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**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS,
BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

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**MINUTES OF MEETING
April 8, 2020**

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Teleconference

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Wednesday, April 8th, 2020

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Agenda Item 1

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Call to Order/Roll Call

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Time: 1:42 PM

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The meeting was called to order by Dr. David Nielson, President, at 1:42 p.m.

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Board Members present, constituting a quorum of the board, were:

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Dr. David Nielson, President – *(Via Teleconference)*
Dr. Kelly Lucas – *(Via Teleconference)*
Ms. Gail Walden – *(Via Teleconference)*
Dr. Dominic Wenzell – *(Via Teleconference)*
Ms. Robin Wahto – *(Via Teleconference)*
Dr. Jesse Hronkin – *(Via Teleconference)*
Dr. Jonathan Woller – *(Via Teleconference)*
Ms. Brittany Dschaak – *(Via Teleconference)*

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In attendance from the Division of Corporations, Business & Professional Licensing, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development were:

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Ms. Christianne Carrillo, Licensing Examiner – Juneau
Ms. Sher Zinn, Regulation Specialist – Juneau

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Agenda Item 2

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Review / Approval of Agenda

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Time: 1:47 PM

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The board reviewed the DRAFT agenda for the 4.8.2020 Board Meeting. Changes were made to the DRAFT 4.8.2020 agenda for the 4.8.2020 Board Meeting. Public comment was added and moved to be the 4th agenda item. Agenda item 9 and 10 were merged as one item and moved as item 5. Item 4 and 5 were moved down as 6 and 7. Agenda 8, Procedure for Filing a Report Due to Travel was removed.

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On a motion duly made by Dr. Dominic Wenzell, seconded by Dr. Jesse Hronkin, and approved unanimously without any objections, it was

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RESOLVED to approve the 4.8.2020 dental board agenda as amended.

52 **Agenda Item 3** **Ethics Report** **Time: 1:52 PM**

53

54 There were no reports.

55

56 **Agenda Item 4** **Public Comment** **Time: 1:55 PM**

57

- 58 • Dr. David Logan suggested to consider emailing licensees for notices and new health mandates.
- 59 • Mary Ellen Murphy from the ADA checked in to see if there were any changes in continuing education and renewal requirements or deadlines in leu of COVID-19.
- 60
- 61 • Dr. Jessy Blanco wanted to discuss teledentistry. Dr. Blanco is worried about cross contamination and would like for regulations to be created for teledentistry to be covered by Medicaid.
- 62
- 63 • Dr. Bergeron wanted to see official notice by the board as well as teledentistry.
- 64 • Dane Laneker echoed the earlier comments and added that telemedicine would be valuable with regulations.
- 65
- 66 • Dr. Dominic Wenzell asked who is discussing within the department to discuss the codes that Medicaid is going to be reimbursing. Kenley Michaud answered that Dale Burke has been working on the list and threw out basic guidelines and they are not static.
- 67
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- 69 • Kenley Michaud wanted to voice his support for meetings not being very well broadcasted and would like more transparency and teledentistry. Mr. Michaud believes that the AHA has taken good care of ALS and PALS by having guidelines that extend the due date.
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- 71
- 72 • Brent Tingey from ASSO would like to talk about the letter from the ASSO to The Board of Dental Examiners.
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75 **Agenda Item 5** **Letters** **Time: 2:05 PM**

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77 The chair shared the Joint Statement on Medications to Treat COVID-19 from The Board of Pharmacy, The Alaska State Medical Board and The Board of Nursing and asked the board if he should sign it.

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80 **On a motion duly made by Dr. Kelly Lucas, seconded by Dr. Jesse Hronkin, and approved**
81 **unanimously by a roll call, it was**

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83 **RESOLVED for the board to adopt and sign The Joint Statement on Medications to Treat**
84 **COVID-19 by the Alaska Board of Pharmacy, The Alaska State Medical Board, The Alaska**
85 **Board of Nursing.**

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Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Dr. David Nielson	X		
Ms. Gail Walden	X		
Dr. Kelly Lucas	X		
Dr. Steven Scheller	X		
Dr. Dominic Wenzell	X		
Ms. Robin Wahto	X		
Dr. Jesse Hronkin	X		
Dr. Jon Woller	X		
Ms. Brittany Dschaak	X		

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141 Dr. Woller inquired with Ms. Zinn what the Medical Board is doing about their initial licensure
142 requirements. Ms. Zinn shared that they are currently working on emergency regulation to allow for an
143 emergency courtesy license for doctors to come up to Alaska and assist with this health care emergency.
144 They are working on waving notarized applications and waving requirements of records more recent than
145 6 months. Ms. Zinn shared that the Medical Board has a courtesy license in their regulations which allows
146 for them to issue courtesy licenses based on a Governor’s mandated emergency for people who are
147 already licensed not for new graduates or those who are finished with their residency. Dr. Nielson saw
148 that the board is not able to create a temporary license and moved on to ADEX’s exam which has 3D
149 models and comprehensive exam that deals with clinical exams and mannequin tests.

150
151 Dr. Nielson has asked ADEX for a model for the board to look at so the board can decide if it’s an option
152 the board would allow. Ms. Walden was asked if there are any good mannequin tests for dental
153 hygienists. Ms. Walden does not know of any testing agencies that uses mannequins currently.

154
155 PBIS was contacted by Dr. Nielson and was told they have the question of waving notaries. It was stated
156 that no one is currently having trouble finding notaries. Dr. Nielson made a statement that the board can
157 instruct PBIS to keep collecting notarized forms and that applications will be on hold until the exams start
158 up again.

159
160 **Agenda Item 7** **Continuing Education Classes** **Time: 2:36 PM**

161
162 Page 22 on the board packet was shown on the screen displaying 12 AAC 28.065. Dr. Nielson talked
163 about expiring ACLS, PALS, and CPR cards and how licensees cannot renew them currently but perhaps
164 adding a (b) section to it. The change would say: “(b) During or because of a declared State or National
165 Emergency and for the purpose of maintaining or renewing a sedation permit issued under 12 AAC
166 28.010 or 12 AAC 28.015, the board may (1) extend the expiration date of existing ACLS, PALS and
167 CPR certification for up to 180 days; and (2) temporarily reduce or modify the required number of
168 documented sedation cases necessary for permit renewal under 28.010€ and 28.015(h).”

169
170 Dr. Wenzell reminded the board does not have the authority to extend expiration dates and suggested to
171 allow for licensees to take re-certifications online. Dr. Nielson asked for the advice of Bill Bergeron and
172 Kenley Michaud. A member of the public Bill Bergeron notified the board that there are parts of the
173 certification that cannot be done online. Mr. Kenley Michaud added that completing the certification
174 online is only half of the training of where the board need licensees to be. Dr. Wenzell summarized that if
175 the AHA is extending the CPR certifications for 120 days then licensees are in compliance, it sounds like
176 the board does not need to do anything.

177
178 Gail Walden shared what SB241 has areas that mention waving requirements for renewal for safety of the
179 public’s health during a health emergency and asked if that helps the situation. Dr. Nielson asked if the
180 board finds number 1 to be necessary at all. Suggestions were made to send a recommendation memo
181 from the board to notify licensees to at least make sure they have completed their online portion while the
182 country is social distancing and follow the AHA guidelines. Dr. Wenzell noted that the licensees do not
183 renew until February of 2021 and have 7 months to achieve their requirements for renewals.

184
185 Dr. Nielson concluded that changes to the CPR regulations are not needed. Dr. Wenzell would like to
186 potentially continue discussion about basic CPR as an online course with hands on compression
187 components in the future.

188
189 **Agenda Item 8** **ASSO Request for Patient Care** **Time: 2:52 PM**

190

191 The Alaska State Society of Orthodontists would like to be included in emergency only procedures. Dr.
 192 Nielson wrote a response to their letter to the board. There was discussion about the ASSO wanting
 193 reassurance that they can see their patients with out getting in trouble with the mandate and found the
 194 letter in response to be appropriate.

195 Brent Tingey clarified that they would like to prevent future emergencies and not bring any new cases in.
 196

197 **On a motion duly made by Dr. Kelly Lucas, seconded by Dr. Jesse Hronkin, and approved**
 198 **unanimously by a roll call, it was**

200 **RESOLVED for the board to adopt and send the letter written by Dr. Nielson on behalf of**
 201 **the board to the Alaska State Society of Orthodontists.**
 202

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Dr. David Nielson	X		
Ms. Gail Walden	X		
Dr. Kelly Lucas	X		
Dr. Steven Scheller	X		
Dr. Dominic Wenzell	X		
Ms. Robin Wahto	X		
Dr. Jesse Hronkin	X		
Dr. Jon Woller	X		
Ms. Brittany Dschaak	X		

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Agenda Item 8

Teledentistry

Time: 2:52 PM

208 Dr. Nielson asked the board to consider teledentistry especially during times like this to help patients the
 209 way they haven't before. Dr. Wenzell shared that new patients under teledentistry are going to be difficult
 210 to help with the same standards as in office patients. The chair asked if a regulation for teledentistry
 211 should be an emergency regulation or a regulation so dentists may bill Medicaid for their service is in
 212 teledentistry. Dr. Jessy Blanco presented her position on teledentistry, sharing that people will be paying
 213 attention to themselves more under this pandemic. Their patients might think something minor is actually
 214 an emergence this is where teledentistry would be helpful to have especially for Alaska's geographic
 215 characteristics.

216
 217 Gail Walden shared that there are no regulations preventing teledentistry at the moment. Dr. Nielson
 218 asked the board if anyone was willing to take on the task to compare states that have teledentistry in their
 219 regulations. Dr. Woller believes this could be a regular regulation project rather than emergency. Dr.
 220 Blanco kindly disagreed and finds it to be an emergency regulation and would like regulations made
 221 during the closure of offices so dentists may help people who have Medicaid and be compensated for
 222 their service. Dr. Blanco added that her letter mentions that supporting teledentistry as a regulation would
 223 provide care for many who have Medicaid.

224
 225 Dr. Nielson asked Ms. Sher Zinn if teledentistry qualifies as an emergency or purely something of a
 226 reimbursement situation as teledentistry is something that can be done now. Ms. Zinn stated that if the
 227 board finds the lack of teledentistry regulations as an emergency in the fact that people are flooding the
 228 ER rather than their dentists, the board can do that. She suggested there could be a policy posted in the
 229 meantime. She added that it can be an emergency regulation but cautioned it should be well thought out.
 230 The board decided that there should be regulations for teledentistry that are well thought out.

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Gail Walden asked if the board can state in a letter to Medicaid that teledentistry is an option for dentists in the state might help. Dr. Nielson agreed and would like to make regulations in the future. Ms. Zinn suggested to let dental licensees know that teledentistry is allowed. Dr. Nielson tasked Dr. Woller to write up a statement about teledentistry in Alaska to get the ball rolling.

Agenda Item 9

Adjourn

Time: 3:34 PM

Dr. Nielson shared that the board would like to meet weekly, every Wednesday at 1:30pm starting 4.15.2020. The board scheduled a meeting with Ms. Carrillo for next week and would like to cancel it if there is nothing on the agenda. The chair tasked Dr. Jon Woller, Dr. Jesse Blanco and Dane Laneker with creating a statement for teledentistry. The board addressed Dr. Nordstrom's email and agreed no one is happy with the date and would like to see going forward what happens with the date.

Britney Dschaak shared her thoughts about the lack of transparency from the board and asked for emails from the board to all dental licensees. Ms. Zinn suggested the board to send just one email a week and direct the licensing examiner what they would like to send out to the approximately 1600 licensees. The board further expressed the frustration of the public with the lack of communication from the board and shared the updates from other states where they receive email updates. Dr. Nielson concluded that the board will work on getting emails out once a week.

On a motion duly made by Dr. David Nielson, seconded by Dr. Dominic Wenzell and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED for the meeting to adjourn at 3:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Christianne Carrillo
Occupational Licensing Examiner

Approved:



David Nielson, DDS, President

Date: July 28, 2020