



Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama

2229 Rocky Ridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35216

205.985.7267

www.dentalboard.org

MINUTES BOARD MEETING March 3, 2023

The Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama met Friday, March 3, 2023, at the Board office to conduct business.

The President called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members in attendance: Dr. Marshall A. Williams, President; Dr. Bruce E. Cunningham, Vice President; Dr. Melodie A. Jones; Dr. Mark R. McIlwain; Dr. Kevin M. Sims; and Sandra Kay Alexander, RDH. Also in attendance were W. Blake Strickland, Executive Director; Dr. Donna L. Dixon, Esq., Prosecuting Counsel; Aaron Dettling, Esq., General Counsel; Kevin Lane, Compliance Director; Gina Latham, ADHP Coordinator; Dr. Mary Beth Finn, Financial Services Manager; and Steve Hancock, Licensing Specialist.

Guests included: Michele Huebner, Executive Director, Alabama Dental Association; Dr. Rodney Marshall, Alabama Dental Association; Richael Cobler, Executive Director, CRDTS; Dr. Tom Willis, CRDTS; Dr. Stuart Lockwood, Montgomery Public Health; Dr. Tommy Johnson, Dental Director, Alabama Department of Public Health; Dr. John York; Steve Windom, Windom Galliher & Associates; Blaine Galliher, Windom Galliher & Associates; Dr. Michael Garver, Chair, Alabama Dental Professionals Wellness Committee; and Dr. John Bennett, Alabama Dental Professionals Wellness Committee.

The President determined a quorum was present, and the Executive Director 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 a review of the February 10, 2023, minutes. Dr. McIlwain moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Cunningham presented the Financial Report for February 2023. Dr. Finn, staff Financial Services Manager, explained standard accounting codes with specific categories for tracking and a balance sheet to provide a more comprehensive look at the Board's finances has been implemented. Dr. Jones made a motion to accept the report as presented. Dr. Sims seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. John York addressed the Board regarding insurance changes and the effect on licensees enrolled in the Board's Wellness Program. He asked the Board's consideration in utilizing a license status of "Deferral" in lieu of "Probation" to assist licensees maintain their provider statuses with insurance companies. After a brief discussion that included the Board not currently having a license status of "Deferral", Dr. Cunningham made a motion that a sub-committee be formed to review the issue and identify possible changes the Board can institute to address the issue. Members of the sub-committee were identified as Dr. Cunningham (Chair), Dr. Garver, Dr. York, Dr. McIlwain, Dr. Sims, Dr. John Bennett, Dr. Dixon, and Kevin Lane. A committee report will be presented at the May 2023 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jones. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Stuart Lockwood presented information on the current dentist shortage in Alabama, which included a 5-year (2017-22) snapshot of licensed dentists. Currently, 19 counties may suffer a substantial loss of dental providers. After the presentation and discussion, Dr. Cunningham asked the staff to bring possible recommendations for this issue to the Board at the May 2023 board meeting.

Break from 9:33 a.m. to 9:41 a.m.

Dr. Williams called the meeting back to order.

Director Strickland invited Dr. Marshall to discuss his recommendations concerning Community Dental Health Coordinators (CDHC) and how they could operate under the Board's proposed amended statute regarding general supervision. During discussion, it was noted that Alabama has approximately eight (8) dental hygienists that are CDHC-qualified of which, only one works for the Alabama Department of Public Health. All were in agreement that CDHC's could fill an important role in reaching underserved communities. The Board, Dr. Marshall, and other guests agreed that further discussion is needed to move forward with CDHC's and other solutions to addressing underserved communities and populations.

Ms. Richael Cobler, Executive Director of CRDTS, presented an overview of CRDTS. Currently, CRDTS has 23 member states. CRDTS is accepted in 41 of the 48 states, that accept regional exams. Dr. Cunningham asked if CRDTS accepted ADHP graduates for exam. Director Strickland advised he would discuss with Ms. Cobler and report back to the Board. Ms. Cobler invited interested board members to observe an upcoming CRDTS exam to be given at Wallace State Community College in April 2023. Dr. Cunningham made a motion for the Board to approve Kay Alexander to observe the CRDTS exam. Dr. Jones seconded. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Director Strickland will be emailing a survey from the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCND) regarding Dental Therapy. Once the board members complete their responses, Director Strickland will combine and respond to the survey.

Director Strickland gave the Legislative Report update.

- Discussion of proposed legislation regarding registration and/or licensure requirements for dental employees that take radiographs. This legislation originated from an entity not affiliated with the Board. If passed, it would affect dental assistants. This discussion was for informational purposes only.
- Discussion of proposed legislation regarding teledentistry. This legislation originated from the American Association of Orthodontists, through the Alabama chapter. This discussion was for informational purposes only.
- The Board's current proposed amendment to expanding the definition of "Direct Supervision" to include "General Supervision".
 - Discussion between the Board, ALDA representatives, and guests occurred covering a range of topics related to "General Supervision" (e.g., Teledentistry, CDHCs). Mr. Windom distributed copies of the Tele-Health legislation that was passed last year to assist in drafting a future board rule covering general supervision and teledentistry.
 - Due to some unresolved issues among the group, Dr. Cunningham made a motion to create a sub-committee consisting of Dr. Williams, Dr. Cunningham, Ms. Alexander, along with board staff and representatives from ALDA. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. Motion was approved with unanimous consent. Director Strickland agreed to work with the sub-committee to determine a

date, time, and location to meet. The Board asked that an update be presented to the April 7, 2023 board meeting.

Director Strickland presented the internal audit results and advised there were no adverse findings. The accounting firm offered several suggestions to improve efficiency for future audits.

Director Strickland gave a presentation of the ALAHOPE test website for the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH). This website would show continuing education opportunities for health care providers.

Director Strickland provided the board members a copy of the unofficial CODA-Report of Major Actions. He noted that Dental Therapy is becoming more prevalent around the country and other dental boards are beginning to draft legislation to address this emerging field.

Dr. Jones discussed Dr. Johnson's request for CE Approval from the Alabama Department of Public Health. The Board confirmed that the ADPH is included as one of the entities that have pre-approval for dental-related continuing education courses.

Director Strickland presented a request for CE Approval for Botox and Dermal Fillers Training submitted by Dr. Robin Pruitt/C.A.P. Stone Academy of Facial Aesthetics. After a review of the submitted course materials, Dr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the CE. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Director Strickland presented a request for course approval for a fully online DOCS Education – OCS Course which was submitted by Dr. Charlie Elijah. After discussion, the Board did not believe this course met the requirements.

Dr. Jones presented a report on the State Committee of Public Health meeting.

Dr. Finn gave an update on CE Broker and their ongoing efforts to assist dentists and dental hygienists register for the required basic (free) account. Additional information has been added to the board's website, as well.

Ms. Latham presented a request by an ADHP student to remain in the program after the student missed due to a medical issue. Dr. McIlwain made a motion to approve the student to remain in the program. Dr. Cunningham seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent.

Ms. Latham presented a request by an ADHP student to remain in the program after the student missed due to a personal issue. Ms. Alexander made a motion to approve the student to remain in the program. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent.

- **Dental License Applications**

- **By Regional Exam**

- Chaz Ainsworth, DDS; Univ. of Tennessee (2020)
- Catherine Kimble, DMD; Univ. of Louisville (2015)
- Jane H. White, DMD; Univ. of Louisville (2018)
- Gage J. Williams, DDS; Univ. of Missouri-KC (2021)

Dr. Jones recommended approval of Dental License by Regional Exam, based on successful completion of the jurisprudence exam for the above applicants. Dr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the applications. Dr. McIlwain seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent.

- **By Credentials**

- Alesia J. Johnson, DMD; Rutgers (1998)
- Ellen Mitchell, DMD; Univ. of Mississippi (2016)
- Craig Alan Mayer, DDS; Northwestern (1975)

Dr. Jones recommended approval of Dental License by Credentials, based on successful completion of the jurisprudence exam for the above applicants. Dr. McIlwain made a motion to approve the applications. Dr. Cunningham seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent.

- **Dental Hygiene App**

- **By Regional Exam**

- Mandy Truc Pham; Fortis (2023)

Ms. Alexander recommended approval of Dental Hygiene License by Regional Exam, based on successful completion of the jurisprudence exam for the above applicant. Dr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the applications. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent.

Ms. Latham presented the ADHP Report. There are currently 178 students remaining in the program. The pinning ceremony is scheduled for 3:00 pm, April 23, 2023, at Rosewood Hall in Homewood.

Investigator Youngblood presented the Inspection Report.

Director Strickland presented the Wellness Report on behalf of Dr. Garver.

Mr. Aaron Dettling Esq. presented the Attorney's Report.

Director Strickland presented the Executive Director's Report.

- We have applied to receive ACE (American Council on Education) Credits for the ADHP. Our application is awaiting the next phase of the process.
- Building update – The contract to replace HVAC for the 2nd floor has been signed and approved by the state.
- Next phase of building renovations will be interior painting and flooring replacement.
- Office furniture ordered through ACI is on backorder.
- Potential sale of property adjacent to the office building for a soccer facility
- Statement of Economic Interest reporting is due by April 30, 2023.
- Director Strickland has been asked to be the Chair of the Investigator Caucus for AADB.
- March 17, 2023 is the last day for comments on the proposed board rules.
- Director Strickland will be attending the Alabama Association of Regulatory Boards Legislative Reception.

Case Reviews – Dr. Dixon/Mr. Lane

Dr. McIlwain made a motion that case #2022-90 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. McIlwain made a motion that case #2022-91 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. McIlwain made a motion that case #2022-94 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. McIlwain made a motion that case #2022-134 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. McIlwain made a motion that case #2022-135 be moved to Executive Session to discuss. Dr. Cunningham seconded the motion. It was approved by rollcall vote. Dr. Cunningham – yes, Dr. Williams – yes, Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes. Motion carried. Meeting resumed at 11:45am.

Dr. McIlwain made a motion that case #2022-135 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. McIlwain made a motion that case #2022-139 is out of jurisdiction. Dr. Cunningham seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Cunningham made a motion that case #2023-02 be administratively closed and waive reinstatement fees. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader abstaining.

Dr. Sims made a motion that case #2022-85 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Cunningham seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Cunningham made a motion that case #2022-130 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Sims seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Cunningham made a motion that case #2022-131 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Sims seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Cunningham made a motion that case #2022-132 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Sims seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Cunningham made a motion that case #2022-133 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Sims seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. McIlwain made a motion that case #2023-12 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Sims seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Jones made a motion that case #2022-111 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. McIlwain seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Cunningham made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Roberto V. Pischek, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved:

Submitted by: Steve Hancock