

**NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS
DENTAL HYGIENISTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, March 7, 2022**

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

The March 7, 2022, meeting of the Dental Hygienists Committee (hereinafter, DHC), New Hampshire Board of Dental Examiners (hereinafter, the Board), was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Barbara Stowers, RDH, Acting Chair, with the following members present:

In person:

Barbara Stowers, RDH	(BS)
Jacqueline Harrison, RDH	(JH)
Virginia Moore, RDH	(VM)
Jay Patel, DMD	(JP)
Mary Duquette, RDH	(MD)

Members absent:

(none)

Guests: Jessica Whelehan, Senior Board Administrator, Jenna Wilson, Board Administrator II

Upon motion from BS, second from VM, the DHC voted to accept the February 7, 2022, meeting minutes as presented; JP and MD abstained.

New /Old Business:

1. Upon motion from BS, second from MD, the DHC voted unanimously to elect JH as the new Chair, effective following the meeting.
2. BS stated that she had recently had an opportunity to meet the New Hampshire Community Dental Health Coordinator. In discussion with this person, it became clear that they are a hygienist, and that the classes that were being offered through the ADA required it be a hygienist. JH did ask if the coursework was more clinical or “back of house” administrative stuff.
3. The Dental Assistant program, to be offered through the New Hampshire Dental Society, was discussed. It was noted that it was difficult to locate information on this program through the NHDS website, and Mike Auerbach had been asked to provide more detail.
4. JH brought up the rules discussion, asking the DHC to continue evaluating the hygienist duties section of the Dental rules. In addition to the changes to 402.01 (a) (6) suggested last month (“Assess periodontal structures and conditions and document all findings; Perform comprehensive assessments of periodontal structures and conditions and document all findings; to include perform comprehensive periodontal exams, subgingival tracking, and staging and grading.”). The use of the word “comprehensive” was discussed at length, noting that the addition of the word comprehensive would not necessarily make the patient experience any different or any safer. Additionally, it was noted that the word comprehensive may create more issues from an enforcement perspective. On motion from BS, second from JP, the DHC voted unanimously to leave the rule as is.

5. The DHC discussed changes to dental hygiene, referencing the use of lasers. The DHC briefly discussed adding lasers to the rule, however, it was determined that this would ultimately limit what tools hygienists could use.

BS adjourned meeting at 2:56p.m.