

NH BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

7 Eagle Square Suite #300

CONCORD, NH 03301-2412

MONDAY, February 1, 2021

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Puneet Kochhar, DMD, President, the NH Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”), convened a public meeting of the Board on February 1, 2021 at 3:04 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:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86116064134?pwd=dzkvVDJOYkdpbGJXUE5lc29zK1EyQT09>

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)
Lisa Scott, RDH (LS)
Linda Tatarczuch, MSW, Public Member (LT)
Roger Achong, DMD (RA)
Jay Patel, DDS (JP)
Ellen Legg, RDH (EL)
John Giraldo, DMD (JG)
Absent: Muhenad Samaan, DMD (MS) - Absent

Attendees: Christine Senko, Administrator; Jessica Whelehan, Senior Board Administrator

Review of Public Minutes –January 4, 2021: Upon motion by LT and second by JP, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes as submitted.

During the review of the minutes it was noted that Dr. Girald is finishing the term left by Dr. Vogel, ending July 2022.

Update Dental Hygienist Committee (DHC)–Myra Nikitas, RDH reported the following:

- A. Upon motion by EL and seconded by LS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2021 DHC meeting.
- B. The Committee is willing to assist with the CEU audit review and any other review that may be needed as part of the on line renewal process.
- C. The Committee has a vacancy. Chris Senko is researching where the appointments might be in the process.

NH Dental Hygiene Association – nothing new to report.

Dental Society Report – Mike Auerbach, Executive Director, NH Dental Society, provided the following update:

- As you know, NHDS and other oral health stakeholders have appeared before this Board several times over the last few months to address the ongoing dental assistant shortage in New Hampshire. Last week, NHDS, NHTI, the NH Dental Hygienists Association and members of the NH Board of Dental Examiners all convened in a forum to discuss some of the issues that are contributing to this workforce shortage. One of the outcomes of the discussion was utilizing the NHDS Annual Meeting, which takes place from 13-15 May in an online setting, to provide training for dental assistants. The didactic portions of the following courses would be conducted by NHTI faculty during the Annual Meeting, while the clinical portions would be conducted in dental offices. It is our hope that the Board of Dental Examiners will approve these courses, consistent with the requirements of Den.302.06, so that these dental assistants will have the professional skills they will need to perform their enhanced duties:
 - Preliminary Inspection of the Oral Cavity
 - Infection Control and Prevention
 - Placement of Sealants
 - Coronal Polishing
 - Crown and Bridge Placement
 - Administering Nitrous Oxide
 - Radiology
 - Orthodontic Inspection
- Over the weekend, NHDS leaders took part in the ADA First District Roundtable. During this meeting, dental leaders from throughout New England and ADA leadership shared ideas and concerns on a number of major topics, including vaccinations, dental assistant and dental hygiene shortages and ongoing efforts to create a “culture of safety” within dentistry.
- I am pleased to report that vaccinations for all dental team members (Phases 1a and 1b) is ongoing. NHDS continues to work with DHHS to ensure that all relevant dental professionals are successfully getting appointments for 1st and 2nd doses.
- Finally, this Board has voted that administering vaccines is within dentists’ scope of practice. However, DHHS reports that, due to the present shortage of doses, dentists are not presently being recruited to administer. Still, DHHS is aware and appreciative of dental professionals’ interest in volunteering to assist in this effort.

extensive update on vaccination efforts and scheduling providers. Regular updates on this process are being forwarded.

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

- A. Jessica Whelehan, Senior Board Administrator – Chris introduced Jessica to the Board as the new Administrator within OPLC who will be transitioning to Dental and Medicines well as other small boards over the next few months.
- B. Web Design – All of the OPLCs Board web pages are being redesigned to help the public more readily find information.
- C. LBA Audit – Chris reported that the Dental Board audit has begun and that information is provided on a regular basis.
- D. Update, Executive Order #29, H – members inquired as to whether or not this EO has been extended. Upon motion by PK and second by EL, members of the Board voted unanimously by roll call to recommend to the Governor that the requirements for remote continuing education be continued through March 2021.
- E. CDCA Meeting – members who attended agreed that the virtual meeting was ok and the common issues were practicing without a license and telehealth.

6. **Acceptance of Nonpatient Restorative and Periodontal ADEX exam** – members reviewed the minutes from Jun 2020, Executive Order #29, Exhibit N and a few inquiries from dental students regarding this topic. Members discussed at length. Upon motion of PK and second by RA, the Board unanimously by roll call to request the Governor extend the provisions of Executive Order #29, Exhibit N through March 31, 2020.

7. Other New Business and Inquiries

- A. Requests to develop Dental Assistant Schools – members discussed at length the inquiries from dentists to develop dental assistant programs in other areas of the State. Representatives from NHTI were present and indicated that the Business Training Center is one resource available to dentists to help with on the job training in dental hygiene. Members also discussed how these programs would be CODA accredited. It was reported that NHTI’s program is 10 months in duration and meets the CODA accreditation requirements. Members discussed the need to assure that standards are consistent throughout the state to train dental assistants.

Although, dental assistants are not licensed or certified by the state, the Rules do define certain qualifications for dental assistants (Den Rule 302.06) and encourage dentists to be aware of these requirements. The Board does not have jurisdiction over the dental assistant training programs and therefore cannot approve the requests.

Upon motion by PK and second by RA, the Board voted unanimously to send correspondence back to Dr. Perry to inform him of the NHTI programs.

8. Licensure and Reports

Dentists

Agrawal, Priyadarshini, DMD

04624

Amin, Bakr, DMD	04618
Brookings, Robert, DMD	04617
Kallakurchi, Aparna, DMD	04621
Lee, Kugun, DMD	04619
Miskimen Iii, Robert, DDS	04623
Nachawati, Ahmad, DMD	04622
Sajjadi, Azadeh, DMD	04620

Hygienists

Flynn, Heidi, RDH	03702
Shaughnessy, Aimee, RDH	03701
Starbird, Bryanne, RDH	03703

Upon motion by PK and seconded by LS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the applications.

Anesthesia/Sedation –

- a. Request for permit Ashley Pinnette, DDS– Upon motion by LS, and second by RA, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the application as recommended by Dr. Crowley.
- b. Request for permit Jen O’Brien CRNA and Dr. Norris - Upon motion by EL and second by LS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the application as recommended by Dr. Crowley.
- c. Request for permit Greg Aprillano, CRNA and Dr. Wullbrandt – It was noted that this application is on the nonpublic agenda. However, Mr. Aprillano was in attendance at the public meeting and available for any clarifying questions on the application. He answered a couple of questions regarding equipment.

Public Health

- A. Request from John Patrick Ahern, DDS for Webster at Rye Nursing Home – Upon motion by EL and second by LS, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request.
- B. Summary Report – Upon motion by EL and second by LS, the Board voted unanimously to accept and file the report and send thank you notes.

At 4:51 pm, 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 6:49 p.m., upon motion by EL, and second by RA, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to go out of non-public meeting and into public session.

Dr. Kochhar adjourned the meeting at 6:49 pm.