



**BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS - August 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes**  
Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
8/23/2024 9:00 AMAKDT

## Attendance

**Present:**

Members: Megan Ferguson, Greg Johnson, Christina Hansen, Kenley Michaud, Newell Walther, Dominic Wenzell

**Absent:**

Members: Bradley Heaston, Jesse Hronkin, Jonathan Woller

1. Zoom Information

Board of Dental Examiners is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Board of Dental Examiners

Time: Aug 23, 2024 09:00 AM Alaska

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81336607149?pwd=hM3ueZ1X6S4UEOgdFA6wVcc8CfjxKB.1>

Meeting ID: 813 3660 7149

Passcode: 299706

2. Call to Order/Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Chair Dr. Greg Johnson at 9:02 a.m.

## Attendance

**Present:**

Members: Megan Ferguson, Greg Johnson, Christina Hansen, Kenley Michaud, Dominic Wenzell

**Absent:**

Members: Bradley Heaston, Jesse Hronkin, Newell Walther, Jonathan Woller

A. Ethics Report

Dr. Johnson reported as the designated ethics supervisor for the board he had not received any notification of ethics violations.

B. Review/Approve Agenda

The board reviewed and approved the agenda as written.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE the agenda as written.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Dominic Wenzell. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

C. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the February 23rd, 2024 meeting of the board were not reviewed in time by all board members. The board requests that approval of the minutes at this meeting be tabled, and that staff upload the minutes to OnBoard for a review and vote.

 [DEN - February 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes - DRAFT.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE tabling the February 23rd, 2024 meeting minutes for approval. To be voted on in OnBoard.

Motion moved by Greg Johnson and motion seconded by Dominic Wenzell. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

D. Review Votes on Board Support Letter of HB 314 / SB 225

Following the February 2024 board meeting, the board voted via OnBoard to support sending a letter to the Legislature in support of House Bill 314 / Senate Bill 225. The votes read on the record today were:

Megan Ferguson - YES  
Newell Walther - YES  
Jonathan Woller - YES  
Christina Hansen - YES  
Dominic Wenzell - YES  
Gregory Johnson - YES  
Kenley Michaud - YES

 [DEN Board Ballot - Letter Supporting HB 314 SB 225 Results.pdf](#)

3. Investigative Report (Presenters: Josh Hardy)

A. DEN Board Report

Investigator Hardy presented the report for April 26-August 8, 2024. There are a total of 36 open cases and 5 cases that have been closed. Board member Dominic Wenzell inquired how long PDMP investigations take. Investigator Hardy stated that is a little difficult to say, but that a new PDMP investigator has been hired. He also stated that any cases that have been open for 180 days or more are subject to additional scrutiny.

 [DEN Board Report AUGUST 2024.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE entering Executive Session in accordance with AS 44.62.31 (0) (c) to discuss agenda items 3 B, and 3 B(i).

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Greg Johnson. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

The Board entered into executive session at 9:12 am and returned on the record at 10:06 am. A quorum was maintained, Dr. Walther joined in-person mid session.

## Attendance

### Present:

Members: Megan Ferguson, Greg Johnson, Christina Hansen, Kenley Michaud, Newell Walther, Dominic Wenzell

### Absent:

Members: Bradley Heaston, Jesse Hronkin, Jonathan Woller

#### B. Investigative Memo - R.P. (Executive Session)

 [Investigative Memo to the Board - 2024-000290 PORTER.pdf](#)

 [R.P. Signed Consent Agreement.pdf](#)

##### i. Application Review

 [DEN - R.P. - Dentist by Credentials - Board Packet.pdf](#)

### Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE tabling R.P.'s application, pending information from Investigations

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Dominic Wenzell.  
The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

### Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE entering Executive Session in accordance with AS 44.62.31 (0) (c) to discuss agenda items 3 (C)

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Dominic Wenzell. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote. As the reviewing board member, Dr. Walther was recused from executive session by the board chair. The Board entered into executive session at 10:08 am and returned on the record at 10:18 am. A quorum was maintained.

## Attendance

### Present:

Members: Kenley Michaud, Megan Ferguson, Greg Johnson, Christina Hansen, Newell Walther, Dominic Wenzell

### Absent:

Members: Jonathan Woller, Bradley Heaston, Jesse Hronkin

#### C. Investigative Memo - D.N. (Executive Session)

 [Investigative Memo to the Board - 2023-000264 D.N. .pdf](#)

 [D.N. SIGNED CONSENT AGREEMENT 07.19.24.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE the consent agreement for D.N. with the amendment of an increase to the fine from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

Motion moved by Dominic Wenzell and motion seconded by Kenley Michaud. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

D. Continuing Education Audits (Presenters: Marilyn Zimmerman)

The board stayed on the record as the topic did not meet any of the criteria for entering an executive session per **AS 44.62.310 (c)**

The board agreed that they had no reason to contest A.L.'s request to voluntarily surrender her license and that no further discussion was needed.

i. Confidential Investigative Memo - A.L.

 [Investigative Memo \(VS\) A.L. 7.2.2024.pdf](#)

 [Signed VS A.L. 5.31.2024.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE the voluntary surrender of A.L. license #116508

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Dominic Wenzell. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

4. Division Update (Presenters: Melissa Dumas)

A. DEN FY24 Q3 Report

The 3rd quarter financial report for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) was presented by Melissa Dumas. In 2021- 23 the dental program got over \$500,000 in general funds, without which there would have been a deficit. There are no forthcoming additional general fund monies.

Through the first 3/4 of the year revenue was from initial applications as it was not a renewal year for the dental program. Total revenue was \$119,405. Expenditures were \$369,577. The board has the authority to carry over revenue from the previous year as opposed to it going back to the general fund.

 [DEN FY24 QTR 3.pdf](#)

B. DEN Fee Analysis Discussion

Melissa Dumas explained to the board that a fee increase is likely eminent, but could be put off until the next renewal cycle if the board wishes to wait. While the division is in charge of setting fees, with the statutory goal being to keep expenditures and revenue roughly equal, but board input is taken to consideration.

At the time the presented fee analysis was conducted, there were 692 dental hygienists and 775 dentists licensed, and with no changes to fees or licensee numbers

there is not currently a projected deficit for FY29, but a small increase in fees now is recommended to avoid a higher increase in the future. Another factor that may contribute to a later deficit is the reclassifications study conducted by the division earlier this year which resulted in a significant pay increase to licensing examiners, and there is a current licensing examiner position open for this board. If filled the cost to the division/program would be over \$100,000 when factoring in benefits. The division does use cost accounting as many licensing examiners work more than one program and charge their hours accordingly, so if the position is filled, the dental board would likely not field the full cost of that examiner.

Board members questioned whether the open position was erroneously benefiting the program, which it is as the program is only charged for expenditures, but also spoke of their support in slightly increasing fees now to continue having capable staff and fast turnaround times for licenses. The board discussed focusing fee increases on the applications that take the most time to process, namely initial applications, but Melissa pointed out that these application types only account for a small amount of revenue – a \$200 increase to initial application fees would generate about \$38,000 additional funds, while a \$25 increase to renewal fees would generate about \$368,000 additional funds. The board also agreed that like the Nursing Board, which keeps fees low for entry level licenses such as CNA's, the Dental Board should not increase coronal polishing application fees at this time. They discussed raising all other initial application fees by 25% before they had to table the discussion until later in the meeting (see item 17) to accommodate guest presenters that will be joining soon.

5. Myofunctional Therapy - Update from Subcommittee

Dr. Woller emailed in a draft of a Board position statement on Dental Hygienists performing Myofunctional Therapy for group discussion. The statement was read on record. The board agrees it is well-written and ready to post on the website.

 [Draft Position Statement - Myofunctional Therapy.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE the drafted Myofunctional Therapy statement and post to the board of dental examiners website

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Christina Hansen. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

6. Alaska Dental Society Dental Compact Discussion (Guests: Tracey Harmon (ADS))

Discussion with the Alaska Dental Society regarding the board's stance on Dental Compacts.

 [CSG Dentist Dental-Hygienist-Compact-Draft\\_Final.pdf](#)

 [AADB-Compact-Official-Final-version-3-25-2024.pdf](#)

 [BODE letter Compacts.pdf](#)

 [Re Meeting with Board.pdf](#)

Tracey Harmon, President of the Alaska Dental Society (ADS), presented information on several proposed dental compacts as the ADS is seeking the board's opinion on them. Though the ADS does not currently have a stance on any one compact, polls revealed that members do wish to know what compact, if any, the state supports.

**The Dentists and Dental Hygienists (DDH) Compact (commonly called ADA, but sourced from the Council of State Government)**

- Enacted in April of 2024 in WA, CO, KS, IA, MN, WI, OH, TN, VA, ME.
- Creates a commission that would require a delegate from each participating state, incurring costs for delegate travel. First time fees would be collected by eligible states but the commission would be eligible for Federal Grants.
- Accepts Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) and Post Graduate Year 1 (PGY1).

**American Association of Dental Boards (AADB) Compact**

- Not in effect and will require at least 5 states, 1 of which has started legislation, with 7-8 more in process. (website lists a few of these states as OK, MS, NC, MT, and LA.
- Expected to be in effect by Spring of 2025, according to AADB interim director Kimberly Cobb.
- Dental Boards maintain autonomy and costs are completely borne by the user.
- Requires American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) examinations.

The board shared a number of concerns regarding these individual concepts, as well as the concept of compacts as a whole. They pointed out that the state could elect to join a compact without any action or support from the board or other dental societies, and expressed concern regarding a possible trend towards Federal licensing in the future over State licensing, which could allow for applicants to get licensed in states that have different standards than Alaska, but then being able to be licensed in Alaska because of the compact. One board member mentioned a dentist in Utah that informed him that the Utah Governor had signed a bill which would basically license anyone with a pseudo-license, including those who are foreign-trained, and cautioned against losing sovereignty. Another board member with additional knowledge of this bill expanded on the specifics of that bill stating that someone with no U.S. training is allowed to work under a dentist for one year and then they receive a license. The level of training and healthcare standards in other countries is not always the same as the U.S., and in the interest of protecting the public, suddenly accepting a Utah dentist simply because of a compact sounds really dicey. Another board member has seen many hygienists supporting these compacts in online groups, stating that they are possibly misinformed and believe getting a license in one state will allow them to go anywhere, similar to a traveling nurse. Other members agreed that this is often the public perception they are seeing.

Speaking to individual compacts, the board worries about the strings often attached to Federal grants when discussing the ADA compact, and is cautious towards supporting this one. Having

met earlier in the year with representatives from the ADA Compact, there is concern that it seemed as though the presenters would go to the legislature with or without the cooperation of the board, making the board even more cautious of this specific compact.

Board chair Dr. Johnson stated since there is a consensus of concern over the compacts that for the benefit of the legislature, the board should come up with some bullet points as to what those concerns are. Mainly, the board wants to be cautious to what is being sold as members take their roles as volunteers seriously, and have no interest in being restrictive, but also have an interest in having the right kinds of practitioners here in Alaska.

Speaking to the fact that compacts are often advertised as improving license accessibility, the board pointed out that since Alaska is different in that they aren't part of a regional testing board, there are pathways for licensure by credentials so people who want to come here already have available avenues. Also, applications get considered by the board within 10 days of being complete and are typically processed quickly. Generally if it takes longer it is because of the applicant not getting documents to us, so it is not currently a burden to get a license in the state as it stands.

It was brought up that dentists and hygienists have different risk factors because hygiene is generally a Western practice. A lot of countries do not have hygienists at all, so you don't see a lot of cases from non-Western countries where the hygiene was done poorly, or you're having to redo someone else's work. It may be wise to consider that hygienists not be lumped together with dentists when it comes to compacts. The board asked Ms. Harmon how many states participate in compacts for medical practitioners, and while she could not speak to that she did offer to set up a meeting with AADB. Dr. Walther will be attending the AADB Annual Meeting in September and will report any new information he gains there at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

Dr. Johnson said that the board will work on a position statement in regards to compacts, as there is a consensus of concern over the compacts and for the benefit of the legislature the board should at least come up with some bullet points as to what those concerns are. Mainly, the board wants to be cautious to what is being sold as members take their roles as volunteers seriously, and have no interest in being restrictive, but also have an interest in having the right kinds of practitioners here in Alaska. It's very concerning that one state could open up to foreign trained dentists and then they have carte blanche in other states.

7. Dental Workforce Survey (Guests: Dane Lenaker, Frances Wise, DOH)

Dr. Dane Lenaker and Frances Wise from the Division of Public Health presented a dental "workforce" study for the board to consider for the next licensure period.

 [WForce survey licensed OH BoDE Draft.docx](#)

Alaska Division of Public Health would like to partner with the dental board to disseminate and collect a biannual workforce survey. The data collected would be used to inform state and national health care workforce policies, understand emerging trends and support access to care initiatives.

Currently there is no way of knowing:

- How many dentists or hygienists are relocating to Alaska
- What is the retirement rate among practicing dentists in Alaska
- How many dentists actively practice full-time in Alaska
- How many dentists maintain their license without practicing in the state
- What are the licensing status and gaps among dental assistants.

In the U.S. 41% of all state oral health programs have some form of regular workforce survey for dental professionals. Some states require the survey, some offer the survey with license/application/renewal, but Alaska cannot require the survey of applicants or those renewing licenses without a change to regulations.

The survey can be delivered online or on paper via mail, and would go out to dentists and dental hygienists, with the DOH funding costs associated with prepaid envelopes. The current version is 43 questions, and some of the questions can be skipped depending on the situation of the person taking the survey.

Largely in favor of the survey, board members expressed that they would like to see questions added pertaining to office management, and that the public information section could be extremely valuable in alerting businesses that are offering opportunities for providing classes/ programs. There were some concerns regarding anonymity when it comes to a respondent giving their zip code – one member suggested answering whether they are on or off the road system might suffice instead. Though in favor of the survey the board does not think it should be tied to the renewal process, and suggested that the Alaska Dental Society be contacted to possibly partner or encourage members to participate in the survey.

Dr. Lenaker and Ms. Wise will take the comments from the dental board and return the updated survey for consideration. The DOH is hoping to send out surveys in February of 2025.

## 8. Regulation Changes

### A. Proposed Sedation Regulation Changes

The subcommittee provided an update on the status of the proposed changes.

 [Sedation Regs 4.30.24.docx](#)

Dr. Michaud reported that he attended national meetings of the American Dental Society of Anesthesia (ADSA) and the American Society of Dental Anesthesia (ASDA) in



February and March of 2024, and the topic of proposed optimal dental regulations on sedation for states was discussed at length during both meetings. He explained that there is currently a bill proposing anesthesia regulation amendments by these societies, but due to conflicts between language on what constitutes an adult that Periodontists and Pediatric dentists want to see, the Pediatric Society has proposed their own language and now the bill has gone back and forth between the two. They will reconvene in February and March of 2025, with the likelihood of the adult age being changed from 8 to 13. In the meantime, since the Dental Board has opted to wait to change their sedation regulations until after the upcoming 2025 renewal period, the board decided that it seems reasonable to wait and see what the national regulations look like before implementing changes to state regulations. Dr. Michaud stated he plans to be in attendance in his personal capacity as a dentist at both of the meetings.

Dr. Michaud took this time to also update the board on his attendance to meeting with the the Medical Spa Services Work Group and that he learned that Dentists in Alaska have the legal right to delegate normal processes to nurses if it is within their scope of practice. For example, even though they are not a physician, an oral surgeon can delegate patient recovery to a nurse.

9. Lunch

The board recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and returned on the record at 12:45 p.m.

## Attendance

**Present:**

Members: Megan Ferguson, Greg Johnson, Christina Hansen, Kenley Michaud, Newell Walther, Dominic Wenzell

**Absent:**

Members: Bradley Heaston, Jesse Hronkin, Jonathan Woller

10. Correspondence

Two similar lines of inquiry from dentists looking for additional information on how to provide care to patients in remote locations via telehealth and/or a mobile dentistry practice.

 [RE Teledent Regulations inquiry.pdf](#)

 [RE Mobile Dentistry Practice.pdf](#)

- Tele-dentistry

The board discussed that tele-dentistry can already be provided through a Collaborative Agreement between a dentist and hygienist or an Hygienist Advanced Practice Permit.

Dr. Johnson stated that it would be good to do some research on this topic and what other states are doing.

- Mobile dentistry

There was some confusion about whether or not a dentist has to notify the division if they practice in a different location than is listed on their license. Dr. Walther believes one must notify the division, Dr. Michaud does not think so. More research will be done by Board Staff into these topics.

#### 11. Public Comment

Dr. Michale Boothe presented concerns about the need for dental hygienists in Alaska and the current attrition rate of hygiene students at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). Each class is typically about 14 students, and of the 8 that graduated from the last class, 5 announced they intended to leave the state. The current class is already down to 10 students, and 2 have withdrawn from the class of 2026. He has heard concerning information regarding the learning environment of the program and has reached out to local legislators as well about this issue. The board shares Dr. Boothe's concerns and some members have heard similar complaints, but as the University is not within the boards perview, they suggested that Dr. Boothe contact the Alaska Commission on Post-secondary Education. Board staff will provide Dr. Boothe contact information for doing so.

#### 12. Department of Health Discussion (Guests: Irene Casares (DOH), Jayme Parker (DOH))

Irene Casares and Jayme Parker from the Department of Health presented a PowerPoint outlining the new process for registering and inspection of radiological equipment as the board has received numerous questions since the authority of radiological equipment inspections transferred to the DOH, and have had several questions of their own.

The main points covered in their presentation were:

- The DOH statutory authority comes from Alaska Statutes Title 18.60.475. Vendors must register and prove that they have the medical and radiological expertise to perform dental x-ray equipment inspections and updates. When equipment is purchased, there must be a service contract with the vendor. DOH relies on the suggested state regulations of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) to evaluate facility compliance.
- Currently the Radiological Health Program has 3 employees. The total number of devices registered is 2,703 at 833 facilities. So far, a total of 185 device inspections have been completed at 38 facilities, and common facility deficiencies were a lack of radiation safety programs and quality assurance programs. Many facilities were not registered at the time of inspection. Common device deficiencies were no installation records, no calibration records, lack of preventative maintenance records, etc.
- Registration is annual, and devices must be serviced by a Qualified Expert or Qualified Medical Physicist annually by manufacturer guidelines. Facility inspection by the Radiological Health Program is every 6 years. Intraoral devices are \$100 per year, extraoral devices are \$200 per year. Once inspections are complete, there is one year to come into compliance.

Irene stressed that the transition has been tumultuous, and that she has had threats of violence against her while trying to perform required inspections but did not wish to provide names when the board expressed concerns over a provider licensed under them behaving this way. The board asked whether a "contract" was being used for devices as a figure of speech and Irene said yes, sometimes when you buy equipment, they will sell you a service contract. She also stated that the DOH's main objective is checking that device settings are correct and that service providers are not falsely claiming that they are operating within parameters.

One board member asked if the DOH intended to put out a statement on the use of lead aprons after a recent study out of Minnesota found that they are not necessary when taking intraoral radiographs and there is not a current standard of care procedure to go off, and that the ADA has also come out saying they should not be used. Irene said ultimately it is up to the discretion of the facility if they would like to use lead aprons. Additionally, the DOH is in collaboration with Tracey Harmon/ the ADS to schedule continuing education on registration and inspections for members. The Radiological Health Program website is also undergoing a massive update to better provide information on inspections, but the whole DOH website is being redone so it will take a while. Board Chair Dr. Johnson expressed his appreciation for the DOH's continuing communication with the board.

### 13. Application Reviews

#### A. Dental Assistant Restorative Function Endorsement - A.A.

Application tabled after receiving a no vote in OnBoard because her course of instruction does not meet the requirements of being CODA accredited and she did not take the WREB or equivalent exam. Applicant is a Dental Health Aid Therapist, but the voting member pointed out that DHAT's practice outside of the State Dental Board's jurisdiction and oversight.

 [DEN - A.A. - 222858 - Restorative Function - Board Packet REDACTED.pdf](#)

The board concluded that this a clear case of not having met requirements, and stated that it is not relevant whether someone else with the same education as the applicant has received a license as that does not establish a precedent. One member had previously voted yes on the application since her course of instruction has become CODA accredited since she took it, but now agrees that tabling for discussion was necessary and agrees with the boards assessment. Not having a restorative function endorsement does not stop her from doing what she is doing as a DHAT, and this isn't a situation where a denial is denying someone their livelihood.

#### **Motion:**

RESOLVED to DENY application for dental assistant restorative function endorsement for A.A. #222858 per Sec. 08.36.344.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Newell Walther. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

B. Dentist Courtesy License - S.H.

Application tabled after receiving a no vote in OnBoard the application was received for 9/29-10/4/2024, but the applicant's last courtesy license was for 10/1-6/2023, which means they have had a courtesy license within the last year, and 12 AAC 28.955(d) states that a person will not be issued more than one courtesy license in a 12-month period.

 [DEN - S.H. - 227582 - Courtesy Dental License Board Packet.pdf](#)

The board discussed the fact that this applicant has been coming to Alaska to volunteer for the last decade, and though the application doesn't technically meet requirements, it is only shy by a couple of days, and it is not the will of the board to limit dental care to the populations served by these volunteer events by denying qualified providers on a technicality. The board questioned whether the regulation should be changed to read 'once every calendar year', or something similar, to allow for slight flexibility.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE application for dentist courtesy license for S.H. #227582.

Motion moved by Greg Johnson and motion seconded by Kenley Michaud. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

C. Dental Hygienist Courtesy License - K.M.

Application tabled after receiving a no vote in OnBoard the application was received for 9/29-10/4/2024, but the applicant's last courtesy license was for 10/1-6/2023, which means they have had a courtesy license within the last year, and 12 AAC 28.955(d) states that a person will not be issued more than one courtesy license in a 12-month period.

 [DEN - K.M. - 227651 - Hygienist Courtesy License Board Packet.pdf](#)

After a brief discussion the board agreed that this application should be treated the same as the above courtesy license they voted to approve.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE hygiene courtesy license K.M. #227651

Motion moved by Greg Johnson and motion seconded by Kenley Michaud. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

D. Dentist by Credentials - W.C.

Application tabled after receiving two no votes in OnBoard, one for violating 08.36.110(a)(1)(f) and one for misrepresenting himself on his application.

 [DEN - 218986 - W.C. - Dentist by Credentials Board Packet.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Motion to enter executive session per AS 44.62.310(6) to discuss agenda item D.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Dominic Wenzell. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote. The board went off the record at 2:08 pm and returned on record at 2:47 pm. A quorum was maintained.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to DENY application for dentist license by credentials for W.C. #218986 per Sec. 08.36.110(f) "is not the subject of an adverse report from the National Practitioner Data Bank or the American Association of Dental Boards Clearinghouse for Board Actions that relates to criminal or fraudulent activity, or dental malpractice."

Motion moved by Newell Walther and motion seconded by Dominic Wenzell. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

14. AADB Mid-Year Meeting Recap

Dr. Walther presented on topics covered during his attendance of the American Association of Dental Boards (AADB) Mid-Year Meeting in April. Main topics were the two different dental compacts, which were already discussed today when Tracy Harmon presented. Other topics covered were spa dentistry, Botox, and what is happening in dentistry today, but discussion raised more questions than answers.

He reported that the main takeaway was for boards to not be sedentary about the compacts because legislators are taking action to pass "feel-good" legislation, which can lead to consequences that are not very thought-out. As he was at the AADB meeting, of course the AADB feels that their compact is the best because it leaves the power in the hands of state dental boards, and they stated that the compacts goal is to streamline the application process. We want to be very careful as a state to keep that control especially when we would have no control over the least common denominator.

Going back to Botox, he did state that overall, most states were saying that a dentist is well within their scope of practice if you are staying in oral areas. The September AADB meeting will discuss myofacial therapy, which Dr. Walther will be attending, and he will report back anything of importance.

15. Review Letter to Conscious Sedation Consulting

Letter drafted by staff to send to Conscious Sedation Consulting informing them that application reviews revealed their course does not meet requirements for licensing and will no longer be accepted.

 [Conscious Sedation Consulting Letter - DRAFT.pdf](#)

The board reviewed the letter drafted by staff, and one member suggested that an edit to include 'unless the Alaska requirements are adhered to' be added so that the company has the ability to adjust their procedures to meet requirements if they choose to. Another member pointed out that when a similar letter was sent to another course provider out of compliance last year, they wrote back that they did meet requirements when they did not, so some companies are willing to perjure themselves on the record and we want to be wary of that. One applicant retook a course with the understanding that their cases must be individually managed to licensing requirements, yet the company still allowed overlapping times. Based on these outcomes, it was agreed on that the board does not need to edit the letter.

The board discussed the varying degrees of education being offered in sedation training facilities, with some facilities immediately giving students a list of cases to present to their boards that they did not take part in, or you pay an exorbitant amount of money to be put in a room with 15 other students all seeing the same 20 patients. Dr. Wenzell suggested we add "unless the Alaska regulations are adhered to" to the letter so that the company can adjust its procedures if needed. The practice involving the applicant who retook the course and had the overlapping issue is now interviewing and researching trainings as they don't want to have this issue again, and that is what we want as now our dentists in the state are doing a better job of finding the right person to do the training. The board agrees sticking to their standards is the best way to help the public, and their guidelines are pulled from the ADA guidelines which have been around since 2016.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE and send letter to Conscious Sedation Consulting

Motion moved by Dominic Wenzell and motion seconded by Greg Johnson. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

16. Tasks

- Dr. Wenzell will research the regulations as to whether a dental assistant is allowed to adjust crowns after having received that question from someone. He does not think that dental assistants are allowed to adjust them because they are permanent but will research.
- Dr. Wenzell will update the Penalty Matrix to include application violations.

17. Continued Agenda item 4(B) Fee Change Discussion

The board resumed their earlier discussion with Melissa Dumas on possible fee changes. The board again suggested increased fees for initial applications as they require the most staff time, but Program Coordinator Reid Bowman clarified that renewal fees aren't just for staff time but also investigations, etc., and further clarified after questioning that funds collected on fines

imposed in the investigative process go to the general fund, not the dental program. The board was also curious as to whether they need to increase revenue by \$500,000 since they received \$500,000 in general funds during COVID to prevent licensing increases, but that is not the case and Melissa said let's just plug numbers into the fee analysis tool to ensure the board doesn't create too much revenue. With an expected 90 new licenses within the next biennium and a current dental licensing fee of \$1050, it was decided that it makes the most sense to increase the non-refundable portion because of the level of effort involved in processing these application.

The agreed upon proposed changes are:

- Non-refundable fee on initial applications to increase \$200, making total non-refundable portion \$800.
- Renewal fees to be increased by \$50, making the total renewal fee \$500.

To ensure the board understands exactly what the division is proposing for fee changes they have requested that a summary be sent to staff by Melissa to be uploaded and voted on in OnBoard.

18. Board Business

A. Next Meeting Date

December 13, 2024 - Election of new Chair

February 7, 2025 - First meeting to be conducted by new Chair

April 28, 2025

B. Appointing New Chair

Dr. Johnson's appointment is ending in March 2025 and he does not intend to renew, so a new Chair and a Secretary will need to be elected.

Per Sec. 08.36.030. Election and term of officers. (a) The board shall elect from among its members (1) a president who is a licensed dentist or licensed dental hygienist; and (2) a secretary. (b) Officers elected under (a) of this section serve for a term not to exceed two years.

The board will hold the election on 12/13/2024 and the new chair will conduct the 2/7/2025 meeting.

C. Staff Update

Staff informed the board that following a reclassification study completed by the division, Sydney Baranov-Kaderman has received a promotion and will be transitioning to be the primary board liaison as part of her new responsibilities.

Rachel Billiet is still the Program Coordinator and will continue to work for the Dental program but will be move involved in administrative/research projects and will assist in board matters as needed.

19. Adjourn

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE adjourning the August 23, 2024 Board of Dental Examiners meeting.

Motion moved by Dominic Wenzell and motion seconded by Kenley Michaud. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

The board went off the record at 3:43 p.m.

Date Final Minutes Approved by the Board: Meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OnBoard <input type="checkbox"/>	Board Ballot PASS 12/13/2024
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