



Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama

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www.dentalboard.org

MINUTES BOARD MEETING July 12, 2023

The Board of Dental Examiners met on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort and Spa, 4000 S. Sandestin Blvd., Miramar Beach, FL 32550.

The President called the board meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. with the following members in attendance: Dr. Marshall A. Williams, President; Dr. Bruce E. Cunningham, Vice President; Dr. Melodie A. Jones; Dr. Kevin M. Sims; Dr. Mark R. McIlwain; and Sandra Kay Alexander, RDH. Also in attendance was W. Blake Strickland, Executive Director.

The board meeting was attended by over 50 guests and members of the public.

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.

Director Strickland discussed the differences between statutes and administrative codes (board rules). The discussion included the correct legislative order, the steps for submitting and enacting a statute, and the steps for submitting and enacting an administrative code.

Director Strickland presented an overview of the Alabama Dental Professionals Wellness Committee program. Information was provided as to how the Board determines how a licensee enters the program and general steps taken through the end of the program. Dr. Garver was identified as the chair of the wellness program and how his important role in that position is essential to the successful return of a licensee back into the dental profession. Several attendees asked questions regarding the difference between a "deferral" case and "public case", as well as the use of a voluntary suspension during a licensee's treatment for wellness issues. Director Strickland and several members of the Board responded to these questions. One attendee asked that Dr. Garver and the Board consider allowing the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital/resources treat licensees who are military veterans.

The question regarding dentists and dental hygienists being legally prescribed medical cannabis and continuing to practice was posed to the attendees. They were asked their thoughts, as the Board is determining best practices in handling this type of issue. The overwhelming response from the attendees was against licensees practicing while taking prescription medical cannabis.

Director Strickland took public comments regarding CE Broker. Attendees were provided guidance as to where to locate instructions for creating a free CE Broker account, as well as why the Board chose to go with this vendor as a continuing education repository.

Dr. Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberto V. Pischek, DMD

Dr. Roberto V. Pischek, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: _____

Submitted by: Steve Hancock