

NH BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

7 Eagle Square Suite #300

CONCORD, NH 03301-2412

MONDAY, April 5, 2021

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Puneet Kochhar, DMD, President, the NH Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”), convened a public meeting of the Board on April 5, 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/84827018993>

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: [Board of Dental Examiners Meeting Information | NH Office of Professional Licensure and Certification](#).

Additionally, the public notice indicated to contact Christine Senko at 271-7618 or Christine.Senko@oplcnh.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)
Muhammad Samaan, DMD (MS)
Howard Ludington, DDS (HL)

Attendees: Christine Senko, Administrator; Jessica Whelehan, Senior Board Administrator;
Victoria Davies, Program Specialist

Review of Public Minutes –March 1, 2021: Upon motion by LS and second by JP, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes as submitted. HL recused.

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

- A. Upon motion by LS and seconded by LT, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 DHC meeting.
- B. The DHC volunteered to assist with the Dental Hygiene audit as they have been appointed to assist in the past. Jes Whelehan advised that more than 75% of the audits had already been reviewed, if that helped the Board make their decision; EL and LS were thanked for their dedication and assistance to getting through the bulk of the auditees CEUs already.
- C. Myra stated she had personally had issues with prescribing supplements, requiring her to go through a dentist on occasion. She elaborated that some pharmacies were not recognizing her NPI, especially with regards to Medicaid patients. PK stated that the Medicaid issue was a known problem when the Pharmacy Board allowed Hygienists to prescribe, and it likely would not be changed. Myra was asked to find out if other hygienists were having this issue as well.

NH Dental Hygiene Association – Myra Nikitas stated the NHDHA is providing a class on Nutrition and why it is important. She also detailed the efforts of the NHDHA to distribute toothbrushes to areas in need.

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

- The NHDS is receiving reports from a number of Member dentists regarding dental practices who, due to corporate policy, do not send digital x-ray images when referring patients. The result is the dentist must retake x-rays or else use an unreliable image. In the interest of patient safety and adherence to our Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, the NHDS is asking the Board of Dental Examiners to examine this issue and, if it so deems necessary, intervene where appropriate in order to ensure the safety of our patients.
- Preparations for the NHDS Annual Meeting are ongoing and increasingly exciting. The event, which will run from 11-15 May, includes training for traditional dental assistants, programs for dental licensure and coding training for dental office staff, along with cutting edge CE presentations for the entire dental team. I will provide for the Board course descriptions for your consideration at the next sitting of this Board.
- Last month, NHDS hosted the New England Dental Leadership Conference, a day-long event designed to foster leadership skills among current and future dental leaders. State Representative William Marsh, State Senator Tom Sherman, ADA Past President Dr. Joe Crowley, ADA House Speaker Dr. Mark Donald and ADA First District Trustee Dr. Rich Rosato were among the panelists at this exceptional program.

5. Board Office Comments –Jes Whelehan, Senior Board Administrator, reported the following:

- A. OPLC website has launched and there are several areas that have already been identified as needing more work; for example, the Agendas do not have a dedicated spot, and navigating

some of the licensing information is proving to be a bit confusing. Jes restated that this was an ongoing process and any issues that the Board found should be forwarded to her so that she could work with the IT team at OPLC to make any changes as needed. She also said that IT could join a meeting to help with any content or navigation questions the Board may have.

B. PK said that the Board members had been fielding some questions regarding licensing concerns, and wanted to know if they should be having applicants reach out to OPLC via email or phone; Chris Senko stated it would be best to advise the public to email OPLC at dental.board@oplc.nh.gov

C. PK asked if the format of the licenses had recently changed as he had seen some of the hygienist licenses this renewal period, and some were different than others, even though they were all recently issued. Chris Senko advised that the format had been changed, and that change may have taken place after the renewal period had opened.

D. LT asked for an updated list of Board members; Chris Senko and Jes Whelehan stated they would make sure a new list was made available.

6. **Discussion – (3) Scope of practice questions** – All discussion points were tabled for discussion during a non-public attorney client privileged meeting

7. **Other New Business and Inquiries** – Lorraine Frey, RDH, LH, Board Certified Orofacial Myologist, presented on Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy. Myra Nikitas added, after the presentation, that this may be something that should be added to the dental hygienist scope of practice in the future.

8. Licensure and Reports

A. Approved licenses:

Dentists (approved licenses)

Bajwa, Tania, DMD	04631
Biron, Gregory, DMD	04634
Elzarka, Mona, DMD	04635
Malmquist, Jeffrey, DMD	04637
McGuire, Brian, DMD	04636
Patel, Neha, DDS	04630
Pyle, Caitlin, DMD	04632
Tase, Rahul, DMD	04633
Tran, Hanh, DMD	04638

Hygienists (approves licenses)

Gagnon, Sabrina, RDH	03721
Gustafson, Christopher, RDH	03720
Karney, Lani, RDH	03717
Kingston, Sarah, RDH	03716
Lacroix, Kerredith, RDH	03719
Switz, Michelle, RDH	03718
Verbitzki, Victoria, RDH	03715

B. The Board discussed the question of mannequin exams, asking what the status of the emergency order was. Attorney Thomas Broderick advised it had officially expired on December 31st,

2020, and was waiting on the Governor's desk for an extension. Deb Albrecht, from NHTI, spoke about the importance of determining if the mannequin exam would be acceptable as they had a class that was soon to be graduating and testing. PK advised that the definition in rules makes it clear that the exams are to be clinical in nature, meaning they are to be on a patient. Deb further advised that the school did not have any patient exams scheduled as they are still not using aerosols, in keeping with the COVID-19 safety protocols. The Board discussed various options with Attorney Broderick and it was ultimately decided that the Board simply needs to wait for a response from the Governor's desk.

C. Licenses for review:

Anesthesia/Sedation – Upon motion by MS, second by LS, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendation from Dr. Karen Crowley to change the Moderate Sedation – Unrestricted permit to General Anesthesia/Deep Sedation for Dr. Jonathan Norris, DDS/Jen O'Brien, CRNA/Montshire Pediatric Dentistry, Keene, NH.

Public Health

(none)

Other Informational

(none)

Scheduled Hearings

(none)

At 4:13 pm, pursuant to RSA 91-A:2. I (b), and upon motion by PK, second by LT, the Board voted unanimously to go out of public session and into a non-public non-meeting.

At 4:53 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 non-public non-meeting 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 7:01 p.m., upon motion by PK, and second by RA, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to go out of non-public session and into public session.

6. **Discussion – (3) Scope of practice questions** – Upon motion by MS and second by LS, the Board voted unanimously to send responses on the Scope of practice question stating that the Board does not interpret Scope of Practice inquires, per RSA 317-A:20.

Upon motion by PK, second by JP, the Board voted to Dismiss the case against Blake Wullbrandt, DDS, with a dismissal letter being issued explaining that the Board, while in the process of keeping the public of NH safe, had inadvertently engaged in ex parte communications, requiring them to dismiss the case. RA, JG, and HL recused.

Dr. Kochhar adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.