



Winter 2021 Newsletter

Happy New Year, 2021!

As we leave 2020 behind, we can all agree that last year was filled with exceptionally historic events. I must acknowledge the tireless dedication demonstrated by our Board members and team in addressing the dynamic challenges posed by the pandemic. This included:

- Hosting weekly board meetings to address the changing licensure exam landscape
- Passing a sweeping CPR variance
- Waiving professional development audits
- Communicating Executive Orders from the Governor's office
- Distributing PPE to dental professionals throughout Minnesota
- Providing recommendations and guidance on patient care during the pandemic
- Issuing licenses without service interruptions

Thanks to all of you for your devotion to the citizens of Minnesota. May everyone stay safe and healthy as we begin 2021!

New Board Members

Priscilla Flynn, DH, DrPH, MPH

Priscilla Flynn studied dental hygiene at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and has been licensed in Minnesota for over 40 years. She received her Master of Public Health from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, and her Doctor of Public Health in Healthcare Policy and Management from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her professional experience includes clinical practice in St. Paul and Winona, Minnesota. She also has professional experience with public health practice in Winona, Fillmore, and Houston counties. She served 10 years as the Mayo Clinic Coordinator for the Office of Women’s Health prior to joining the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 2012. Currently a tenured associate professor in the Division of Dental Hygiene, her research interests include health literacy, oral health disparities, and social determinants of health. She received a Community Engaged Scholar Award from the University of Minnesota Office of Public Engagement in 2020.



Connie Bye

As a Head Start Health Manager Connie Bye facilitated numerous community partnerships and collaborations related to preventative healthcare and access to oral healthcare. This included implementation of “Dental Days” at local Head Start centers to increase completion of children’s dental exams and follow-up care. Connie worked within the Minnesota Head Start Association Oral Health Project, which promotes early oral health care and education for parents, increased access to care and implementing the Collaborative Practice Head Start Oral Health Model for Head Start Centers.



Health Literacy is also a special focus for Connie. She is a trainer for Health Literacy in Head Start and is actively involved in the Minnesota Health Literacy Partnership. She is a past liaison to Head Start for the Healthy Teeth, Healthy Baby program through the Minnesota Department of Health’s Oral Health Program. Connie was a founding member of two Early Childhood Dental Networks and was elected to the first Minnesota Oral Health Coalition Board of Directors in 2011. She continues her efforts to increase access to oral health care and education through Head Start Health Consultation and is currently the Vice Chair on the Minnesota Oral Health Coalition.

Did You Thank a Dental Hygienist?

October was National Dental Hygiene Month. Check out this article for more information:

We hope that all of the over 5,700 licensed dental hygienists in Minnesota had a Happy National Dental Hygiene Month (NDHM). NDHM is a two-fold celebration established by the American Dental Hygienists' Association and sponsors. Through NDHM 2020, ADHA and official sponsor Colgate thank hygienists with the term "courageous" in mind. As published in the ADHA Access September/October 2020 edition, "In the midst of a global pandemic, the dental hygiene community came together in extraordinary ways... You have endured hardships and are emerging stronger as an essential healthcare provider. You are working tirelessly to protect the health and safety of your patients, your families, and the entire profession. You are always innovating to meet this moment and advance oral health care for what our world needs next".

ADHA President, Lisa Moravec speaks of NDHM stating that the "intersection of dental hygiene, community, and corporate sponsors is an important part of community". Dental hygiene month was first celebrated in 2009, as ADHA partnered with Mars/Wrigley Foundation Healthier Smiles Grant program to support community projects that involve the clinical improvement of community oral health and to provide oral health education. In 2020, 25 programs received Wrigley grants. This year Minnesota's *Let's Smile, Inc. Oral Health Education Classroom Presentations* by Holly Jorgenson was a recipient of the Rosie Wall Community award for education. As a dental hygienist, Holly is the founder of a mobile dentistry program and is a visiting "Smile Fairy" to many classrooms. Since schools were not in session during the COVID-19 shutdown, she thought of another way to reach at-risk populations by dropping supplies and packages at the door of many homes and daycare settings. Holly said she is not a "Tooth Fairy", but a "Smile Fairy" instead. She states, "Not all households or cultures celebrate the tooth fairy. Plus, she doesn't give money to children for their teeth. Smiles are free and a smile can be shared with everyone!" This is the true spirit of National Dental Hygiene Month.



Dental hygienists are recognized across America for their work and service to patients. What is your office doing to participate? Are you sponsoring online educational videos for your patients? Are you providing outreach events with social distancing? Are you supporting public health initiatives? There are many things we can do individually or as a team as we all come together to celebrate dental hygiene month. A special thank you to all dental hygienists who give of themselves daily to improve the oral health of others. Your dedication is commendable, and you make the profession of dentistry proud. Enjoy Dental Hygiene Month!

Source:

Moravec, Lisa. "The Intersection of Dental Hygiene and Community." *Access*, vol. 34, no. 8, 2020, p. 3.

Exam Season 2021

The Minnesota Board of Dentistry addressed the challenges that the pandemic imposed upon the 2020 exam season. Board members voted to accept alternative exam options last Spring to accommodate licensure applicants. Our Board's Clinical Licensure Exam Committee has already met to discuss this upcoming exam season and has voted to accept or not accept the exams listed in the table found below. Before considering other alternative exams, the Committee will collect additional information on other operative mannikin exams.

DENTAL EXAMS		Manikin Components		Additional Components		OSCE	2021 Board Decisions
		Endo.	Prosth.	Op.	Perio.		
Agencies	CRDTS Traditional Exam	Yes	Yes	Yes (Patient)	Not required	No	Yes, already approved
	WREB Traditional Exam	Yes	Yes	Yes (Patient)	Not required	Yes (CTP)	Yes, already approved
	CDCA Traditional Exam (ADEX)	Yes	Yes	Yes (On Patient)	Not required	Yes (DSE OSCE)	Yes, already approved
	CDCA Alternate Exam (ADEX)	Yes	Yes	Yes (CompeDont)	Not required	Yes (DSE OSCE)	Yes, already approved
	SRTA Traditional Exam	Yes	Yes	Yes (Patient)	Not required	No	Yes, already approved
	CITA Traditional Exam	Yes	Yes	Yes (On Patient)	Not required	Yes (DSE OSCE)	Yes, already approved
	Canadain OSCE Exam					Yes (DL OSCE)	Yes, already approved
DENTAL HYGIENE EXAMS							2021 Board Decisions
Agencies	CRDTS Traditional Exam	NA	NA	NA	Yes (Patient)	Not approved	Yes, already approved
	CRDTS Alternate Exam	NA	NA	NA	Yes (Manikin)	Not approved	Yes, already approved
	WREB Traditional Exam	NA	NA	NA	Yes (Patient)	Yes	Yes, already approved
	WREB Alternate Exam	NA	NA	NA	Yes (Manikin)	Yes	Yes, already approved
	CDCA Traditional Exam (ADEX)	NA	NA	NA	Yes (Patient)	Yes	Yes, already approved
	CDCA Alternate Exam (ADEX)	NA	NA	NA	Yes (Manikin)	Yes	Yes, already approved

Fingerprint Mandate for 2020

Many who applied for licensure during the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency utilized the deferral option created by the governor's Executive Order 20-23. This delayed the statutorily required fingerprint-based criminal background check until the pandemic ended or until controls ensured public safety during the fingerprinting process. The governor's Executive Order allowed for a provisional background check based on name and date-of-birth.

The FBI waiver mandated that:

"Individuals will be required to be fingerprinted as soon as possible, but not later than 180-calendar days from the date of the preliminary name-based check, or 30 calendar days from the expiration of the state's emergency declaration, whichever occurs sooner. Should an individual refuse or fail to submit the follow-up fingerprints in the timeframe specified, the individual will no longer be permitted to hold the position for which the preliminary FBI name-based check was conducted."

The CBC Program emailed applicants 60 days prior to their approaching deadline reminding them of this mandate. If you have not completed your fingerprinting after opting for the deferred option, we urge you to schedule a fingerprinting appointment to maintain your license. If you have difficulty locating a vendor to provide this service, you may contact Board staff for recommendations. Employers of newly licensed dental professionals can also assist by bringing this to the attention of your staff. We want to make every effort to assist with this final requirement so that licensees keep their license in good standing.



Basic Life Support CPR for Healthcare Professionals

All licensed dental professionals are required to have and maintain CPR certification at the healthcare provider level through either the [American Heart Association](#) or the [American Red Cross](#). They may offer courses titled “CPR” or “AED for healthcare professionals”, but you should only take the Basic Life Support (BLS) course. Contact the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross for any updates on course availability. The Board has approved a variance for licensees who are due to renew their CPR certification during the Peacetime Emergency. Since, the Board **does** require hands-on training to be completed for CPR certification and renewal, the Board has granted an extension on CPR renewal until 3/31/2021.



Self-assessment Notice



There will be no new self-assessment posted in January 2021. We are currently updating professional development Rules to remove this requirement.

Mandated Opioid Course

Effective January 2020 all licensees that prescribe controlled substances must complete two (2) hours of education on ‘best practices in prescribing opioids and controlled substances, including nonpharmacological and implantable device alternatives for treatment of pain and ongoing pain management’. This requirement is due no later than January 1, 2023. The Board has assisted licensed dental prescribers by offering an online course that meets the requirements. Access this course on the Board’s [website](#).



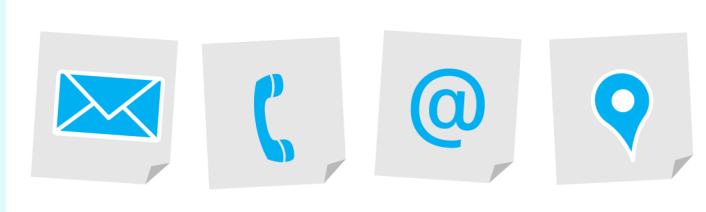
License Display Requirement

Minnesota Statute no longer requires the display of a wall license at any practice location. Licensees are only required to display renewal certificates, which we continue mailing to licensees after they complete their renewals. The new, smaller version of our wall license is 8 ½ X 11 ½ and has a gray background. Since our wall licenses are no longer ordered from out-of-state, these will be printed and mailed on a continual basis as opposed to only being printed and mailed monthly. The Board’s long-term goal is to issue electronic licenses. In the future licensees would access them at any time for print or display at no additional cost. To receive a wall license request form, email dental.board@state.mn.us.



Contact Information

Confirm your contact information on our website. The Board primarily contacts licensees via email. Avoid using shared email addresses when possible to ensure that you receive any important correspondence from us. When confirming your contact information on our website, **please take the time to add the county for both your mailing and practice addresses.** This will ensure that we have the most accurate contact information.



Board President Selected for NIDAMED Clinician Panel

Dr. Angela Rake, Board President, has been selected to participate in the National Institute on Drug Abuse's NIDAMED clinician panel. NIDAMED develops science-based resources for healthcare professionals and those in training about screening, addressing, and treating addiction. Find out more information about NIDAMED [here](#).



COVID-19 Updates and Vaccine Information

Find a list of COVID-19 updates [here](#) on our website. County vaccine information is currently listed on the page as well.

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Resources

Find these useful resources below on the MDH's [website](#). They will help keep you and your team safe.

[Click here](#) for a sample risk assessment and best practices for healthcare workers and facilities.

[Click here](#) for information about notification and reporting responsibilities.

[Click here](#) for recommendations related to exposed or infected health care workers.



Disciplinary Actions

September 2020-January 2021

Licensee	License number, type of disciplinary action	Date of action
Wesner, Natalie J LDA	A13404 - Stipulation and Order for Suspension	1/8/2021
Thoennes, Michael J DDS	D8971 - Stipulation and Order for Limited and Conditional License	1/8/2021
Steidl, Jamie W DDS	D12067 - Order for Unconditional License	1/8/2021
Koehl, Samuel J LDA	A15060 - Stipulation and Order Accepting Voluntary Surrender of License	1/8/2021
Hedin, Gary DDS	D11959 - Order for Unconditional License	1/8/2021
Bassing, JoAnn DDS	D8639 - Stipulation and Order for Stayed Suspension and Conditional License	1/8/2021
Darcy L. Hoops	A7594 - Order for Unconditional License	12/1/2020
Shama, Joseph DDS	D11593 - Stipulation and Order for Suspension	11/5/2020
Wesner, Natalie J LDA	A13404 - Order of Removal of Stay of Suspension	10/29/2020
Erickson, Brandi L	A12988 - Findings of Fact, Conclusions, And Final Order	10/27/2020
Overby, Eric R, DDS	D10882 - Stipulation and Order for Stayed Suspension and Conditional License	10/9/2020
Thurnau, Peter J, DDS	D11586 - Stipulation and Order for Stayed Suspension, Limited, and Conditional License	10/9/2020
Pearson, Deanna DH	H9967 - Order for Unconditional License	10/9/2020
Shama, Joseph DDS	D11593 - Temporary Suspension	10/5/2020
Erickson, Brandi LDA	A12988 - Order of Removal of Stay of Suspension	9/29/2020
Maples, Danielle DH	H7435 - Stipulation and Order Accepting Voluntary Surrender of License	9/8/2020
Poage, John DDS	D9304 - Amended Stipulation and Order for Conditional License	9/8/2020
Bliskowski, Ashley LDA	A14817 - Order for Unconditional License	9/2/2020

Agreements for Corrective Action

July 21, 2020-January 12, 2021

Profession	Violation(s)	Remedies
Dentist 07/27/20	Unprofessional conduct	Dental Coding Course
Dental Assistant 07/29/20	Practicing without a valid license	Jurisprudence Examination Community Service
Dentist 08/03/20	Failed to maintain CPR	Jurisprudence Examination Community Service
Dental Hygienist 08/06/20	Practicing without a valid license	Jurisprudence Examination Community Service
Dentist 08/26/20	Substandard anesthesia/sedation administration	PALS Course Sedation Course Records Review
Dentist 12/30/20	Auxiliary misuse	Jurisprudence Examination Community Service
Dentist 12/30/20	Auxiliary misuse	Jurisprudence Examination Community Service
Dentist 12/31/20	Auxiliary misuse	Jurisprudence Examination Community Service

Visit our website and sign up for our newsletter here:

<https://mn.gov/boards/dentistry/>

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Board Members

P. Angela Rake, DDS, President

Hassan Ismail, DDS, Vice President

Ruth Dahl, Secretary

Rainer Adarve, DMD

Connie Bye

Heidi Donnelly, LDA

Priscilla Flynn, DH, DrPH, MPH

Ashley K. Johnson, DMD

Terry Klampe, DDS



WE ARE MOVING! June 2021 we will relocate along with most other Health Licensing Boards and the Administrative Services.

Our new address after July 1, 2021 will be:

**335 Randolph Ave
Suite 250
St. Paul, MN 55102**

Board Staff

Bridgett Anderson, Executive Director

Joyce Nelson, Director of Licensing

Diane Anderson, Complaint Analyst

Deborah Endly, Compliance Officer

Thamyr Golafaie, Administrative Assistant

Amy Johnson, Licensing Analyst

Kathy Johnson, Legal Analyst

Mary Liesch, Investigator Senior

Panhia Lor, Administrative Assistant

Mary Luecke, Administrative Assistant

Carolyn Modaffari, Office Manager