



**Minnesota Board of Dentistry**  
335 Randolph Avenue, Suite 250  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
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[www.mn.gov/boards/dentistry](http://www.mn.gov/boards/dentistry)

## **Allied Dental Committee Meeting**

April 8, 2025  
4:30 pm  
Open WebEx/Teleconference Meeting

### Call to Order

Heidi Donnelly called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

#### Board Members Present

Heidi Donnelly, LDA, Chair  
Trina Courtright, DH, ADT  
Linda Gustafson, PT  
Rick Nolting, DDS, MS

#### Board Staff Present

Bridgett Anderson, Executive Director  
Brian Cochran, Assistant Director Licensing and Credentialing  
Kathy Johnson, Legal Analyst  
Mary Luecke, Executive Administrative Assistant

### Approval of Draft Agenda

The April 8, 2025 agenda was reviewed and approved.

### Review and Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

The February 18, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

### Unfinished Business

#### **Expanded Functions Curriculum Review for Western Technical College**

Clinical Coordinator Nicole Schmit and Program Director Lisa Mikkelsen presented on behalf of Wisconsin Western Technical College (WTC). The College requested review of their one-year Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited dental assisting program which additionally incorporates Wisconsin Department of Education curriculum. The goal was to determine how the program could be adjusted to meet licensure requirements for dental assistant students to apply for Minnesota licensure upon graduation. The college is located 1.5 miles from the Minnesota border.

Board staff provided Minnesota's requirements for dental assistants and expanded functions to WTC and the college provided course information for review. The current WTC dental assistant program does not meet Minnesota's requirements. Program Director Lisa Mikkelsen stated the college would adjust the program to meet Minnesota's standards for future classes. The Committee determined the program could be reevaluated for approval after making a few additions to their course. Board staff will gather the additional information as it becomes

available.

**MOTION:** Heidi Donnelly made a motion that the Board reciprocally accept hours from Wisconsin Western Technical College (WTC) dental assistant program provided students graduate after a future date when the program complies with Minnesota's standards. The Board will accept education hours for WTC Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) graduating classes which commenced in September 2024 except for orthodontic duties, removal of fixed orthodontic bands and brackets; and administration of nitrous oxide. Rick Nolting second.

**VOTE:** For: 4  
Opposed: 0

**RESULT:** Motion passed

### **Myofunctional Therapy – Board Guidelines**

Bridgett Anderson reported the Board has been receiving an increasing number of inquiries regarding myofunctional therapy. Many hygienists are trained and certified. Neither the State of Minnesota nor the MN Board of Dentistry regulates myofunctional therapy under our practice act. The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) has a guidance statement for this therapy. The Committee reviewed draft language for a Minnesota Board of Dentistry guidance statement. Discussion included if the Committee would like to recommend basic training and qualifications pertaining to oral facial myofunctional therapy (OMT).

An interprofessional collaborative approach supports patient care. OMTs not only work with dentists, but with physicians, speech therapists, orthodontists, specialists and other healthcare providers. Supervision for dental providers performing OMT does not rely on current delegation of duties for allied dental professionals, as the treatment is not listed under scope of practice. Allied dental providers perform OMT under the auspice of treatments, training, and certification that are part of being certified as a myofunctional therapist. Bridgett Anderson will consult with other health licensing boards, including physical therapy, to assess if a dental hygienist performing OMT would overlap with practice under another board's authority. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **Local Anesthesia CODA Variance Request – Dr. Allan Schwartz**

Allan Schwartz, DDS, CRNA requested a variance to MN Rule 3100.8500 Subpart 1b (L) (2) regarding "at a school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation". Allan Schwartz, DDS, CRNA along with Tudor Stiharu, DMD have planned a course entitled "Essentials of Local Anesthesia for the Licensed Dental Assistant". Dr. Schwartz is requesting the variance to enable



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himself and Dr. Stiharu to teach this course outside a CODA accredited school. The Board's Sedation Committee has reviewed and approved course content. Allied dental sedation language refers to board approved or CODA accredited courses. The Committee, along with audience stakeholders, expressed the importance of having experience with live patient injections. Dr. Schwartz agreed to add the live patient component.

MOTION: Rick Nolting made a motion to deny the request pending a live patient injection component being added to the course. Trina Courtright second.

VOTE: For: 4  
Opposed: 0

RESULT: Motion passed

MOTION: Heidi Donnelly made a motion to approve the variance request with the requirement that additional information adding the patient component to the course be submitted to the Board for approval. Allan Schwartz, DDS, CRNA and Tudor Stiharu, DMD would be allowed to teach the course "Essentials of Local Anesthesia for the Licensed Dental Assistant" even though it is not taught through a CODA accredited program. Rick Nolting second.

VOTE: For: 4  
Opposed: 0

RESULT: Motion passed

Bridgett Anderson clarified that Dr. Schwartz does not need to submit another variance request. He only needs to submit proof that the live patient component has been added to the curriculum.

#### Announcements

None

#### Adjourn

Heidi Donnelly, adjourned at 5:44 pm.

Reviewed by:

Heidi C. Donnelly, LDA  
Heidi Donnelly, LDA, Chair

January 2, 2026  
Date