

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Board of Dental Examiners

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
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Board of Dental Examiners
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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Megan Ferguson Registered Dental Hygienist	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2023	Mar 1, 2027
Christina Hansen Registered Dental Hygienist	Fairbanks	Mar 1, 2021	Mar 1, 2025
Bradley Heaston Public Member	Eagle River	Mar 1, 2021	Mar 1, 2025
Dr. Jesse Hronkin Dentist	Palmer	Mar 1, 2019	Mar 1, 2027
Dr. Gregory Johnson Chair - Dentist	Fairbanks	Mar 1, 2021	Mar 1, 2025
Dr. Kenley Michaud Dentist	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2021	Mar 1, 2025
Dr. Newell Walther Dentist	Wasilla	Mar 1, 2023	Mar 1, 2027
Dr. Dominic Wenzell Dentist	Girdwood	Mar 1, 2018	Mar 1, 2026

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Identification of the Board (continued)

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Dr. Jonathan Woller Dentist	Fairbanks	Mar 1, 2019	Mar 1, 2027

Identification of Staff

Sydney Baranov-Kaderman - Occupational Licensing Examiner
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Narrative Statement

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”) met five times through videoconference. The meetings were held on August 26, 2022, October 24, 2022, December 16, 2022, February 13, 2023, and May 19, 2023. Two Board members retired from the Board in FY 2023: Brittany Dschaak, RDH and David Nielson, DDS. Dr. Nielson most recently served as the Board’s chair and recently completed his second, and final, four-year term. The Board wishes to thank each of them for their years of service to their respective professions and the State of Alaska.

In early 2023, two new members were appointed to the Board. They are Megan Ferguson, RDH (Anchorage) and Newell Walther, DDS (Wasilla). Each of these two new Board members attended their first meeting on May 19, 2023.

During FY 2023, the Board welcomed a new Dental Licensing Examiner, Sydney Baranov-Kaderman, and more recently, a new program coordinator 1, Rachel Billiet. The Board also wishes to thank the former licensing examiner, Abby O’Brien, for her work on behalf of the Board. During the May 19, 2023, meeting, Program Coordinator 2 Reid Bowman, was introduced to the Board as record and licensing supervisor Terry Ryals’ replacement. Terry was the Board’s go to person on a variety of important matters and did an outstanding job of coordinating and overseeing Board activities.

During FY 2023, the COVID-19 emergency declaration did not require any additional meetings of the Board as it had in previous years. Officially in the United States, the COVID-19 pandemic’s public health emergency status, a designation that had been in place since Jan. 30, 2020, expired on May 5, 2023.

In FY 2023 the Board worked with the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing (CBPL) to look for new ways to streamline the licensing processes for both courtesy licensing for resident military members and public health licensing for charitable event volunteers. The Board also completed its work on a project that would bring radiological inspections back into the purview of the Department of Health; and created the Dental Hygienist Advanced Practice Permits to offer hygienist with more than 3,000 hours of experience an expanded scope of practice.

Specialty dental licensure was also a project the Board worked on in FY 2023. One of the long-term goals of this effort was to aid the Board in regulating false or misleading advertising for the purpose of helping the public determine the true qualifications of their dental professionals.

As the focus moves to FY 2024, the Board will begin a project to fine tune several areas of the regulations pertaining to sedation permits, with a particular emphasis being given to permit renewals and the onsite inspection protocols for facilities where sedation permit holders operate. The Board, as it has done in the past, will continue to explore new ways to expand the number of accepted regional licensing exams; all of this with the goal of encouraging more general dentists and specialist dentists to look to fill unmet needs in Alaska.

Working with CBPL, the Board is committed to the “right touch” regulations initiative. This initiative is designed to eliminate outdated licensing methods that often lead to unnecessary delays in licensing and ultimately increase licensing costs; to remove red tape, unnecessary barriers, and overly burdensome requirements from law. The Board will also look to expand its use of national licensing resources that will further assist an applicant’s ability to share primary-sourced credentials. Each of these efforts is designed to streamline all licensing interactions and ease the burden placed on applicants, current licensees, and licensing staff.

Finally, the Board will continue to explore the creation of an Executive Administrator position for the Dental Examining Board; along with the creation of temporary licenses for recently graduated dental and dental hygiene applicants by examination (Level III).

On behalf of the entire Board, I wish to again thank Dr. David Nielson for his leadership and service to the Board, along with former CBPL Director and now the Department of Commerce’s Board Advisor, Sara Chambers, and CBPL Deputy Director, Glenn Saviers, for their ongoing support of the mission of the Board of Dental Examiners throughout this past fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Johnson, DDS

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024

Budget Recommendations section anticipates the board’s fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. Please complete all parts of this section with details about anticipated meetings, conferences, memberships, supplies, equipment, to other board requests. Meeting expenses that are being funded through third-party reimbursement or direct booking must be identified separately from expenses paid through license fees (receipt-supported services or RSS). Be sure to explain any items listed as “other” so they may be tracked appropriately.

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
October 27th, 2023	Anchorage	9	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 900.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 690.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 240.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: Per diem			\$ 360.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 2,190.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
February 23, 2024	Anchorage	9	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 900.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 690.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 240.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: Per diem			\$ 360.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 2,190.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 0.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Travel Required to Perform Examinations

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

- Airfare:
- Hotel:
- Ground:
- Conference:
- Other:

Total Estimated Cost: \$ 0.00

Travel Required to Perform Examinations

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

- Airfare:
- Hotel:
- Ground:
- Conference:
- Other:

Total Estimated Cost: \$ 0.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#1 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other				\$0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
Annual Membership Fee	American Association of Dental Boards	\$2,235.00

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Nationwide association providing continuing education, information networking and exchange, publications and database, assessment services, and advocacy and representation. The Alaska Board of Dental Examiners is required to be a member of the AADB as per Sec. 08.36.070.

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact

Not Applicable

Cost Per Event:

Number of Events:

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact

Not Applicable

Cost Per Event:

Number of Events:

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Summary of FY 2024 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$4,380.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$0.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$2,235.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	- \$ 0.00
Other:	\$0.00
Total Requested:	\$6,615.00

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Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2024

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

1. The Board believes that 08.36.254, our temporary permit to substitute for an incapacitated dentists, may be too narrow and we should have broader authority, as it does not allow us to grant temporary licenses for other reasons. Examples could include: military spouses who need to work right away, candidates right out of school just waiting on something that is held up and beyond their control, declared emergencies like COVID-19, and of course filling in for an incapacitated dentist who can't find coverage any other way so they can keep a viable practice.
2. Getting legislative approval to have an executive position running the Board instead of an Examiner position would be preferred.

Regulation Recommendations - Proposed Regulations for FY 2024

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed regulations at this time.

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

1. Go through current regulations and recommend deletions or changes that are either unnecessary, unused and/or deemed to be a hindrance to expeditious initial licensure.
2. Complete radiological equipment inspection regulation changes.
3. Review final draft of proposed changes to Sedation Regulations and begin regulations project to adopt them.
4. Consider drafting and adopting regulations for Dentists performing Botox injections.
5. Consider drafting and adopting regulations that define education that foreign trained dentists can complete for licensure.

Goals and Objectives

Part I

FY 2023's goals and objectives and how they were met:

1. The Board needs an executive administrator position to ensure meeting materials are provided in a timely manner, assist with drafting regulations for board review, assist the board to run more smoothly and decrease board staff turnover rate.

This objective is in process as the board is considering implementing statute to obtain an executive administrator. To meet this objective the Board has invited Division staff to past Board meetings to give Board Members a complete overview of what the position entails and answer any questions or concerns.

2. Implementing a sedation inspection requirement was accomplished last fiscal year but the board will have a difficult time with limited or no staff to track inspections due before our next renewal cycle. The main issue will be lack of awareness from our permit holders even though announcements have been made that onsite inspections will be required. There are also other unknowns like how the Board can approve other inspectors other than the ones we already have.

This objective is in process as the board works to make proposed changes to the sedation inspections entirely.

3. Continue developing a penalty matrix.

This objective is in process as the board continues to draft a disciplinary matrix with the help of investigative staff.

4. Resume in person meetings.

This objective was met in FY2023 by scheduling an in person meeting for October 27th, 2023 during FY 2024.

Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II

FY 2024's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:

1. The Board needs to explore an executive administrator (EA) position to ensure meeting materials are provided in a timely manner, assist with drafting regulations for board review, assist the board to run more smoothly and decrease board staff turnover rate.

The Board intends to continue pursuing this goal by inviting Board staff to several meetings to give an extremely comprehensive overview of the position and answer additional questions members have. The main concerns being voiced by the Board Chair and other members are a lack of board say in the hiring process, and the potential to wind up with a less than ideal candidate that meets a Division need rather than a Board need.

2. Revising sedation regulations, inspection regs, and lapsed sedation permit renewals.

The Board intends to achieve this goal in FY 2024 as the Final Draft of the proposed regulation changes is to be presented by the board sub committee during the February 2024 Board meeting and if no additional edits are necessary they will officially begin a regulations project to adopt the proposed changes.

3. Finalize and implement a penalty matrix.

The Board intends to achieve this goal in FY 2024 as the Final Draft of the Penalty Matrix is to be presented by Dr. Wenzell during the February 2024 Board meeting and if no additional edits are necessary they will move to adopt it officially.

4. Continue in person meetings.

This goal faces certain challenges as the Division has pushed back on doing all in-person meetings, but the Board hopes to meet an in-person quorum for Board meetings when possible and utilize Zoom as a secondary option.

5. Improve processes for both Investigations and requests for legal opinions from the Department of Law.

Proposed methods include scheduling a comprehensive overview of the Investigative process from the investigative team and an opportunity for Board members to express their concerns with the current processes, as well as the chance to understand how the Department of Law generates responses to the Board and how the two can work together to mitigate superfluous information so that time, and most importantly licensee fees, are being adequately used to produce meaningful responses.

6. Improve Board coordination, interaction, and engagement with the Department of Administrative Hearings, as well as the Legislative process all the way through Statue, Regulation, and Fees.

Required resources to make these improvements are establishing ways to bridge communication and information gaps amidst the Board and other departments/ divisions so that members are making purposeful and meaningful contributions when it comes to both disciplinary actions and any significant changes to statutes, regulations, and fees. The Board Chair recognizes that an EA could be a helpful tool in these instances but an immediate need to proceed in a more cohesive manner is there.

Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 04/26/2018

Board Sunset Date: 06/30/2027

Audit Recommendation:

The board president should take steps to correct a regulation error.

Action Taken:

Legislation was passed to move radiologic equipment regulation to the Department of Health.

Next Steps:

N/A

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed: 06/30/2022

Audit Recommendation:

DCBPL's chief investigator, in consultation with the board, should implement controls to ensure the appropriate entities are notified when a licensee's prescription authority is suspended or revoked.

Action Taken:

The Board was informed by the Executive Director of the Pharmacy Board they are not required to notify the Board of Pharmacy of DEA revocations or suspensions. The PDMP program has a DEA Status Change Form DEA holders should use when there is a status change.

Next Steps:

N/A

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed: 06/30/2022

Audit Recommendation:

N/A

Action Taken:

Next Steps:

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed: