

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2021

Board of Dental Examiners



**Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development**

**Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing**

This annual performance report is presented in accordance with
Alaska statute AS 08.01.070(10).

Its purpose is to report the accomplishments, activities, and the
past and present needs of the licensing program.

**Board of Dental Examiners
FY 2021 Annual Report**

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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
David Nielson, DDS Dentist - Chair	Anchorage	Mar 01, 2015	Mar 01, 2023
Dominic Wenzell, DMD Dentist	Girdwood	Mar 01, 2018	Mar 01, 2022
Kelly Lucas, DDS Dentist	Wasilla	Jan 25, 2019	Mar 01, 2025
Jonathan Woller, DMD Dentist	Fairbanks	Mar 01, 2019	Mar 01, 2023
Jesse Hronkin, DMD Dentist	Palmer	Mar 01, 2019	Mar 01, 2023
Gregory Johnson, DDS Dentist	Fairbanks	Mar 01, 2021	Mar 01, 2025
Brittany Dschaak, RDH Dental Hygienist	Dillingham	Mar 01, 2019	Mar 01, 2023
Christina Hansen, RDH Dental Hygienist	Fairbanks	Mar 01, 2021	Mar 01, 2025
Bradley Heaston Public Member	Eagle River	Mar 01, 2021	Mar 01, 2025

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Identification of Staff

Christianne Carrillo – Licensing Examiner (6/30/2020 – 8/9/2020)

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Post Office Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-2542

Abby O'Brien – Licensing Examiner (8/10/2020 – Current)

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Post Office Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-2542

Joseph Bonnell – Records and Licensing Supervisor (7/1/2020 – 5/14/2021)

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Post Office Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-2691

Terry Ryals – Records and Licensing Supervisor (5/15/2021 – Current)

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Post Office Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-2588

Jasmin Bautista - Investigator

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
550 West 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 269-8026

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Identification of Staff (continued)

Sher Zinn – Regulations Specialist II (7/1/2020 – 6/9/2021)

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Post Office Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-1049

Jun Maiquis – Regulations Specialist II (6/10/2021 – Current)

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Post Office Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-1049

Board of Dental Examiners FY 2021 Annual Report

Narrative Statement

During FY2020, the State Board of Dental Examiners (Board) has met four times via teleconference on August 7, 2020; October 16, 2020; December 4, 2020; and March 15, 2021. A fifth FY2020 meeting will be held May 14, 2021. The COVID-19 emergency declaration did not require unscheduled meetings as it did in FY2019.

Last year the board retired three members and added three new members. Hygienist Gail Walden, public member Robin Wahto, and dentist Dr. Steven Scheller all termed off. The board would like to thank them for their years of service to the profession and the State of Alaska. Appointed to the board were hygienist Christina Hansen (Fairbanks), dentist Dr. Greg. Johnson (Fairbanks), and public member Bradley Heaston (Eagle River). The new members have attended one meeting so far and have already contributed to the board's work.

During FY2020, the board welcomed a new licensing examiner, Abby O' Brien. Abby is now the sixth examiner to work with the board in six years. The turnover continues to be a challenge as it takes time for new examiners to get up to speed on how the board operates and all the nuances of different license and permit categories. Abby has been doing a commendable job so far, but the board continues to feel the workload has grown to a point an executive director position may be more appropriate and a budget analysis should be done to see if it would be feasible. The budget has been strained partly because of the extra help needed from Supervisor Joe Bonnell and over-time put in by Abby to process all the renewals for 2021. The board appreciates the help from Mr. Bonnell but feels that processing renewals is probably not the best use of his time.

With help from the board, the department approved new fee increases for the 2021 renewal cycle which would have helped balance the dental program's deficit. Unfortunately, the increases did not make it through the process in time to be incorporated into the new renewals. The renewal cycle deadline for the program was extended from February 28, 2021 to April 30 this year for a couple of reasons. First, during COVID, the requirement for "hands-on" Basic Life Support certification was more difficult to comply with. Second, the third-party application processing service (PBIS) the board used for years to gather necessary documentation for initial licensure went out of business with no alternatives to fall back on. Therefore, we needed a new regulation project to begin collecting and processing initial applications in-house. The additional time required for Abby to learn this process also contributed to the need for an extension. Streamlining licensure in general is a goal the board continues to be interested in, including looking into forming multi-state licensure compacts.

In FY2020, the board continued to evaluate operational guidelines for dentists during the COVID-19 pandemic. We posted guidelines that consider CDC recommendations and are proud that dental operations have not been found to contribute to the spread of COVID-19. New CDC guidelines are coming out all the time, and we will again look at changing board recommendations during our upcoming meeting in May.

Regulation changes during FY2020 included an expansion of the number of exams the board will accept for initial hygiene licensure in order to open licensure to more qualified candidates. Also, because live patient dental exams were still unavailable during this year due to COVID, the board extended the acceptance of a mannequin-based exam through 2021. The board will continue to evaluate the fidelity of the mannequin exam to decide whether to make a permanent change.

Radiologic equipment inspections continue to be a problem as in they are NOT happening. The State has shown interest in taking on the inspection program but has not made the necessary statute changes to allow for it. The x-ray inspection program is non-existent and out of compliance until that changes. Also, the board supports the effort to bring back specialty licenses and to allow dentists to provide vaccinations to their patients who need and want them.

Finally, the board looks forward to the time in-person meetings may resume. Virtual meetings have been challenging and much more difficult to get board members to engage with. Board business suffers as a result and less gets accomplished in general.

**Board of Dental Examiners
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2022

The 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
August 20, 2021	Anchorage	9	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$1,400.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$1,505.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$440.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$321.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$3,666.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
December 3, 2021	Anchorage	9	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$1,400.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$1,505.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$440.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$321.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$3,666.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	Video Conference	9	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$350.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$350.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2022 (continued)

The 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
TBD	Video Conference	9	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$350.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$350.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	Video Conference	9	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$350.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$350.00

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

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2022 (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:			
<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):			
Total Estimated Cost:			\$0.00

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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$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 2022 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
AADB	American Association of Dental Boards	\$5,385.00

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.

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
NPDB	National Practitioners Databank	\$2,768.00

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

NPDB Continuous Query provides the board examiner with a report should any licensee be disciplined in another state. This will increase public protection and give the board an early warning system.

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
Subscription Journal	American Association of Dental Examiners	\$380.00

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

The board has two journal subscriptions. One to the American Association of Dental Examiners Journal for \$196.00 and one to Healthcare Integrity & Protection Data for \$184.00.

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2022 (continued)

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact		Cost Per Event:	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable		Number of Events:	0
Product or Service	Provider	Total Cost	
		\$0.00	
Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:			

Summary of FY 2022 Fiscal Requests	
Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$8,382.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$0.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$8,533.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	-\$0.00
Other:	\$0.00
Total Requested:	\$16,915.00

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Legislation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2022

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 Dental Board (Board) has been clear that we can no longer handle the inspection of radiological equipment due to a lack of qualified inspectors willing to do the job and the severe backlog of past due inspections. The State has said they would once again be willing to take on the responsibility for dental radiologic equipment inspections through the Department of Health but have yet to pass the necessary legislation needed to make that happen. Until there are changes to 08.36.075, we will continue to be out of compliance.
- 2) During the pandemic, it became apparent that dentists could have been used to help administer vaccinations for COVID-19 if they were so authorized under Chapter 36 of their Practice Act. Many states allow dentists to deliver vaccinations to their patients and believe this scope of practice change should be added to 08.36.367 or other appropriate place.
- 3) Without designated specialty licensing or recognition in Alaska, it is difficult for the board to take any action on those dentists who present to the public false or misleading advertising with respect to their training and qualifications. Years ago, specialty recognition was repealed for some unknown reason and the board believes 08.36.246-248 should be brought back in the interest of protecting the public from possible misleading advertisements as to a practitioner's qualifications.
- 4) The board believes that 08.36.254, our temporary permit to substitute for an incapacitated dentist, is too narrow and 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.

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Regulation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2022

No Recommendations

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

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

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Goals and Objectives

Part I

FY 2021's goals and objectives, and how they were met:

- 1) The Dental Board (Board) completed a regulation project that expanded the pool of potential hygiene applicants for Alaska licensure. The board did this by accepting all generally equivalent patient-based hygiene exams for licensure rather than the Western Regional (WREB) Exam only.
- 2) The board also completed a similar regulation change that allows for equivalent patient-based local anesthesia exams rather than WREB only.
- 3) The board met numerous times during the COVID-19 declared emergency in order to work with state officials to develop guidance and protocols in order to keep dental offices open safely during the height of the pandemic. Dental offices were able to treat patients for emergencies and later for routine dental work without becoming a source of COVID-19 transmission in part thanks to these guidelines.
- 4) Because there have been no live-patient dental exams available nationwide during the pandemic, and because mannequin-based exams for dental licensure have become better over the last couple years, the board extended its acceptance of mannequin-based exams for dental applicants through December 31, 2021 by another regulation change.
- 5) The board routinely used a service (PBIS) to help process license applications. During FY2021, PBIS shut its doors. This forced the board to start processing all applications in-house with our one licensing examiner who has picked up much of the load. Another regulation project was needed to accommodate this change in process, including the ability to collect fees and request additional documentation if necessary.
- 6) Due to the lack of availability of some in-person CE required by regulation during the pandemic, and because of the PBIS closure and increased staff workload, the board extended its renewal deadline from February 28 to April 30, 2021.
- 7) The board also moved to add two changes to regulation that would allow applicants to qualify for licensure with a one-year general practice residency in lieu of a regional exam and also eliminate some of the items that could be used to determine if someone applying for licensure by credentials took an equivalent exam. The reason being that the criteria were never used and most of the items were not even being tested for anymore.

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Goals and Objectives

Part II

FY 2022's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

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

- 1) Finish regulation projects already started.
- 2) Have the State Department of Health take over radiological equipment inspections.
- 3) Bring back the specialty license.
- 4) Streamline licensure more.
- 5) Track the new required sedation permit office inspection compliance.
- 6) Continue to develop and finalize a penalty matrix.
- 7) Have better communication and efficiency with our investigative unit.
- 8) Return to 2-4 in-person meetings per year.

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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: April 26, 2018
Board Sunset Date: June 30, 2027

Audit Recommendation:	The board president should take steps to correct a regulation error regarding who is authorized to conduct inspections on dental radiological equipment.
Action Taken:	The board has discussed this at several meetings, including special guests from DHSS for their input.
Next Steps:	The board, along with the division and DHSS, is working to propose legislation that would move these inspections back to DHSS, who are better equipped to manage these.
Date Completed:	Requires legislation to complete.

Audit Recommendation:	CBPL's chief investigator, in consultation with the board, 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 that 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
Date Completed:	FY2020