

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Board of Dental Examiners

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2022



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
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**Board of Dental Examiners
FY 2022 Annual Report**

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**Board of Dental Examiners
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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
David Nielson, DDS Dentist - Chair	Anchorage	March 1, 2015	March 1, 2023
Dominic Wenzell, DMD Dentist	Girdwood	March 1, 2018	March 1, 2026
Jonathon Woller, DMD Dentist	Fairbanks	March 1, 2019	March 1, 2023
Jesse Hronkin, DMD Dentist	Palmer	March 1, 2019	March 1, 2023
Gregory Johnson, DDS Dentist	Fairbanks	March 1, 2021	March 1, 2025
Christina Hansen, RDH Dental Hygienist	Fairbanks	March 1, 2021	March 1, 2025
Brittany Dschaak, RDH Dental Hygienist	Dillingham	March 1, 2019	March 1, 2023

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Identification of the Board (continued)

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Bradley Heaston Public Member	Eagle River	March 1, 2021	March 1, 2025
Vacant Dentist			

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Identification of Staff

Abby O'Brien – Licensing Examiner (08/10/2020 - Current)

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-2550

Terry Ryals – Records and Licensing Supervisor (05/15/2021 - Current)

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
P.O. Box 110806
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(907) 465-2550

Jasmin Bautista – Investigator

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
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P.O. Box 110806
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Jun Maiquis – Regulations Specialist II (06/10/2021 - Current)

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
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Narrative Statement

During Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22), the State Board of Dental Examiners (Board) met four times via teleconference: August 20, 2021; December 3, 2021; March 4, 2022; and May 13, 2022. One emergency meeting was called to vote on a license surrender, but no emergency COVID-19 related meetings were needed.

During FY22 the Board had Dr. Kelly Lucas from Wasilla resign, and Dr. Dominic Wenzell of Girdwood was re-appointed to a second 4-year term. The Board has had occasional difficulty maintaining quorum, due to the vacancy of Dr. Lucas's seat.

The Board has recently experienced greater consistency in our licensing examiner position, with Abby O'Brien's arrival. Abby has filled that role nicely. She has a workload that requires more than one full time employee.

The Board is evaluating how to streamline licensing requirements to enable licenses to be issued quicker to qualified applicants. There has been work done on a licensing portal where applicants can check on documents they need to submit. Any improvements to this portal that give applicants real-time feedback about their progress will be helpful. In the coming year, the Board will examine ways to reduce unnecessary documentation or procedures to speed up the licensing process; including the ability to give out temporary or provisional licenses if appropriate criteria are met.

In FY2022, the Board introduced several regulation projects and saw three statutory changes. First, a new specialty license category was introduced. Second, the burden of radiological inspections was removed from the Board and placed back into the Department of Health. Third, an advanced dental hygiene permit was added that will allow hygienists to work independently of a dentist in dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). These are geographic areas and/or populations which have unmet needs for dental services.

Regulation projects in FY2022 included addition of a one-year post-graduate residency initial license option, clarification of the two or more-year specialty initial license option, acceptance of manikin based initial exams for dental applicants was extended indefinitely, and the Board cleaned up some unused credentialing requirements.

The Board has shifted most of its COVID-19 guidance to mirror CDC recommendations and will continue to monitor the current environment locally in Alaska.

The Board continues to work towards development of a working penalty matrix that can be consulted as new investigators and board members change over time. This will offer some consistency and guidance going forward. Investigations continues to be somewhat challenging as our investigator is being shared among other boards, while in statute we should be designated our own. The investigative report we receive has been confusing the way it is broken down and many of our suggestions have so far gone unheeded. Many cases seem to be in holding patterns for reasons that are not well communicated to the reviewing board members.

Dentists continue to try and comply with the PDMP but find the inability to use delegates that are not licensed by the department, like dental assistants, a problem. Also, the statistics given during our meetings have a hard time telling whether dentists are exempt from certain requirements if, for example, they prescribe opioids within 48 hours of surgery.

During the upcoming permit renewal, set for February 28, 2023, the Board will be requiring sedation permit holders for the first time to submit proof of an in-office inspection. Of course, whenever something is required for the first time the Board may expect some issues to arise. For this reason, we have been trying to get the word out and proactively answer questions that arise, but time will tell how many permits will be renewed on time.

Lastly, the Board looks forward to the day in person meetings will resume again as it is our opinion members are more engaged and can contribute more to the process.

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023

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 26, 2022	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 (Please Specify):			\$ 321.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 3,666.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
December 2022	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 (Please Specify):			\$ 321.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 3,666.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
March 2023 (Q3)	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 (Please Specify):			\$ 321.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 3,666.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
May 2023 (Q4)	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 (Please Specify):			\$ 321.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 3,666.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	Videoconference	9	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify):			\$ 350.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 350.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (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 (Please Specify):

Total Estimated Cost:

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (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
October 7-9, 2022	Asheville, NC	2	1

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

Annual meeting of the American Association of Dental Boards.

The Alaska Board of Dental Examiners is required to be a member of the AADB as per Sec. 08.36.070.

Attendance to the conference provides the Board with a forum for keeping current with state and territory board concerns. Programs are designed with the intent to encourage collaboration between industry stakeholders and other members. Panels and discussion groups facilitate the exchange of ideas and information, providing attendees with a framework of current industry concerns both regionally and nationwide.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$ 1,400.00			\$ 1,400.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$ 1,505.00			\$ 1,505.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$ 440.00			\$ 440.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$ 695.00			\$ 695.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$ 321.00			\$ 321.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): Per Diem expenses for the duration of the conference				
Net Total:	\$ 4,361.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,361.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (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.

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
NPDB	National Practitioner's 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 2023 (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:

Summary of FY 2023 Fiscal Requests:

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$ 15,014.00
Travel for Exams:	\$ 0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$ 4,361.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$ 5,383.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	\$ 0.00
Other:	\$ 0.00
Total Requested:	\$ 24,758.00

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Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2023

No Recommendations

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

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

These recommendations are carried over from previous fiscal years and have not been achieved yet.

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.

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Regulation Recommendations - Proposed Regulations for FY 2023

No Recommendations

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

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

1. Draft and adopt regulations for the new Advanced Dental Hygiene Practice permit that was passed last legislative session and is awaiting the governor's signature.
2. Draft and adopt regulations for the new Dental Specialty License that was passed last legislative session and is awaiting the governor's signature.
3. 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.

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Goals and Objectives

Part I

FY 2022's goals and objectives and how they were met:

Goals from last fiscal year:

1. Finish regulation projects already started:
Adopted and enacted regulations to broaden initial licensure applicant field to include more exams given nationally.
2. Have the State Department of Health take over radiological equipment inspections:
Accomplished by passage of SB173.
3. Bring back the specialty license:
Accomplished by passage of SB173.
4. Streamline licensure more:
Work here is ongoing.
5. Track the new required sedation permit office inspection compliance:
Work is ongoing here.
6. Continue to develop and finalize a penalty matrix:
Having difficulty working with investigations in this area due to turn over and lack of responsiveness from our investigator.
7. Have better communication and efficiency with our investigative unit:
An ongoing goal that never seems to improve much.
8. Return to 2-4 in person meetings per year:
None yet, but still a goal

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II

FY 2023's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

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

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. Having two examiner positions available after SB173 passed this session will help, but we have a hard time even filling one position.
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.
3. Continue developing a penalty matrix. The key issue has been a lack of commitment from investigations to help with the effort.
4. Resume in person meetings.

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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 4/26/2018

Board Sunset Date: 6/30/2027

Audit Recommendation:

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

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, are working to propose legislation that would move these inspections back to DHSS, who are better equipped to manage these.

Complete : No Yes If yes, date completed: 6/30/2022

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 that DEA holders should use when there is a status change.

Next Steps:

N/A

Complete : No Yes If yes, date completed: 6/30/2022