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Roberto V. Pischek, DMD
Dr. Melodie Anderson Jones, DMD
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BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS OF ALABAMA

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MINUTES BOARD MEETING December 3, 2020

The Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama met Thursday, December 3, 2020 via video conference.

The President called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with the following members in attendance: Dr. Mark R. McIlwain, President; Dr. Kevin Michael Sims, Vice President; Dr. Bruce E. Cunningham, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Marshall A. Williams; Dr. Roberto Victor Pischek; Dr. Melodie Anderson Jones; Sherry S. Campbell, RDH, CDHC.; and Ms. Sandra Kay Alexander, RDH, Member-elect. Also in attendance were Bradley W. Edmonds, Esq., Executive Director; Dr. Donna L. Dixon, Esq., Prosecuting Counsel; Blake Strickland, Investigator; Kevin Lane, Compliance Director; Gina Latham, RDH, ADHP Coordinator; Sonya Lankford, Business Manager; and Linda Dlugosz, Licensing Clerk.

The President determined that a quorum was present; counsel orally confirmed.

The meeting was advertised on the Board's website, www.dentalboard.org, and on the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.alabama.gov, in compliance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

The President asked for review of the minutes from the November 5, 2020 meeting. Dr. Jones moved to approve the minutes with one typo noted. Dr. Williams seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Stevens presented the ADHP Report.

He will be working with Gina Latham to develop and manage the ADHP to obtain the quality the board expects of the program. He will not be attending every board meeting. Dr. McIlwain thanked Dr. Stevens who then left the meeting.

Dr. Koslin presented the Anesthesia Report.

Dr. Cunningham presented the Financial Report for October 2020. There were no objections to the report.

Dr. Sims presented the ADHP Committee Report.

The Committee met Tuesday evening, Dec. 1. They recommend various changes to the program. ADEX is willing to administer their OSCE exam to the ADHP graduates. This would increase the possibility of portability of the Alabama dental hygiene license to other states.

Dr. Cunningham moved to use the ADEX OSCE written exam taken on computer in addition to the currently used clinical exam administered by CITA. Dr. McIlwain seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent.

Members agreed to enforce the current requirement of April 30 as the deadline for dentists/instructors to take the certification course. Emailed notification will be sent to ensure that all prospective instructors are aware of this.

Dr. Cunningham moved to increase compensation for lecturers to \$150.00/hr. Dr. McIlwain seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Cunningham moved to raise tuition for the 2021-2022 ADHP to \$1,600.00. After discussion, Dr. Cunningham amended his motion to \$1,400.00. Dr. Jones seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent.

Members agreed for Mr. Edmonds to add an affidavit to the Instructor Certification application that his/her practice provides hygiene opportunities routinely. He will bring the draft application to the January meeting.

Dr. Cunningham thanked members for allowing the Committee to evaluate and make recommendations for the ADHP. Members agreed that the Committee can use whomever they choose, including Kay Alexander, to bring ideas to the rest of the Board. This concluded the Report.

At 7:33, the President announced a break; the meeting resumed at 7:44 P.M.

On the advice of counsel, and pursuant to the pertinent provision of the Open Meetings Act, Ms. Campbell moved to enter into executive session for the discussion of pending litigation and to return to public session at 8:00 P.M. Dr. Jones seconded the motion and the President called for the vote: Dr. Cunningham, yea, Dr. Sims, yea, Dr. McIlwain, yea, Dr. Pischek, yea, Dr. Williams, yea, Dr. Jones, yea, Ms. Campbell, yea. The motion carried. At 8:02 P.M. the Board retired from executive session.

Mr. Blake Strickland submitted 2 requests to attend continuing education courses to maintain his APOST certification. Dr. Williams moved to approve the request; Dr. Jones seconded the motion and it was approved by general consent.

Dr. Jones volunteered to be the new CITA Representative; members approved by unanimous consent and thanked her.

Dr. Sims moved to approve the Board's Statement on *Dental Care During the Pandemic*. Dr. Jones seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent. The statement reads:

Board Statement on Dental Care during the Pandemic

The American Dental Association (ADA), the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama (BDEAL), and the Alabama Dental Association (ALDA) firmly believe dental care can continue to be delivered safely. Guidance recommended by the ADA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the BDEAL continue to safeguard the health of the public. Dental care is essential health care. Regular dental visits are important because treatment, as well as prevention of dental disease, helps

keep people healthy and avoids crowding hospital emergency rooms with people seeking relief from dental orofacial pain and infection.

To date, according to the CDC, there has been no documented transmission of COVID-19 in a clinical dental setting in the U.S. Additionally, a study published in The Journal of the American Dental Association found the prevalence of COVID-19 among dentists to be less than one percent. Researchers from the ADA Science and Research Institute and the ADA Health Policy Institute are continuing to collect infection rate data among dentists and have added dental hygienists to the research as well. The preliminary data suggest the monthly incidence rate among dentists has remained below one percent. Comprehensive data from a six-month period will be part of an upcoming publication. Patient and dental team safety is always a foremost concern of dentists.

During the postponement period, an expert task force of the American Dental Association examined existing research to consider standard infection control in dental offices and how it could be augmented even further during the pandemic in order for patients to safely receive the full range of dental care. This led to the development of an ADA COVID-19 interim guidance for dental professionals released in April as state and local governments began reopening certain businesses considered “essential,” including dental practices.

The BDEAL provided Guidance for licensed dentists in Alabama based on the latest scientific knowledge as dentistry in Alabama reopened to patient emergency as well as elective dental procedures. ALDA and the BDEAL worked closely with State Government, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and legislators in a measured process to provide Alabama citizens with dental care.

The BDEAL’s Rules and Guidance call for the highest level of PPE available—masks, goggles, and face shields. The guidance also calls for screening patients for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure before dental appointments, the use of high velocity suction during dental procedures whenever possible, and hand scaling when cleaning teeth rather than using ultrasonic scaling to minimize aerosols.

The BDEAL will continue to monitor and update, as needed, patient and staff safety procedures and protocols.

Dr. Williams moved to approve any members, the Executive Director, and Prosecuting Attorney to attend the virtual AADB Conference in February 2021. Dr. Pischek seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Williams moved to approve Dental License applications based on successful completion of the jurisprudence exam for the following applicants. Dr. Jones seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent with the hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

- Elizabeth Clay, DDS
- Sun Lee, DDS
- Julia Whitaker, DMD
- Nicholas Adams, DMD
- Trevor Hall, DMD
- Sook-Bin Woo, DMD

Dr. Pischek moved to approve Dental Hygiene License by Regional Exam based on successful completion of the jurisprudence exam for the following applicants. Dr. Cunningham seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent.

- Morgan Cullinan, RDH
- Duy Van Dang, RDH
- Nia Davis, RDH
- Christianna Joyner, RDH,

Ms. Campbell moved to approve Dental Hygiene License by Credentials based on successful completion of the jurisprudence exam for the following applicants. Dr. Pischek seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent.

- Kimberly Duncan, RDH
- Michelle Gray, RDH

Members agreed that Case #2020-64 will be administratively closed.

Dr. Jones moved that case #2020-69 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Williams seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Sims moved that case #2020-63 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Jones seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Williams moved that case #2020-71 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Pischek seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Cunningham moved to rescind the previous decision to notice the Respondent of case #2020-65 for a hearing, and dismiss the case as no evidence to sustain. Dr. Pischek seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Mr. Blake Strickland presented the Inspection Report.

All requested inspections by the UAB-School of Dentistry and The Foundry regarding hosting students/residents have been completed for 2020. Mr. Strickland noted that sixteen (16) clinics that are on the annual inspection cycle were not able to participate this year. All those clinics requested to be contacted in 2021 to be placed back on the inspection cycle.

Mr. Edmonds presented the Executive Director Report.

The new server is installed and running smoothly. One staff member has delivered her baby and is taking maternity leave.

Mr. Edmonds presented the Wellness Report provided by Dr. Garver.

He updated members on participants who had some activity in the past month.

Dr. McIlwain commissioned Ms. Sandra Kay Alexander as the new hygiene Board member by administering the oath of office. Members bade farewell to Ms. Sherry S. Campbell and thanked her for the past 5 years of service to the Board. Ms. Campbell returned the thanks.

At 8:27 P.M. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce E. Cunningham

Dr. Bruce Cunningham, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: Jan. 14, 2021

Submitted by: Linda Dlugosz