



Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama

2229 Rocky Ridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35216

205.985.7267

www.dentalboard.org

MINUTES BOARD MEETING October 13, 2023

The President called the board meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with the following members in attendance: Dr. Marshall A. Williams, President; Dr. Bruce E. Cunningham, Vice President; Dr. Roberto V. Pischek, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Melodie A. Jones; Dr. Kevin Sims; Dr. Mark R. McIlwain; and Sandra Kay Alexander, RDH. Also in attendance were W. Blake Strickland, Executive Director; Dr. Donna L. Dixon, Esq., Prosecuting Counsel/Red Tape Reduction Coordinator; Aaron Dettling, Esq., General Counsel; Kevin Lane, Compliance Director; Shannon Youngblood, Investigator; Dr. Mary Beth Finn, Financial Services Manager and Steve Hancock, Licensing Specialist and Public Records Coordinator.

Guests included: Ragan Ingram of Windom, Galliher & Associates; Holt Gray, DMD; Laura Gray; Soon Yoon, DMD; Cecelia Havard, RDH, Bay Area Dental Hygienist Organization; Baker Chambliss, DMD; Trekale Hatfield, RDH; Nida Choudry, MD; Robert Harradine, DMD; Kim Harradine, DMD; Jim Ward, Esq.; Randy Sallé, Administrative Law Judge; Anne Miller, Court Reporter; and Joshua Kim.

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 Board Minutes from September 15, 2023. Dr. McIlwain moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Pischek presented the Financial Report for August 2023. Dr. Jones made a motion to accept the report as presented. Dr. McIlwain seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Director Strickland provided the results for the recent election to replace outgoing board member Dr. Cunningham. The certified results presented by our 3rd party vendor, YesElections, showed Dr. Jordan Holt Gray with 450 votes and Dr. Baker Chambliss with 253 votes. Dr. Gray was declared the winner. Dr. Chambliss congratulated Dr. Gray and expressed his thanks to the Board. He thanked Dr. Cunningham for his service on the Board.

Director Strickland presented a request from Dr. Bawani Vishnu for relief from her monitoring fees as set out in her consent order. Dr. Vishnu no longer practices in Alabama and has moved out of state. Dr. McIlwain made a motion to suspend the monitoring fee and that it be reinstated should Dr. Vishnu reinstate her dental license in Alabama. Dr. Sims seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.



Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama

2229 Rocky Ridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35216

205.985.7267

www.dentalboard.org

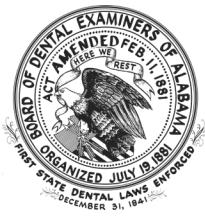
Director reviewed the new board rules scheduled to take effect on 11/13/23.

- 270-X-2-.17, 270-X-2-.24 (Inspection Teams): Director Strickland advised that Mr. Youngblood will begin working with the anesthesia committee to facilitate sedation/anesthesia permit inspections.
- 270-X-5-.13 (Electronic Signatures): Director Strickland advised that many board-related documents requiring signatures will be able to have an electronic signature. This will expedite processing by the staff.
- 270-X-2-.07, 270-X-4-.04, 270-X-4.12 (Retired/Disabled Status): Director Strickland advised that a form is being created that would allow retiring or disabled licensees to apply for this new license status. Part of the new board rules will allow for a licensee requesting a retired/disabled status to simultaneously apply for a waiver on the continuing education requirements. For the first full year of implementation, all such requests will come before the Board for approval. After that time, the Board may allow staff to approve these requests as they are received. Director Strickland reminded the Board that this new license status does not apply to the state controlled substance permit, nor any additional permits.

Director Strickland reviewed the current legislative package the Board has the staff developing. The following statutes are being discussed as proposed legislation (no specific order).

- 34-9-4.1 Dental Assisting (associated other statutes, as well)
- 34-9-27 General Supervision of Dental Hygienists
- 34-9-18 Judicial Review of orders of the Board
- 34-9-19 3-9-18 Grounds for Disciplinary Action
- 34-9-43.3 Investigative and Deliberative Privileges (New)
- 20-2-214 Limited Access to PDMP (to allow delegates)
- 34-9-82 Requirements for Treatment (OCS)
- 34-9-83 Requirements for Assistants (OCS)
- 34-9-7.3 Special Temporary Charity License (New)
- 34-9-16 Fee Schedule

Dr. McIlwain spoke specifically about the sound logic requiring ACLS for all sedation/anesthesia permits, to include oral conscious sedation (OCS). Board members agreed and asked Director Strickland to ensure that licensees obtaining both BLS and ACLS training be awarded appropriate continuing education credit.



Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama

2229 Rocky Ridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35216

205.985.7267

www.dentalboard.org

Director Strickland advised that the staff continue to work on updates to administrative codes (board rules) as identified both by the Board and by staff. As board rules can be submitted throughout the year, where legislative changes to statutes only occur during a legislative session, Director Strickland asked the Board to actively review the current legislative package to determine what priorities they have identified to allow the staff to complete the work before January 2024.

Ragan Ingram presented a legislative update to the Board.

Director Strickland discussed the revisions to the Complaint and Investigative Protocols. Several of the revisions are focused on clarifying the Alabama Dental Professionals Wellness Committee's role in self-report/deferral cases. He asked the Board to review the current draft and send any suggested changes to him. The final document will be presented to the Board for approval at the November 2023 board meeting.

Dr. Jones presented her report on the State Committee of Public Health (SCPH) meeting.

Dr. Jones presented her report on the ADA-SmileCon 2023 Conference.

Dr. Williams called for a break at 8:55 a.m. The meeting resumed at 9:07 a.m.

- **Dental License Applications**

- **By Regional Exam**

- Terpsithea Christou, DMD; UAB (2023)
 - Sarah Ladhani, DMD; Western University (2023)
 - Alexa Martin, DMD; UAB (2022)
 - Stephen Stock, DDS; Creighton University (2022)

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

- **By Credentials**

- Michael Love, DMD; Missouri School of Dentistry (2018)
 - Janna Routh, DMD; ATSU (2018)

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



Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama

2229 Rocky Ridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35216

205.985.7267

www.dentalboard.org

- **Dental Hygiene License Applications**

- **By Regional Exam**

- Magan Bell, RDH; Fortis (2018)
- Savannah Birchfield, RDH; Fortis (2021)
- Viviana Cabrales, RDH; Wallace State (2023)
- Madison Dearman, RDH; Fortis (2022)
- Brittany England, RDH; ADHP (2023)
- Jenna Erickson, RDH; Johnson County CC (2023)
- Jamaria Harris, RDH; Fortis (2022)
- Dakota Lesley, RDH; ADHP (2023)
- Tanisha Payne, RDH; Fortis (2018)
- Sydnee Powers, RDH; ADHP (2023)
- Jennifer Ramirez Ruiz, RDH; Fortis (2023)
- Chelsea Rouse, RDH; Fortis (2023)
- Jamesheya Smith, RDH; ADHP (2023)
- Brittany White, RDH; Fortis (2022)

Ms. Alexander recommended approval of Dental Hygiene Licensure by Regional Exam based on successful completion of the jurisprudence exam for the above applicants. Dr. McIlwain made a motion to approve the applications. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

- **By Credentials**

- Sarah Martinez, RDH; Orange County CC (2015)
- Rachel Morris, RDH; Loma Linda Univ. of Dentistry (2011)
- Louise Trout, RDH; Univ. of Tennessee (1983)

Ms. Alexander recommended approval of Dental Hygiene Licensure by Credentials based on successful completion of the jurisprudence exam for the above applicants. Dr. McIlwain made a motion to approve the applications. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Director Strickland presented the ADHP report. Currently, the 2022-2023 graduating class has a 100% pass rate on their boards. Ms. Latham and staff held an ADHP-Instructor Course in Prattville, AL with 65 dentists in attendance. Lastly, all vacant faculty positions have been filled and all contracts have been approved by Governor Ivey. The ADHP faculty members are Dr. Richard Simpson, Dr. Barry Goodspeed, Dr. Lesley Barrilleaux, Dr. Kenneth Liu, Dr. Elyse



Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama

2229 Rocky Ridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35216

205.985.7267

www.dentalboard.org

Dengler, Dr. Manika Arora, Dr. Boykin, Dr. Litz, and Dr. Galdo. Dr. Basma continues to serve as the ADHP-Educational Director. All contracts are 1-year contracts that can be renewed up to 4 times (total of 5 yr. contracts).

Investigator Youngblood presented the Investigator Report. In the last month, he has completed 30 site evaluations for educational institutions; 1 mobile dental unit inspection; and has 4 pending OCS Facility Inspections.

Mr. Dettling presented the Attorney's Report. He provided an update on the contempt case in Chilton County regarding a denturist who violated a Cease & Desist order.

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

Case Reviews-Dr. Dixon/Mr. Lane

Dr. McIlwain made a motion that case #2023-103 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. Pischek made a motion to accept the surrender of license for case #2022-128. 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 #2023-123 is noticed for hearing. Dr. Pischek 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 #2023-67 is noticed for hearing. 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 #2023-110 is noticed for hearing. Dr. Jones 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 #2023-83 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. Jones made a motion that case #2023-92 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Pischek 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 #2023-65 is out of jurisdiction. Dr. Pischek seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and hygiene member abstaining from the vote.



Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama

2229 Rocky Ridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35216

205.985.7267

www.dentalboard.org

Director Strickland presented the Executive Director's Report.

- Online payments are now available to licensees.
- Approximately 1,200 licensees have either not created a free basic CE Broker account or have not entered their 2022-2023 CE into a CE Broker account. Per the Board's direction, the 2023 continuing education audit will review these licensees for compliance.
- Requested the Board review our current continuing education requirements and determine whether the requirement of half of a licensee's CE must be completed "in-person" is still applicable with current technology and trends.
 - Dr. McIlwain made a motion to accept "real-time/interactive" online training as meeting the requirements of "in-person" training. Dr. Cunningham seconded the motion. During discussion and with guidance from Mr. Dettling, Dr. McIlwain withdrew the motion pending the development of more clear and concise language in the board rule.
- The audio/video upgrade to the boardroom has been completed and will allow the Board to utilize WebEx and Zoom-type platforms when needed.
- The Town Hall meeting held in Prattville, AL on October 6, 2023, was a success. Dr. Williams, Dr. Pischek, and Dr. Sims served as the board panel. Dr. Sims suggested additional town hall meetings and conducting them in conjunction with the ADHP-Instructor Course would be ideal.

Dr. Williams called for a break at 10:43 a.m.

Dr. Williams called for the start of the scheduled Disciplinary Hearing at 11:00 a.m.

Upon the completion of the disciplinary hearing and board deliberations, Dr. Williams resumed the board meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Dr. Cunningham requested to make public comments regarding his time on the Board. His heartfelt thanks and small gifts to the board members and staff were well received. Everyone in attendance voiced their appreciation for Dr. Cunningham's service, his servant's heart, and his love for the dental profession.

Dr. Williams presented Dr. Cunningham with a plaque from the board members and staff in appreciation for his 5 years of service, to include his years of service as a board officer.

Dr. Williams requested that Dr. Jordan Holt Gray come forward to be sworn in as the new board member. Dr. Williams administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Gray. Dr. Gray voiced his appreciation to Dr. Cunningham for his service.

Dr. Sims made a motion to elect Dr. Pischek as the new board president, Dr. Melodie Jones as the new board vice president, and Dr. Marshall Williams as the new secretary-treasurer. Dr. McIlwain seconded the motion. The motion was carried with unanimous consent.



Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama

2229 Rocky Ridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35216

205.985.7267

www.dentalboard.org

Dr. Pischek, as the newly elected board president adjourned the board meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberto V. Pischek, DMD

Dr. Roberto V. Pischek, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: _____

Submitted by: Steve Hancock