist renewal period ending 4/1/20 does not need to occur.

7. CDCA Testing and Manikins

Members discussed past decisions by the Board regarding allowing exams to be accepted in which a manikin is used instead of a live patient. The CDCA reports a 96 % pass rate with the manikin. It was determined that no permanent decision has been made by the board in accepting manikins. The temporary license process allows for a manikin. The topic of manikins will continue to be discussed at future meetings.

8. Licensure and Reports

a. Dentist Applications Approved

Bahri, Ritika, DMD	04607
Bholla, Pradeep, DMD	04602
Billingsley, Allison, DMD	04604
Malhotra, Sumeen, DMD	04606
Shah, Andrea, L.H., DMD	04601
Stone, Margaret, DDS	04608
Wright, Aimee, DMD	04605
Yazdani, Ali, DDS	04603

Upon motion by MS and seconded by JP, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to ratify the approval of Dr. Yazdani’s license.

b. Hygienist Applications Approved

Beam, Mallory, RDH	03682
Clark, Megan, RDH	03686
Collins, Brenda, RDH	03687
Colon, Angelita, RDH	03690
Esposito, Courtney, RDH	03685
Griffin, Alison, RDH	03692
Hardie, Emma, RDH	03683
Hemenway, Molly, RDH	03684
Levreault, Jennifer, RDH	03693
Lindh, Katie, RDH	03688
Traniello, Emily, RDH	03691
Vaara, Caitlyn, RDH	03681
Zahner, Brenda, RDH	03689

c. Public Health Summary Report – Upon motion by EL and seconded by JP, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the report as submitted.

d. Anesthesia/Sedation –

a. Paul Mathew, DDS Comprehensive Evaluation - Moderate Sedation Unrestricted
Upon motion by MS and seconded by JP, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the application of Dr. Mathew as recommended by Dr. Crowley.

b Jesse Snow, DMD (Exeter Dental Implant & Oral Surgery Center)

- Dr. Crowley’s recommendation (Dr. Jesse Snow)

Upon motion by MS and seconded by EL, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the application of Dr. Snow as recommended by Dr. Crowley.

c. Dave Pak, DMD (Exeter Dental Implant & Oral Surgery Center)

- Dr. Crowley’s recommendation (Dr. Dave Pak)

Upon motion by RA and seconded by JP, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the application of Dr. Pak as recommended by Dr. Crowley.

d Lily Hu, DMD (Zirceteeth of NH)

- Dr. Crowley’s recommendation (Dr Lily Hu – Zirceteeth of NH)

Upon motion by MS and seconded by EL, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the application of Dr. Hu as recommended by Dr. Crowley.

e. Jason Lee, DMD (Aspen Dental Concord and Aspen Dental Rochester)

- Dr. Crowley’s recommendation (Dr Jason Lee – 2 permits)

Upon motion by EL and seconded by MS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the application of Dr. Lee as recommended by Dr. Crowley.

9. Hearing Date – Praveena Bhat, DMD

The Prehearing will be held in December and the hearing will be held in January or February.

At 4:19 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), and upon motion by PK, second by LT, 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 5:56 p.m., upon motion by RA and second by EL, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to go out of non-public meeting and into public session.

Dr. Kochhar adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.