

Public Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 28, 2025

2:00 pm

Open Webex/Teleconference Meeting

Call to Order

President Heidi Donnelly called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Board Members Present

Heidi Donnelly, LDA, President
Ashley Johnson, DMD, Vice President
Trina Courtright, DH, ADT, Secretary
Samuel Ankrah, MPA
Peter Cannon, DDS
Linda Gustafson, PT
Hassan Ismail, DDS
Rick Nolting, DDS, MS

Board Staff Present

Bridgett Anderson, Executive Director
Brian Cochran, Assistant Director Licensing and
Credentialing
Kara Kraemer, Investigator
Joyce Nelson, Assistant Director Practitioner
Review
Mary Luecke, Executive Administrative Assistant

Board Member Absent

Mark Roszkowski, DDS

Approval of Agenda

The February 28, 2025 Public Board Meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

US Coast Guard License Certification

Bridgett Anderson reported this is a fiscal budget year. She is bringing the US Coast Guard topic before the Board for consideration because the Legislature is considering a mini-omnibus bill. With the expansion of the compact, Minnesota would need to adjust language if the license is from a compact state.

Statute refers to Minnesota licensed dentists and the US Coast Guard wants to hire dual licensed hygienists/ therapists.

- Dentists assigned to the US Coast Guard are only required to have one valid dental license. The dual dental therapist/dental hygienist would be providing care to active-duty service members and eligible military beneficiaries within military controlled environments.
- Information regarding the USCG's requirement for licensure can be obtained within: USCG Medical Manual, COMDTINST M6000.1 (series)

- https://media.defense.gov/2022/Sep/14/2003076969/-1/-1/0/CIM_6000_1F.PDF
- Page 64.d. State Licensure. While assigned with the CG, DOs are required to have an unrestricted state license to practice dentistry.
- The sister-services also only require one valid dental, medical or dental hygiene license.

A question before the Board is whether to remove “Minnesota” in general and consider “Licensed and practicing in another state, military ...” in the following:

(b) A collaborating dentist must be licensed and practicing in Minnesota. The collaborating dentist shall accept responsibility for all services authorized and performed by the dental therapist pursuant to the management agreement. Any licensed dentist who permits a dental therapist to perform a dental service other than those authorized under this section or by the board, or any dental therapist who performs an unauthorized service, violates sections 150A.01 to 150A.12.

Rick Nolting discussed adding some language to protect Minnesota’s collaborating dentists from performing supervision in a state where they are not licensed or connected.

Motion by Rick Nolting, Hassan Ismail second, that the Board add the following language for clarification:

While practicing under the auspices of the Armed Services [Navy (Marines), Army, Coast Guard, Air Force, Space Force, and National Guard], the "collaborating dentist" will be determined by the command structure of the armed service for which the dental professional is a member, assigned or contracted. The collaborating dentist for that person in civilian practice will not be responsible for supervising the services performed by the dental professional while that dental professional is practicing under the auspices of the Armed Services.

VOTE: For: 8
Opposed: 0
RESULT: Motion passed.

Prepayment for Dental Services Language Discussion

Bridgett Anderson reported language was sent to the Board from a legislator’s office for input. The legislator has interest in introducing a bill with language that relates to pre-payments in dentistry. The Board has not discussed the topic in the past.

The Board discussed language from the legislator:

Subd. 5. Prepayment for certain dental services. For dental services in a dental treatment plan scheduled to take more than 90 days to complete, a dentist or dental practice is prohibited from requiring the patient to prepay any portion of the amount owed for the dental services before beginning to provide the dental services. Upon beginning to provide dental services to the patient according to a dental treatment plan scheduled to take more than 90 days to complete, a dentist or dental practice must allow the patient to pay for the dental services with at least two payments due at least 30 days apart.

Board members discussed the legislator's language originated from a rather unique situation with one dentist. Should it become a regulation, the Board would be charged with enforcement. The language itself would be challenging to enforce. The question was posed if the Board would be required to investigate financial records without a complaint. The Board already has and utilizes grounds for discipline and conduct unbecoming language in the complaint process.

There are concerns as to how such a process would be monitored for all dental offices. There could be negative ramifications trying to guide patients with their financial arrangements with their dentist. The MN commercial code already addresses sale of goods and vendor defaults. Bridgett Anderson will respond to the legislator with a letter expressing the Board's concerns.

Announcements

An internationally educated dentist and dental hygienist bill was introduced. The issue was discussed at Policy Committee where The Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers announced their intention to introduce bill language to amend MN Statute 158.06. Their goal is to address the dental hygienist shortage. Various stakeholders including the American Hygienist Association spoke in opposition at the Policy Committee meeting, and others including the Minnesota Dental Hygienist Association submitted opposition letters to the full Board. The Policy Committee will continue discussion at a future meeting.

Bridgett Anderson presented examination data from the ADEX Dental Hygiene Candidates. Of non-students: Non-CODA educated dentists passed at a 78% rate and CODA graduates passed at a 90.8% rate. Bridgett Anderson expects to be requested to testify to the legislature. The bill would have a fiscal impact on the Board of Dentistry if passed.

Adjourn

The Board agreed unanimously to adjourn at 2:36 pm.

Reviewed by:



Heidi C. Donnelly, LDA
Heidi Donnelly, LDA, Board President

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April 11, 2025
Date