



STATE OF IOWA

IOWA DENTAL BOARD

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR

JILL STUECKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IOWA DENTAL BOARD

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

April 17, 2020

Teleconference

400 S.W. 8th St., Suite D

Des Moines, Iowa

Board Members

William McBride, D.D.S., Chair	Present
Monica Foley, D.D.S., Vice-Chair	Present
Michael Davidson, D.D.S.	Present
Gregory Ceraso, D.D.S.	Present
Lisa Holst, D.D.S.	Present
Mary Kelly, R.D.H.	Present
Nancy Slach, R.D.H.	Present
Lori Elmitt, Public Member	Present
Bruce Thorsen, Public Member	Present

Staff Members

Jill Stuecker, Christel Braness

Attorney General's Office

Laura Steffensmeier, Assistant Attorney General

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. McBride called the meeting of the Iowa Dental Board to order at 8:34 a.m. on Friday, April 17, 2020. The meeting was held by electronic means in compliance with Iowa Code Section 21.8 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct time-sensitive Board business.

Roll Call:

Member	McBride	Foley	Davidson	Ceraso	Holst	Kelly	Slach	Elmitt	Thorsen
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Absent									

A quorum was established with all members present.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. McBride allowed the opportunity for public comment. Dr. McBride encouraged attendees to use the chat feature and to keep comments brief.

Doug Struyk, who represents the Iowa Association of Nurse Anesthetists (IANA) was in attendance with Ms. Mindy Miller to comment on the requirements for postoperative aftercare requirements when sedation is administered to a patient. Ms. Mindy Miller thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. Ms. Miller reported that she travels across the state to provide greater access to surgical and dental anesthesia. Ms. Miller believed that the standard of care should be the focus of postoperative aftercare requirements. Ms. Miller noted that there was not mandatory proximity to patients for surgical cases. Ms. Miller asked to be included in continued discussion.

Ms. Cindy DeWall, R.D.H, a dental hygiene educator at Iowa Central Community College (ICCC) commented, as a follow up to the earlier Dental Hygiene Committee meeting discussion, on clinical examination options for 2020 dental hygiene graduates. Ms. DeWall had concerns about the options currently available to the graduating class. Ms. DeWall referenced a comment made by Ms. Emily Boge during the Dental Hygiene Committee meeting about the retention of information following the conclusion education without continued practice. Ms. DeWall indicated that most students were ready to take the clinical examinations.

Dr. Ryan Stuntz, Iowa Dental Association (IDA), indicated that he had recently been talking to the Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc. (CRDTS) about examination options for the 2020 graduates. CRDTS has indicated that they are working on a non-patient dental hygiene examination for this year; though, it was still in development.

III. APPROVAL OF OPEN SESSION MINUTES

- *April 8, 2020 – Teleconference*

❖ MOVED by CERASO, SECONDED by DAVIDSON, to APPROVE the minutes as drafted.

Roll Call:

<u>Member</u>	<u>McBride</u>	<u>Foley</u>	<u>Davidson</u>	<u>Ceraso</u>	<u>Holst</u>	<u>Kelly</u>	<u>Slach</u>	<u>Elmitt</u>	<u>Thorsen</u>
Yes	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
No									

Motion APPROVED unanimously by ROLL CALL.

IV. RULE WAIVER

- *Rule Waiver Request: Karen Potaczek, D.D.S., Iowa Administrative Code 650 – 29.1 and 29.7(2), Deep Sedation or General Anesthesia Standards*

Ms. Braness provided an overview of the request. Dr. Potaczek hired surgical techs to assist her in her practice. The surgical techs were under trainee status in order to meet the requirements for registration. Currently, however, dental assistant trainees are not allowed, by definition, to serve

as patient monitors when Dr. Potaczek administers sedation. Dr. Potaczek reported that all three assistants are certified in ACLS; though, not yet eligible for registration as dental assistants.

Dr. Davidson was not certain about what that training would be for surgical techs. Ms. Braness provided a brief overview of the status of the dental assistant trainees and clarified the nature of the request.

Dr. McBride believed that the ACLS certification was beneficial and that trainee status appropriate.

Mr. Thorsen stated that he has experience working with surgical techs and most of them are well trained in that area of practice.

Board members and staff continued discussing the request and the difference in training between dental assistants and surgical techs. Ms. Mindy Miller also commented on the issue of surgical techs as she works with them regularly. There are a number of training levels. Some surgical techs are certified, while some are trained on the job. Ms. Miller believed that the ACLS certification would be the biggest area of concern for those serving as patient monitors. If the surgical techs are certified, they will have completed formal training.

Ms. Miller, a dental assistant educator, stated that Western Iowa Technical Community College (WITCC) has a surgical tech training program. If formally trained, they would be prepared to perform those services.

❖ MOVED by DAVIDSON, SECONDED by KELLY, to APPROVE the waiver request.

Roll Call:

<u>Member</u>	<u>McBride</u>	<u>Foley</u>	<u>Davidson</u>	<u>Ceraso</u>	<u>Holst</u>	<u>Kelly</u>	<u>Slach</u>	<u>Elmitt</u>	<u>Thorsen</u>
Yes	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
No									

Motion APPROVED unanimously by ROLL CALL.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

▪ *Discussion on Potential Uses of Teledentistry during COVID-19*

Dr. McBride wanted to take the opportunity to discuss the uses of teledentistry during this time. Dr. McBride has had discussions about this with Dr. Beau Beecher and Dr. Jeff Chaffin. Dr. McBride reported that there were some good ideas for implementing teledentistry to minimize transmission.

Dr. Beecher reported that he reached out to Dr. Chaffin to determine what Delta Dental of Iowa would constitute an examination. In particular, there were questions about what could be billed as a full or limited examination. Approximately 80% of dental examinations do not result in further treatment. Dentists may want to reconsider the usefulness of a periodic examination for every patient, which may increase exposure.

The discussion focused on the information that would be needed to determine whether a patient requires a periodic examination to decide if additional services or treatment is required. Offices may want to consider best practices going forward. Data collection and intraoral imaging may be useful when determining whether to complete an in-person examination with a patient. This may allow for a reduction in exposure while still creating a clinical record that meets the minimum standard of care.

Dr. McBride believed that this was a novel idea that made a lot of sense. Dr. McBride noted that this would also assist in the preservation of personal protective equipment (PPE). The patient's consent would be key in these cases. Licensees may also need to determine how they would follow up with patients following the review of this information if needed. Dr. McBride noted that he had spoken with Ms. Stuecker and Ms. Steffensmeier about this. It appears to fall within the teledentistry rules that currently exist. Ms. Steffensmeier agreed. Licensees would need to obtain informed consent and continue to meet the minimum of standard of care.

Dr. Jeff Chaffin stated that he did not have much more to add; though, he stated that licensees would need to sufficiently document the examinations and services provided. Dr. Chaffin agreed with the comments regarding the preservation of PPE and minimization of exposure.

Dr. McBride stated that the Board may need to provide some guidance and recommendations regarding the use of teledentistry during the COVID-19 response, particularly, regarding order of services.

Dr. McBride briefly responded to some of the questions entered in the chat window. Regarding the coding and billing for these services, it would be important to also document whether the teledentistry was completed as a synchronous or asynchronous service.

Dr. McBride noted that this would not replace all in-person examinations. Dentists should decide how to proceed based on the needs of each patient.

Ms. Slach provided an example how dental hygienists could utilize these services to determine if further examination or treatment by the dentist would be appropriate.

Mr. Thorsen believed that the public would be accepting of this given the concerns related to COVID-19. Mr. Thorsen suggested that the Board and Delta Dental of Iowa put together some information addressing the use of teledentistry in the practice of dentistry.

Dr. Davidson stated that reality was changing for dental practices. It may be helpful to know what Delta Dental of Iowa would find useful or necessary. The University of Iowa College of Dentistry may be able to make additional recommendations.

Dr. Chaffin indicated that he would be happy to assist with this. Though, he noted that the Board would need to participate in any collaboration as the regulatory agency.

Dr. Beecher appreciated the efforts of the Board in this regard. Dr. Beecher believed that it was important to work together and let the patients know what is important and what steps may be taken to reduce to personal contact and transmission. Dr. Beecher thought that this was a good first step.

- *Discussion on CDC Interim Guidance and IDPH PPE Order during COVID-19*

Dr. McBride asked Ms. Steffensmeier to address these issues from the legal perspective. The CDC, in the week prior to the meeting, issued new guidance. There were questions about which items were required and which would be considered suggestions. Ms. Steffensmeier noted that offices are not required to return to practice at this time if they are unprepared to do so. The mandatory requirements would be compliance with the infection control recommendations for dental settings issued in the December 19, 2003, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

Ms. Steffensmeier stated that compliance with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) PPE Shortage Order would also be required across all healthcare professions. The IDPH and the Governor's Office can require compliance with certain practices through the issuance of proclamations.

Dr. McBride encouraged licensees to use the highest level of PPE available. When possible, it may be best to defer treatment or refer the patient to another provider if sufficient PPE was unavailable. Dr. McBride also encouraged offices to do what they can to minimize aerosol and splash where possible. Additional guidance may be forthcoming as the situation changes.

- *Discussion on Iowa Administrative Code 650—29.5(7), Postoperative Aftercare Availability*

Ms. Stuecker reported that there was some confusion regarding the requirements for postoperative aftercare following the administration of sedation. This question has been brought to the Board for further clarification. The Anesthesia Credentials Committee, generally, believed that availability by phone would be sufficient depending on the specific needs and concerns of a patient. The treatment and aftercare should be reviewed for the standard of care when issues arise.

Dr. Davidson, Dr. McBride and Ms. Slach agreed with Ms. Stuecker's comments.

- *Discussion and Report from Dental Hygiene Committee on Clinical Licensure Exam for Dental Hygiene Students*

Ms. Kelly reported that the committee met earlier that morning. The committee received a lot of public comment. As a result, the committee did not have much chance for an in depth discussion.

Ms. Kelly provided a general overview of the remaining requirements for dental hygiene programs to finish out the year. Ms. Kelly briefly referenced alternative manikin-based exams; however, those examinations are not currently available for dental hygiene. There are also questions about portability of these examinations.

Dr. Davidson echoed Ms. Kelly's comments. Dr. Davidson was open to the idea of accepting alternate examinations for licensure; however, he was not aware of any manikin-based examination that would sufficiently address the practice of dental hygiene. Dr. Davidson was in favor of issuing a license based on completion of educational requirements in lieu of a temporary license.

Ms. Kelly referenced the current examinations accepted by the Board for the purposes of licensure. The Board may need to take action in the near future to allow alternate examinations. Ms. Kelly asked Ms. Steffensmeier to weigh in on this. Ms. Steffensmeier stated that she recommended that schools submit requests for rule waiver, such as was submitted by the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, if appropriate.

Ms. Kelly also discussed the implications for portability of the examination for licensure in other states. Ms. Kelly acknowledged that each state has its own requirements and the Iowa Dental Board may not be able to fully address those concerns. Ms. Kelly noted that 2020 graduates could still complete the traditional clinical examinations if they prefer.

Ms. Slach stated that the program directors believe that most students were prepared to complete the clinical examination despite of the possible loss of some clinical hours due to the disruption of the school year. Alternate examinations appear to be forthcoming. Portability will not be a problem exclusive to Iowa. Other states may need to be flexible about this as well.

Ms. Kelly briefly addressed the requirements for licensure as established in the statute and rule. In her experience as an examiner, third party examinations are helpful; though, patient-based examinations may not be the best option. The American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA) has started an effort to lobby states on behalf of the 2020 dental hygiene graduates to assist them entering the profession.

Ms. Kelly asked Ms. Stuecker and Ms. Steffensmeier to address the possibility of a temporary license if authorized by the Governor's office. Ms. Steffensmeier stated that the nurses may work for up to 60 days after emergency declaration is terminated to complete the examination requirements. If requirements are not met, the license would go away.

Dr. Davidson believed that one option would be to allow one year for the clinical examination to be completed. Ms. Kelly agreed that additional time would be needed due to the differences in the examinations. Ms. Slach and Mr. Thorsen agreed with those comments.

Mr. Ceraso agreed that independent evaluation was good. Dr. Ceraso was in favor of a temporary or transitional license and allowing them sufficient time to meet examination requirements.

Dr. McBride believed that the best way to proceed would be to pursue some kind of a temporary license for these individuals, allowing additional time to complete examination requirements.

Ms. Elmitt stated that there has sometimes been inconsistencies between programs. This would be a good way to address the concerns related to COVID-19, while still protecting the public.

Ms. Stuecker will continue to monitor the national discussion regarding portability. Iowa has no ability to determine what other states will accept for the purposes of licensure.

Ms. Slach asked whether a license could be granted that would allow the practice of a dental hygienist under the supervision of a licensed dentist and allow the dentist to certify the competence of the dental hygienist. Dr. McBride stated that this would set a precedent to allow licensure in the future without an examination.

Dr. Holst stated that she would like the graduates to be able to begin work shortly following graduation. If there were to be a significant delay in licensure, Dr. Holst believed that some graduates may leave the profession altogether. Dr. Holst stated that she would be interested in seeing a hands-on portion of the periodontal examinations for dentists being used for dental hygiene.

Dr. Foley stated that she was supportive of a temporary license allowing a year to meet the clinical examination requirements.

Ms. Kelly suggested that the Board pursue this request with the Governor's Office, similar to what has been allowed for nurses in Iowa. Ms. Steffensmeier stated that staff can begin to have those conversations with the Governor's Office. If language is included in a proclamation authorizing temporary licenses, it would allow the Board to issue guidance and establish specific requirements for and parameters of a temporary license.

Ms. Kelly stated that this was not scheduled as a vote; though, she asked the Board members if they would be opposed to allowing staff to pursue this. The Board members were open to the suggestion. Ms. Kelly asked Ms. Steffensmeier and Ms. Stuecker to pursue this.

Ms. Slach expressed some concerns about the requirement for a patient-based examination so long after graduation. Ms. Steffensmeier stated that the language in a proclamation would likely be broad and allow the Board to decide the requirements for a temporary license.

Ms. Boge stated that students do not have liability insurance through the school after they graduate, unless they sign up for remediation. Once a student graduates, Ms. Boge cannot allow them in the clinic to screen patients for a clinical examination. The Board may to consider some of these issues as the discussions continue.

Ms. Kelly asked Ms. Stuecker and Ms. Steffensmeier to initiate the conversations with the Governor's Offices about this. If the Governor's Office declines, the Board will need to explore other options.

Ms. Kelly believed that some non-patient examination options may be available later this summer.

VI. UPDATE ON THE MATTER OF THOMAS EVANS, D.D.S., CASE #18-0142

Ms. Braness provided an update on the case. The hearing has been continued until August 6, 2020 due to the COVID-19 response and closure of the Board offices.

ADJOURN

- ❖ MOVED by KELLY, SECONDED by DAVIDSON, to ADJOURN. Motion APPROVED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m. on Friday, April 17, 2020.

NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Board is scheduled for June 5, 2020, in Des Moines, Iowa.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Christel Braness, Program Planner 2, Iowa Dental Board.