

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

MINUTES OF MEETING
April 29, 2020

These DRAFT minutes were prepared by the staff of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing. They have not been reviewed or approved by the Board.

Teleconference

Wednesday, April 29th, 2020

Agenda Item 1

Call to Order/Roll Call

Time: 1:33 PM

The meeting was called to order by Dr. David Nielson, President, at 1:33 p.m.

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

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)*
Dr. Steven Scheller – *(Via Teleconference)*

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

Ms. Christianne Carrillo, Licensing Examiner – *(Via Teleconference)*
Ms. Sara Chambers, Division Director – *(Via Teleconference)*
Mr. Joseph Bonnell, Records and Licensing Supervisor – *(Via Teleconference)*

In attendance from public:

Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer, AHSS – *(Via Teleconference)*
Dr. Joe McLaughlin, State Epidemiologist – *(Via Teleconference)*
Coleman Hutchins – *(Via Teleconference)*
Becky Morisse – *(Via Teleconference)*
Frances Weiss, Oral Health Program – *(Via Teleconference)*
Dane Lenaker, Dental Consultant – *(Via Teleconference)*
Molly Rosher – *(Via Teleconference)*

Agenda Item 2

Ethics Report

Time: 1:36 PM

There were no reports.

Agenda Item 3

Review / Approval of Agenda

Time: 1:37 PM

The board reviewed the draft agenda for the 4.29.2020 Board Meeting. There were no changes.

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

RESOLVED to approve the 4.29.2020 dental board agenda.

Agenda Item 4

Mandate 015

Time: 1:39 PM

The chair notified the public and board members that public comment will not be taken as most of the time for the meeting will be spent speaking to Dr. Anne Zink. Dr. Nielson shared that there will be an ECHO meeting after the Board of Dental Examiners meeting at 3:30pm.

Dr. Nielson asked who has the authority to approve and write the mandates. Dr. Anne Zink clarified that it is the Governor who creates and approves mandates. She mentioned that there is already a preexisting authority under the chief medical officer's license which has been expanded on. The mandates are created by a combined effort of people such as Joe McLaughlin who is the head of epidemiology team. Dr. Zink added that Mandate 015 was an attempt to open-up healthcare services before most states. It was created as a general structure from a health perspective and are looking to partner with the state boards to fill it in going forward.

Agenda Item 5

Modifying Current Recommendations

Time: 2:05 PM

The original version of the recommendations email written by the board to licensees was modified to read as "requirements" for Mandate 015. By doing so Dr. Nielson asked Director Chambers if the board is responsible for the disciplinary violations of the board's requirements. Director Chambers explained that the authority of the board comes from the statutes and regulations that govern them. By issuing a statement, the board is saying how they interpret the mandate for their licensees. If a dental examiner disobeys a mandate it should be reported to investigations@alaska.gov. The board can make a requirement if it does not conflict with the existing statutes and regulations. Director Chambers reiterated that Mandate 015 is not a mandate to get back to work. She said that it is a cautious approach to say that if dental offices are confident about meeting the requirements then they do the routine services or non-postpone able procedures.

Dr. Nielson moved on to talk about Mandate 015's Testing FAQs. The chair went over changes and additions that he made. Dr. Wenzell wanted to add "for at least sixty seconds prior to treatment" under "Suggested Decision Matrix," (1) in the board's recommendation guidelines. Dr. Woller added that the correct time is sixty seconds. There was discussion on what kills bacteria and viruses. Gail Walden suggested to do some research before adding more specifics. Dr. Nielson notified the board and public that there are no guidelines on how to proceed after May 4th, 2020 and that the purpose of the discussion

is to determine whether the board has the authority to modify testing requirements and plans to draft a letter to DHSS.

Dr. Jon Woller found information from the ADA that hydrogen peroxide is recommended to destroy the virus. Dr. Nielson moved on to section IV of the email guidelines. The board decided that they would like more time to review the guidance.

Dr. Coleman Hutchins joined the teleconference and was asked some questions. Dr. Wenzell stated the concerns of dental examiners that the requirement of tests for COVID-19 is stated in the mandate inhibits dental examiners from opening their office for dental work. Dr. Hutchins notified the board that he is aware of discussions of increasing testing capacities by pharmacies and testing sites and believes that dental examiners know their field best and would like their suggestions. There was more discussion about the price and intent of asymptomatic testing and the ever-growing symptoms of COVID-19. Dr. Hutchins answered the questions of the board until he had to leave the meeting. He concluded that he believes the board has a great plan moving forward and appreciates the board's work.

Agenda Item 6

PDMP Pharmacy Letter

Time: 2:22 PM

The chair shared a letter that the Board of Pharmacy asked the Board of Dental Examiners to support. Ms. Laura Carrillo, Executive Administrator of the PDMP asked all prescribing boards to write a letter to express their full support for the PDMP to receive a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Administration. Dr. Nielson entertained a motion to approve the letter to Commissioner Julie Anderson.

On a motion duly made by Dr. Dominic Wenzell, seconded by Dr. Jon Woller, and approved unanimously by a roll call, it was

RESOLVED for the board to accept the letter to Commissioner Julie Anderson in support of the PDMP.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Dr. David Nielson	X		
Ms. Gail Walden	X		
Britney Dschaak	X		
Dr. Dominic Wenzell	X		
Ms. Robin Wahto	X		
Dr. Jesse Hronkin	X		
Dr. Jon Woller	X		

Ms. Gail Walden presented a response letter to the Alaska Dental Hygiene Association.

On a motion duly made by Dr. Dominic Wenzell, seconded by Dr. Jesse Hronkin, and approved unanimously by a roll call, it was

RESOLVED for the board to adopt the response letter to the Alaska Dental Hygiene Association.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
--------------	---------	------	--------

Dr. David Nielson	X		
Ms. Gail Walden	X		
Dr. Kelly Lucas	X		
Dr. Dominic Wenzell	X		
Ms. Robin Wahto	X		
Dr. Jesse Hronkin	X		
Dr. Jon Woller	X		

Agenda Item 8

New Business

Time: 3:15 PM

Email to Licensees:

Dr. Nielson shared that the board guidance email to the licensees will be sent out by Friday afternoon 4.24.2020.

Agenda Item 4

Public Comment

Time: 3:25 PM

The board allowed for more public comment. Information from China was shared by a dentist who is also a former board member and compared the level of care in the US to other countries and found that the level of care is the highest in the US. He shared that the board should have more of a say in the mandate and waiting for more information would be best rather than having something out by Friday 4.24.2020.

There was a question about what dental examiners can perform in the next two weeks. The chair responded that the guidance that will come out on 4.24.2020 will explain what is allowed and added that anything that creates an aerosol will not be allowed.

Katrina Virgin, president of the Alaska Dental Hygiene Association asked if dental examiners can produce an aerosol during emergency procedures. The chair answered that it is already allowed. Ms. Virgin asked what the procedure would if a non-emergency procedure and an emergency procedure were to happen in the same office. Dr. Woller responded with greater than 8 feet away would be advisable and added that it is impossible to write guidance for each dental office design. Dr. Nielson added that practitioners must do whatever it takes to mitigate the risks and to use professional judgement.

PPE specific information was requested. The board informed the meeting that the email will have this information with links to more information. A dental examiner from a remote area expressed concern about the availability of PPEs. The board sympathized for many who will not be able to meet requirements.

Dr. Blanco saw an ethical dilemma about not treating the entire mouth of children who might have to be put under anesthesia two times. The board responded to Dr. Blanco that dentists will have to use their best judgement on what constitutes an emergency.

Dr. Ellis commented that he believes the requirements from Mandate 015 inhibit proper care.

Agenda Item 8

New Business

Time: 3:40 PM

Email to Licensees:

There was further discussion on whether the guidance from the board should keep the wording to stay as recommendations rather than requirements. Director Chambers reminded the board that what they are dealing with is uncharted territory and explained to the board that what is important to follow will show up during the investigation of a licensee. She recommended that the board should determine how strongly they feel stating what is stated as a recommendation vs what is a requirement and what they would like to adopt as a regulation.

There was more discussion on PPE equipment and how it should be worded in the board guidance email. The board decided to take time to read through the written guidance to licensees and planned to adjust if needed through their licensing examiner, Ms. Carrillo to send to the chair. The recommendations will be voted on in OnBoard.

Schedule a Meeting:

There will be another Emergency Board Meeting the same time next week on 4/29/2020 at 1:30PM.

Agenda Item 9

Adjourn

Time: 4:13 PM

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

RESOLVED for the meeting to adjourn at 4:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Christianne Carrillo
Occupational Licensing Examiner

Approved:

David Nielson, DDS, President

Date: _____