

**NH BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

**7 Eagle Square Suite #300**

**CONCORD, NH 03301-2412**

**MONDAY, May 3, 2021**

**PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Puneet Kochhar, DMD, President, the NH Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”), convened a public meeting of the Board on May 3, 2021 at 3:02 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/89472837227>

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 Jessica Whelehan at 603-271-2855 or [jessica.m.whelehan@oplcnh.gov](mailto:jessica.m.whelehan@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)

Jay Patel, DDS (JP)

Ellen Legg, RDH (EL)

John Girald, DMD (JG)

Muhenad Samaan, DMD (MS)

Howard Ludington, DDS (HL)

Absent: Roger Achong, DMD (RA)

Attendees: Christine Senko, Administrator; Jessica Whelehan, Senior Board Administrator;  
Stacie Moeser, DOJ Attorney

**Review of Public Minutes –April 5, 2021 and April 14, 2021:** Upon motion by LT and second by LS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes as submitted.

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

- A. Upon motion by LS and seconded by JP, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 DHC meeting.
- B. The DHC is still waiting on a nomination from the Dental Society, which was lost in the shuffle during the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Mike Auerbach, Executive Director of the NH Dental Society, advised he would send the information again.

**NH Dental Hygiene Association** – Myra Nikitas stated the NHDHA is still working on their calendar for the upcoming year. She also advised they are focusing on more outreach, and have been able to provide goods such as toothbrushes to community health centers. Myra also stated she was going to be presenting on oral hygiene to Dismas, a home for women coming from addiction treatment or incarceration. Myra also brought up the idea of drive-thru screenings and mobile clinics resuming as COVID restrictions are lifted.

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

- We are one week away from the 2021 NHDS Annual Meeting! Our lineup of presenters are keynote speaker Dr. Howard Farran, Dr. Charles Blair, Dr. Natanya Brown, Dr. John Girald, Dr. John Molinari, Dr. Gerard Kugel and Connie Kugel, RDH, and Dr. Daniel Pompa. We are also pleased to announce that ADA President Dr. Dan Klemmedson, President-Elect Dr. Cesar Sabates and Executive Director Dr. Kathleen O’Loughlin will all be on hand to swear in our new Officers and Board during our Saturday Business Meeting.
- The NHDS last week took part in the annual ADA/ASDA Dentist and Student Lobby Day, meeting with the staffs of the NH Congressional delegation. Among the topics discussed were dental student debt, economic recovery for dental practices and legislation that requires health insurance coverage for certain congenital anomalies.
- We are grateful for the leadership of our outgoing President, Dr. Joshua Osofsky, who completes his term next Saturday. We are excited to welcome our newest Executive leaders: President Dr.

Melissa Kennell and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dr. Mark Hartzler, who along with the 2021-2022 Board members will be sworn in next weekend.

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

A. The waiver/refund had largely been completed, with the combined efforts of Jes Whelehan and the OPLC accounting group. It is expected that a few more requests for refunds may trickle in, but there are no more waivers as the renewal period for hygienists is officially closed.

B. PK asked how many hygienists had not renewed; Jes responded that the report she ran in the morning had shown that 20 had not renewed, which EL stated was a higher number than past renewal cycles.

C. EL asked if the issue with the permits (Local Anesthesia/Nitrous Oxide) being displayed on some but not all of the hygienists licenses had been dealt with. She also mentioned the fact that the licenses were not uniform across all licensees. Jes advised that although the inconsistencies were noticeable, and were being dealt with in the future, the permits were not considered a necessary part of the license, and anyone wanting to check to see if an RDH held one of these permits could go to [Verification \(nh.gov\)](https://www.nh.gov) to verify a license and permits. EL also asked about getting all of the licenses to identify the licensees as Registered Dental Hygienist; it was pointed out that the “RDH” designation is on the document already. Jes reassured the Board that the licenses not being uniform was on the OPLC’s radar, and moving forward would hopefully become less of an issue as the process becomes for uniform and efficient. EL voiced concerns that an incorrect license being emailed or printed may lead to a licensee violating RSA 317-A:11, which states that the licenses must be displayed in a conspicuous place in the office in which the licensee works.

D. EL asked about the Standing Orders and any possible changes to the Standing Orders as they were currently written. Not all Board members were able to review the Standing Orders that had been loaded to the Secure Site. Upon motion by EL, second by LS, the Board voted unanimously to table to Standing Order discussion/repeal until the June 7, 2021 meeting.

**6. Discussion – NC Tele-Dentistry** – The Board reviewed the NC Tele-Dentistry bill for informational purposes.

**7. Other New Business and Inquiries** –

A. Dr. Karen Crowley was unable to attend this meeting, but was on the schedule for the June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting.

B. The Board reviewed Governor Sununu’s Emergency Order #29, Exhibit Z, pertaining to mannequin usage in testing, for informational purposes.

C. Deb Albrecht, NHTI, spoke about a letter she had written to the Board. In response to her questions the Board advised that NHTI students would be able to apply for a waiver if the State of Emergency should end before they have been able to take the mannequin test. In response to Deb’s second question, the Board advised that the students would be able to apply for licensure in spite of not receiving their transcripts/diploma until late August, as the rules allow for this type of situation.

D. The Board reviewed Governor Sununu’s Emergency Order #15, specifically in relation to the Emergency Licensing of Dental Students who would not, under normal circumstances, meet the standard for a Dental License in the State of NH. Particular notice was given to the fact that,

under Emergency Order #15, people with a BS in Dental Science, and a Master's of any type, would be able to get an Emergency License to practice in NH if they were licensed first through a handful of other states. By bypassing the stringent requirements NH usually demands, the public was potentially at risk. The Board also reviewed a letter, written collaboratively by Dr. Kochhar with assistance from Thomas Broderick, intended for the Governor. Edits suggested included removing "Us" when talking about CODA accredited schools, and making sure the specific rule was tied into the message. Upon motion by PK, second by EL, the Board voted unanimously to mail the letter, with edits, to Governor Sununu.

**8. Licensure and Reports** - The Board reviewed the "Application Status Report", printed from the MyLicense Office program, showing applications approved and pending. PK asked how the Board would know whether the pending status was due to the applicant or to OPLC. Jes Whelehan advised that the pending status was almost universally due to the applicant or for the applicant's completed information to arrive. Once the licensing staff at OPLC have received the completed information is sent to the Board for review without delay.

**9. Anesthesia/Sedation Permits and Update**— The Board reviewed the request from Dr. Amanda Smith, DMD, to have Greg Aprilliano, CRNA, perform GA/DS services at Nashua Cosmetic and Restorative Dentistry, 1 Trafalgar Square Suite 103, Nashua, NH. It was noted that a permit was not being granted as the Dentist was not asking to administer sedation, but was having an itinerant come into the office for that purpose. Greg Aprilliano, CRNA, having already passed a facility inspection, was accepted as being able to provide GA/DS at the above listed location.

**10. Public Health** (none)

**11. Other Informational** – The Board reviewed the updated address for patients to retrieve their records following the closure of Dr. St. Germain.

**12. Scheduled Hearings** (none)

At 4:21 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 session because public disclosure may render a proposed action ineffective or adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a Board member.

At 5:37 p.m., upon motion by PK, and second by LS, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to go out of non-public session and into public session.

Upon motion by MS, second by EL, the Board voted unanimously to seal the non-public minutes and to maintain the privacy of the items discussed in non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), on the grounds that public disclosure may adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a Board member, or render the proposed action ineffective.

At 5:39 p.m., PK adjourned the meeting.