



STATE OF IOWA

IOWA DENTAL BOARD

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR

JILL STUECKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IOWA DENTAL BOARD

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

April 24, 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	Absent

Staff Members

Jill Stuecker, Christel Braness, Dee Ann Argo, David Schultz

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 24, 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	
Absent									x

A quorum was established with eight (8) members present.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. McBride provided an overview of how comments would be handled. The Board will discuss the first two agenda items and then take comments thereafter. Comments would be allowed during the discussion of the remaining agenda items.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

- *Discussion on Reopening of Dental Offices*

Dr. McBride stated that, to date, the mandate to cease non-essential dental and medical services is scheduled to expire at the end of the day on April 30, 2020; however, there is a possibility that this could be extended.

Dr. McBride acknowledged that the return to practice will take some adjustment and further direction than other businesses that are also restricted. The Iowa Dental Association (IDA) is putting together a task force to make recommendations concerning the return to practice. The Board will participate and assist with these discussions and share that information as it becomes available.

Ms. Kelly stated that it may not be sufficient to only mandate compliance with the 2003 CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings. The Board may want to consider requiring compliance with the CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings during the COVID-19 Response. Dr. McBride asked Ms. Steffensmeier to speak about this. Ms. Steffensmeier clarified that the 2003 guidelines are mandated by administrative rule. The Board does not currently have authority to mandate compliance with guidelines that are not established in rule. State agencies are not currently able to start or implement rulemaking at this time. A mandate to comply with these requirements without rulemaking would require an order by the Governor's Office or the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Dr. Holst and Dr. Ceraso commented on the return to practice and the limitations on the availability of PPE. There are concerns about providing treatment if sufficient PPE is unavailable. Dr. Ceraso believed that some of the PPE supplies may begin to be more available in the second or third week of May. Dr. Ceraso indicated that if the proclamation were to expire on April 30, 2020, as scheduled, his office did not plan to reopen until May 18 with the understanding that PPE may be more readily available at that time.

Dr. Davidson was in favor of allowing offices some flexibility about the return to practice after the mandate is lifted. Offices can consider available PPE and other factors when determining what was appropriate for the return to practice. Ms. Elmitt agreed with Dr. Davidson.

Ms. Slach stated that the return to practice may require a progressive reentry. As additional PPE and other data regarding the virus becomes available, decision making may change.

Dr. Davidson indicated that some offices may need to prioritize the dental work that was deemed to be more necessary and delay non-urgent care such as prophylaxis.

- *Discussion on AGD & ADA Letter Regarding COVID-19 Testing in Dental Offices*

Dr. McBride provided a brief overview of the letters issued by the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) and the American Dental Association (ADA). Dr. McBride asked Ms. Steffensmeier to weigh in on the legal ramifications of these requests.

Ms. Steffensmeier stated that there were questions about scope of practice. Diagnostic testing that would allow licensees to determine whether to proceed with treatment would likely fall within the scope of practice.

Ms. Steffensmeier provided more information about the types of tests available and the implications of those tests and the return to practice of dentistry. Licensees would need to review the accuracy of the available tests. Offices that wish to consider testing would need to request a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waiver for Iowa. The waiver requests would need to be submitted to the State Hygienic Lab for review.

Ms. Steffensmeier stated that the waiver form itself would be fairly easy to complete. The following items, along with other concerns, would likely need to be considered:

- PPE required for those who administer the tests.
- Location and flow of testing.
- Plan for bringing patients into the office after testing.
- Response plan following a positive result and protocols for reviewing exposure.
- Plans, if any, to refer COVID-19-positive patients for further treatment
- Plans for decontamination if there were a positive case.

Ms. Slach asked Ms. Steffensmeier who would be covered in terms of the testing. Ms. Steffensmeier believed that this would depend upon the content of a declaration allowing this. Ms. Steffensmeier commented briefly on a request submitted by pharmacists. Those requests specifically referenced pharmacists; however, Ms. Steffensmeier would need to research the extent to which the testing could be delegated to others.

Dr. Holst asked whether there would be assistance offered for dental offices to get access to tests. Ms. Steffensmeier indicated that tests available for Test Iowa would be excluded for other testing efforts. Ms. Steffensmeier believed that the Iowa Board of Pharmacy was working to put together detailed information about testing and requests for waivers. Again, the difficult part will be that offices will need to establish policies and protocols for the implementation of this testing.

Mr. Caleb Harrelson, a member of the public in attendance, commented on the question of returning to practice. Mr. Harrelson stated that it may be difficult to know if Iowa has reached its peak yet. Mr. Harrelson believed that it may be too soon to lift the mandate restricting nonessential treatment, particularly when considering asymptomatic individuals. Mr. Harrelson asked the Board to consider extending the mandate. Dr. McBride clarified that the decisions regarding any mandates to cease practice or to return to practice reside with the Governor's Office.

Mr. Tom Cope, Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association (IDHA), stated that it was important to recognize that dental offices have more complicated issues to consider when deciding when to resume practice. Mr. Cope suggested that the Board request that the Governor's Office delegate

that decision making to the Iowa Dental Board based on specific concerns related to dental practice and the risk of transmission related to that.

Dr. McBride addressed some of the PPE and treatment questions submitted via chat. Dr. McBride believed that the CDC would be issuing further guidance at a future date. Currently, the Board recommended the licensees and registrants use the highest level of PPE available when providing dental treatment.

Ms. Slach stated that disinfection of operatories will be critical upon the return to practice due to lingering aerosol following treatment.

- *Discussion and Report from Dental Hygiene Committee*

Ms. Kelly provided a brief overview of the discussion from the committee meeting. The committee has not yet made a decision about how to proceed with licensure for 2020 dental hygiene graduates. The Board has submitted a proposal to allow the Board the authority, through a proclamation, to issue temporary licenses, if there are barriers to testing.

- *Discussion on Options for Dental and Dental Hygiene Students Unable to Take the Required Clinical Examination for Licensure*

Dr. McBride stated that this tied into what Ms. Kelly just reported. There was not anything new to report. The Board will provide additional information when that becomes available.

- *Discussion of Request to Reduce Continuing Education Hours for 2020 Renewal Period*

Ms. Elmitt provided a brief overview of the request. Ms. Elmitt researched some of the opportunities available and found available a large number of opportunities to obtain continuing education. Ms. Elmitt questioned whether this was a concern. Ms. Elmitt welcomed feedback from the other Board members.

Dr. McBride agreed and noted that the Board had already waived the self-study limits for the 2020 and 2021 renewals.

Ms. Slach stated that there were a number of options for self-study continuing education that do not require internet access. Ms. Slach referenced journals, magazines and other options available. People can be creative and may need to ask others for assistance when appropriate.

Dr. Davidson stated that on the medical side, doctors may claim continuing education credit for research related to COVID-19. Although some of the practical applications of the research may be different for dentistry, there would be some applicability. Ms. Kelly reiterated that self-study would be acceptable.

Dr. McBride stated that Ms. Joni Miller, member of the Continuing Education Advisory Committee, indicated agreement with the comments thus far.

Dr. McBride allowed the opportunity for comments.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 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.