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BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS OF ALABAMA

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The Board met at 6:00 p.m. on April 9, 2020, via videoconference, to conduct business. The meeting was advertised on the Board's website and on the Alabama Secretary of State's website in compliance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act. A quorum was present, as confirmed by counsel.

The Board discussed scheduling of Alabama Dental Hygiene Program (ADHP) events in light of the state-ordered postponement of gatherings during the state and national states of emergency associated with the novel coronavirus. The most immediate concern was Dentist/Instructor Certification sessions that the ADHP has been forced to postpone. The Board agreed, by unanimous consent, to allow videoconferences to qualify as Instructor Certification training, and to allow the ADHP Director, Alvin "Red" Stevens, DMD, and the ADHP Coordinator, Gina Latham, RDH, to manage and schedule those sessions. The Board heard discussion of other events that are being rescheduled, or conducted online, in attempts to finish the current ADHP year, and begin the 2020-21 year, on time. For now, all deadlines are being kept as originally set.

The Board then heard a discussion from a representative of the Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS). He provided information on how CRDTS is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by making it possible for the entire clinical examination to be performed on manikins—as the other regional examining agencies are doing.

The Board then decided on other measures to respond to the pandemic:

- The Board agreed, by unanimous consent, to continue to exercise prosecutorial discretion to allow licensees to earn more than half their Continuing Education credits remotely or online, rather than in-person, for the duration of the states of emergency.
- The Board agreed, by unanimous consent, to grant a 180-day extension on renewal of CPR and ACLS certification by agencies that provide such certifications.
- The Board agreed to appoint a committee of current and former Board members, who are also current or former examiners, to study and report on the components of the manikin-based clinical examinations proposed by the regional testing agencies and to review the report at the next meeting, currently scheduled for May 7, 2020. The Board will then determine whether to approve those examinations for licensure, and whether to approve the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination produced by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations.
- The Board voted to meet on May 30, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time, either at the Board office or by videoconference, to approve the license applications of May 2020 graduates

of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry, however that graduation is conducted under current restrictions on gatherings.

The Board also agreed to allow certain licensees who have been under monitoring by the Dental Professionals' Wellness Committee to return to active practice, agreed on the disposition of certain disciplinary and non-disciplinary administrative matters, agreed to approve a number of applications for licensure, and agreed to approve an application for a hygiene infiltration anesthesia permit.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.