

1 STATE OF ALASKA
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND
3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
4 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS,
5 BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
6 BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS
7

8 MINUTES OF MEETING
9 April 22, 2020
10

11 Teleconference
12

13
14
15 Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020
16

17
18 **Agenda Item 1**

Call to Order/Roll Call

Time: 1:30 PM

19
20 The meeting was called to order by Dr. David Nielson, President, at 1:30 p.m.
21

22 Board Members present, constituting a quorum of the board, were:
23

24 Dr. David Nielson, President – *(Via Teleconference)*
25 Dr. Kelly Lucas – *(Via Teleconference)*
26 Ms. Gail Walden – *(Via Teleconference)*
27 Dr. Dominic Wenzell – *(Via Teleconference)*
28 Ms. Robin Wahto – *(Via Teleconference)*
29 Dr. Jesse Hronkin – *(Via Teleconference)*
30 Dr. Jonathan Woller – *(Via Teleconference)*
31 Ms. Brittany Dschaak – *(Via Teleconference)*
32
33

34 Commerce, Community and Economic Development were:
35

36 Ms. Christianne Carrillo, Licensing Examiner – *(Via Teleconference)*
37 Ms. Sara Chambers, Division Director – *(Via Teleconference)*
38 Mr. Joseph Bonnell, Records and Licensing Supervisor – *(Via Teleconference)*
39

40 In attendance from public:
41

42 Dr. Coleman Hutchins – *(Via Teleconference)*
43 Katrina Virgin – *(Via Teleconference)*
44 Dr. Jessica Blanco – *(Via Teleconference)*
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

52 **Agenda Item 2** **Review / Approval of Agenda** **Time: 1:32 PM**

53
54 The board reviewed the draft agenda for the 4.22.2020 Board Meeting. There were no changes.
55

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

58
59 **RESOLVED to approve the 4.22.2020 dental board agenda.**

60
61
62 **Agenda Item 3** **Ethics Report** **Time: 1:33 PM**

63
64 There were no reports.

65
66
67 **Agenda Item 4** **Public Comment** **Time: 1:35 PM**

68
69 A letter from Alaska Dental Society was shared which requested for the governor to allow modifications
70 to the Health Mandate 015 by the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners. The chair notified the board that
71 this will be addressed in agenda item 6. There were also questions that were submitted to ADS for the
72 board.

73
74 Dr. Nielson read from questions that was submitted by ADS out loud. He said many of the questions will
75 be touched on in agenda item 6. There was a question about whether dentists will be able to perform
76 testing for COVID-19 themselves. Dr. Nielson said he does not think dentists have been authorized to do
77 the tests themselves. Director Sara Chambers notified the public and the board that Coleman Hutchins
78 from epidemiology will be joining the meeting after 2:00pm for any details or clarifications about testing
79 materials. There was discussion about whether staff should be required for their temperatures to be taken
80 three times a day. Some did not find the difficulty in that requirement.

81
82 The board moved on to public comment emails. Emails that asked about testing were not answered due to
83 the lack information at that time. There was an email implying that Dr. Zink has not been in contact with
84 the board. Dr. Nielson clarified that Dr. Zink has been in contact with the Alaska Board of Dental
85 Examiners through Director Chambers through the order of operations with the mandates. Director
86 Chambers verified this statement and stated that the state is blessed with the steady, thoughtful, and
87 contemplative leadership of Dr. Zink and Commissioner Crum during this usual situation. Director
88 Chambers believed that it was important to frame that Dr. Zink who is an emergency department
89 physician is working with the best information she has by working with the board and data from other
90 states and that ultimately the Governor is making the decisions based on those generalities through
91 mandates. Mandate 015's FAQ stated clearly they are not the experts nor do they have the specifics to the
92 mandate. She clarified that that is why the board, as the official state governor of the practice of dentistry
93 is critically important to take the mandate with the existing statutes and regulations and put forth
94 guidance.

95
96 Dr. Nielson explained he does not think it is appropriate at this point to do any other procedures that
97 create an aerosol even if a patient is sedated. Dr. Wenzell agreed. The board added that if the patient is
98 sedated and there are other services a dentist can do that does not create an aerosol would be okay. Dr.
99 Woller agreed with this statement. The board stated that ultrasonic cleaners may be used if there is a top
100 on the device.

101

102 The chair clarified that after April 20th, 2020 orthodontists may work if they are not performing any
103 aerosol generating procedure and that orthodontists are to follow the same guidelines as dentists.

104
105 **Agenda Item 5** **Modifying Current Recommendations** **Time: 2:05 PM**
106

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

117
118 Dr. Nielson moved on to talk about Mandate 015’s Testing FAQs. The chair went over changes and
119 additions that he made. Dr. Wenzell wanted to add “for at least sixty seconds prior to treatment” under
120 “Suggested Decision Matrix,” (1) in the board’s recommendation guidelines. Dr. Woller added that the
121 correct time is sixty seconds. There was discussion on what kills bacteria and viruses. Gail Walden
122 suggested to do some research before adding more specifics. Dr. Nielson notified the board and public
123 that there are no guidelines on how to proceed after May 4th, 2020 and that the purpose of the discussion
124 is to determine whether the board has the authority to modify testing requirements and plans to draft a
125 letter to DHSS.

126
127 Dr. Jon Woller found information from the ADA that hydrogen peroxide is recommended to destroy the
128 virus. Dr. Nielson moved on to section IV of the email guidelines. The board decided that they would like
129 more time to review the guidance.

130
131 Dr. Coleman Hutchins joined the teleconference and was asked some questions. Dr. Wenzell stated the
132 concerns of dental examiners that the requirement of tests for COVID-19 is stated in the mandate inhibits
133 dental examiners from opening their office for dental work. Dr. Hutchins notified the board that he is
134 aware of discussions of increasing testing capacities by pharmacies and testing sites and believes that
135 dental examiners know their field best and would like their suggestions. There was more discussion about
136 the price and intent of asymptomatic testing and the ever-growing symptoms of COVID-19. Dr. Hutchins
137 answered the questions of the board until he had to leave the meeting. He concluded that he believes the
138 board has a great plan moving forward and appreciates the board’s work.

139
140 **Agenda Item 6** **PDMP Pharmacy Letter** **Time: 2:22 PM**
141

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

146
147 **On a motion duly made by Dr. Dominic Wenzell, seconded by Dr. Jon Woller, and**
148 **approved unanimously by a roll call, it was**

149
150 **RESOLVED for the board to accept the letter to Commissioner Julie Anderson in support**
151 **of the PDMP.**
152

153
154

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		

155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163

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		

164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175

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.

176
177
178
179
180

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.

181
182
183
184

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.

185
186

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.

187 Virgin asked what the procedure would if a non-emergency procedure and an emergency procedure were
188 to happen in the same office. Dr. Woller responded with greater than 8 feet away would be advisable and
189 added that it is impossible to write guidance for each dental office design. Dr. Nielson added that
190 practitioners must do whatever it takes to mitigate the risks and to use professional judgement.
191 PPE specific information was requested. The board informed the meeting participants that the email will
192 have this information with links to more information. A dental examiner from a remote area expressed
193 concern about the availability of PPEs. The board sympathized for many who will not be able to meet
194 requirements.

195
196 Dr. Blanco saw an ethical dilemma about not treating the entire mouth of children who might have to be
197 put under anesthesia two times. The board responded to Dr. Blanco that dentists will have to use their best
198 judgement on what constitutes an emergency.

199
200 Dr. Ellis commented that he believes the requirements from Mandate 015 inhibit proper care.

201
202
203 **Agenda Item 8** **New Business** **Time: 3:40 PM**

204
205 Email to Licensees:

206
207 There was further discussion on whether the guidance from the board should keep the wording to stay as
208 recommendations rather than requirements. Director Chambers reminded the board that what they are
209 dealing with is uncharted territory and explained to the board that what is important to follow will show
210 up during the investigation of a licensee. She recommended that the board should determine how strongly
211 they feel stating what is stated as a recommendation vs what is a requirement and what they would like to
212 adopt as a regulation.

213
214 There was more discussion on PPE equipment and how it should be worded in the board guidance email.
215 The board decided to take time to read through the written guidance to licensees and planned to adjust if
216 needed through their licensing examiner, Ms. Carrillo to send to the chair. The recommendations will be
217 voted on in OnBoard.

218
219 Schedule a Meeting:

220
221 There will be another Emergency Board Meeting the same time next week on 4/29/2020 at 1:30PM.

222
223
224 **Agenda Item 9** **Adjourn** **Time: 4:13 PM**

225
226 **On a motion duly made by Dr. Jesse Hronkin, seconded by Dr. Dominic Wenzell and approved**
227 **unanimously, it was**

228
229 **RESOLVED for the meeting to adjourn at 4:14 PM.**

230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237

238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252

Respectfully Submitted:



Christianne Carrillo
Occupational Licensing Examiner

Approved:



David Nielson, DDS, President

Date: Oct. 7th, 2020