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

MINUTES OF MEETING
April 15, 2020

Teleconference

Wednesday, April 15th, 2020

Agenda Item 1

Call to Order/Roll Call

Time: 1:32 PM

The meeting was called to order by Dr. David Nielson, President, at 1:32 p.m.

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

Dr. David Nielson, President – *(Via Teleconference)*
Dr. Steven Scheller – *(Via Videoconference)*
Dr. Dominic Wenzell – *(Via Teleconference)*
Dr. Kelly Lucas – *(Via Teleconference)*
Ms. Robin Wahto – *(Via Teleconference)*
Dr. Jesse Hronkin – *(Via Teleconference)*
Dr. Jonathan Woller – *(Via Teleconference)*
Ms. Brittany Dschaak – *(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 - Juneau
Mr. Joseph Bonnell, Records and Licensing Supervisor - Juneau
Ms. Sher Zinn, Regulation Specialist - Juneau

In Attendance from the Public:

Mr. Paul Anderson – *(Via Teleconference)*
Mr. Jack Duclos - *(Via Teleconference)*
Mr. Dave Logan, Alaska Dental Society – *(Via Teleconference)*
Mr. Birch Yuknis – *(Via Teleconference)*
Mr. Logan Cornwell - *(Via Teleconference)*
Ms. Terry Wood - *(Via Teleconference)*

Gail Walden entered the teleconference at 1:36 PM.

52 **Agenda Item 2** **Review / Approval of Agenda** **Time: 1:39 PM**

53

54 The board reviewed the DRAFT agenda for the 4.15.2020 Board Meeting. Dr. Nielson suggested the
55 board review teledentistry after the ethics report. This item was moved from agenda item 5 to agenda
56 item 4.

57

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

60

61 **RESOLVED to approve the 4.15.2020 dental board agenda as amended.**

62

63

64 **Agenda Item 3** **Ethics Report**

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66 There were no reports.

67

68

69 **Agenda Item 4** **Teledentistry Statement** **Time: 1:41 PM**

70

71 Dr. Nielson directed the board to review the teledentistry statement. He noted there was a letter sent from
72 Dr. Albertson and there was input from Dr. Jesse Blanco. The statement was created by Dr. Woller and is
73 quite extensive with some links for additional information.

74

75 Dr. Nielson informed the board that any additional regulations or regulation changes regarding the
76 teledentistry statement remains to be seen. Dr. Nielson asked Dr. Woller if this should be sent as a letter
77 to the state or just posted as a policy or statement. Dr. Woller informed the board that the intent was to
78 send it out as a policy statement as there was some lack of clarity at the state level regarding 3rd party
79 payers and if they would acknowledge teledentistry as a valid treatment modality. Dr. Woller informed
80 the board the statement supports teledentistry as a treatment modality and cited the ADA as having
81 excellent policies on the topic.

82

83 Dr. Nielson believed the Division of Medicaid should see the statement and it should be sent to the
84 appropriate people. Dr. Woller stated the Division of Medicaid was accepting almost all other healthcare
85 practices use of telehealth but had cited the dentists lack of regulations regarding teledentistry in the
86 Board of Dental Examiners Statutes and Regulations as a reason to not accept 3rd party reimbursement for
87 telehealth procedures. Dr. Nielson requested the boards permission to send the letter to appropriate people
88 and post it on the State of Alaska Board of Dental Examiners website under the covid-19 links.

89

90 Dr. Nielson asked the board if there were any objections to mailing and posting the letter. Gail Walden
91 stated the letter would be appropriate and a reference to the ADA would be appropriate but it would not
92 necessary to copy the information from the ADA as that information was on the ADA website. She did
93 say a link to the ADA website would be acceptable. Ms. Walden clarified she did not believe all 10 pages
94 of the Covid-19 information from the ADA needed to be posted to the website. Dr. Nielson stated once
95 the link is added to the ADA website there will be a lot of stuff on the State of Alaska Board of Dental
96 Examiners Website. It was also stated non-ADA members may not have the same access and members.
97 Gail suggested adding the link and letting the ADA decide what people see.

98

99 **On a motion duly made by Dr. Dominic Wenzel, seconded by Dr. Jesse Hronkin, and approved**
100 **unanimously by roll call vote, it was**

101

143 Logan Cornwell, a student asked for clarification for new graduates who would like to be licensed in Alaska.
144 The chair responded to Mr. Cornwell that the board has come into road blocks about the subject and shared
145 that the board will have more time to discuss the topic at the Board of Dental Examiners' next board meeting
146 on May 5th, 2020.

147
148 Terry Wood asked if the applications for licensure in Alaska are currently on pause and if other masks can
149 be used other than N95s. Dr. Nielson stated to Ms. Wood that initial applications are currently on pause and
150 the second part of her question will be discussed later in the meeting.

151
152
153 **Agenda Item 6** **Letter to Sara Chambers** **Time: 2:10 PM**

154
155 Dr. Nielson presented a draft letter to Director Sara Chambers, CC'd to Commissioner Crum. The letter
156 notified Director Chambers of their weekly emergency meetings to determine whether any emergency
157 regulations are needed and gather any information specific to how dental examiners should react to COVID-
158 19 presently and for the future. The board requested that the board may be able to provide input to DHSS
159 and Dr. Zink as standing orders are drafted for dentists.

160
161 Dr. Nielson asked the board if there were any comments about the letter. Ms. Gail Walden made a request
162 to correct DHHS to DHSS and change the word repairing to preparing. She also asked to include AK DHA
163 to the list or organizations. The letter was planned to be sent out by the end of the day.

164
165 Dr. Nielson asked Dr. Jon Woller to develop board approved dental guidelines. Dr. Woller will asks other
166 dentists to help. He urged the public to click the links on Mandate 6 that would answer a lot of the public's
167 questions. The resources list guidelines that do not mention an N95 mask but highly recommend it. Dr.
168 Nielson reminded everyone that the board plans to get an email out on Friday.

169
170 **Task:**
171
172 **Dr. Jon Woller will draft out a plan for dental providers going forward on dental routines**
173 **by the next meeting.**

174
175 **On a motion duly made by Dr. Dominic Wenzel, seconded by Ms. Gail Walden, and approved**
176 **unanimously by roll call vote, it was**

177
178 **RESOLVED to adopt the letter to Director Sara Chambers as amended.**

179

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		
Ms. Brittany Dschaak	X		

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184 Agenda Item 7

185 Adjourn

Time: 2:28 PM

186

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

189

190 **RESOLVED** for the meeting to adjourn at 2:29 PM.

191

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193

Respectfully Submitted:

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195

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198

Christianne Carrillo

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Occupational Licensing Examiner

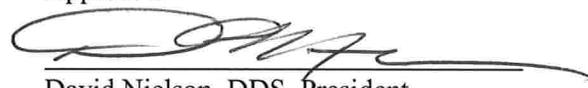
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Approved:

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204

David Nielson, DDS, President

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Date: Oct. 7th, 2020

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