



Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama

2229 Rocky Ridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35216

205.985.7267

www.dentalboard.org

AGENDA

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Special/Called Board Meeting

Call to Order

- o Establish Quorum
- o Adopt Agenda
- Discussions/ Approvals/Presentations
 - o Discussion: ADPH statement about healthcare workers and Chronic Hep B (Dr. Jones)
 - o Discussion: BDEAL will seek clarification and guidance from ADPH on health issues and protocols concerning patient safety (Dr. Jones)
 - o Discussion: ADHP student, Dr. Grady Swicord (Dr. Jones)
 - o Discussion: What happens to an ADHP student when the sponsoring dentist leaves the practice, and the owner dentist is already sponsoring another ADHP student? Dr. Davis (Dr. Jones)
 - o ADHP student missed class due to illness (Basma/Gina advocate to allow her to remain in program)
 - o Discussion: BDEAL Newsletter template (Dr. Gray)
 - o Discussion: Town Hall and BDEAL outreach (Dr. Gray)
 - o Discussion: Vendor discussion and approval – inLumen
 - o Recognition of added statutory language to the personnel manual and the bad debt write-off policy requested by the Board
 - No changes to existing language, just added language to reflect the Governor's COLA, statutory longevity pay for state employees (personnel manual); statutory language adding outstanding fines/costs to renewal costs for licensees (bad debt write-off policy).
 - Would like to have in place prior to our next audit.



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- Dental License Applications
 - o By Regional Exam
 - Matthew Johnson, DDS; Marquette (2024)
 - Deok Kim, DMD; Boston University (2023)
 - Raman Saha, DDS; University of Oklahoma (2022)
 - Walter Stallings, DMD; University of Mississippi (2024)
 - o By Credentials
 - Stephanie Dagley, DDS; Creighton (2009)
- Dental Hygiene License Applications
 - o By Regional Exam
 - Maria Mokhtari, RDH; Calhoun St. Community College (2024)
 - o By Credentials
 - Heather Triscritti, RDH; Roane St. Community College (2015)



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SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING

January 16, 2025 **Amended**

The Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama met Thursday, January 16, 2025, at the Board office to conduct business.

The President called the Board Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members in attendance in person: Dr. Melodie A. Jones, President; Dr. Kevin Sims, Vice-President; and Dr. Holt Gray. Dr. Mark McIlwain, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Sonya White; and Dr. John W. York, II; attended virtually. Also in attendance were Aaron Dettling, Esq., General Counsel; Dr. Mary Beth Finn, Financial Services Manager; Gina Latham, ADHP Senior Coordinator; and Steve Hancock, Licensing Specialist/Public Records Coordinator.

Kay Alexander, RDH, Board Hygiene Member; Shannon Youngblood, Investigator; W. Blake Strickland, Executive Director; Dr. Donna Dixon, Esq., Prosecuting Attorney/Red Tape Reduction Coordinator; and Kevin Lane, Compliance Director, were not in attendance.

Guests included: Ragan Ingram of Windom, Galliher & Associates (Virtual), and Dr. Grady Swicord (in person). Various other members of the public joined and monitored the meeting via remote means.

The President determined a quorum was present. Mr. Dettling 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. Because Board members participated in the meeting via remote means, the public notice complied with Ala. Code § 36-25A-5.1, and members of the public were afforded the opportunity to and did in fact join the meeting by remote means as well.

Dr. Jones explained that a previously scheduled meeting of the Board had to be cancelled due to winter weather, and that this "Special Called Meeting" was to address agenda items that needed to be handled before the February Board meeting. In an effort to keep the meeting short, Dr. Jones reviewed the meeting rules. She noted that there would be no comments received from the public and that all votes taken would be by roll call. Dr. Jones added that the meeting setup would allow the Board to test live streaming.

Dr. Sims made a motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting. Dr. Gray seconded the motion. Motion was approved by roll call vote: Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes, Dr. York – yes, Dr. Gray – yes.

Dr. Jones discussed the ADPH (Alabama Department of Public Health) statement about healthcare workers and Chronic Hepatitis B. She explained how it impacts the infected healthcare worker and the public in general. Dr. Jones reiterated that the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama is fully compliant with the guidelines set by Alabama statutes and the ADPH.



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Dr. Jones also discussed how the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama (BDEAL) will continue to seek clarification and guidance from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) on health issues and protocols concerning patient safety. No Board action was taken on this matter. Dr. White joined the meeting by remote means at approximately 5:40 p.m. during this discussion.

Dr. Swicord asked the Board for guidance related to his ADHP Instructor permit expiration. Dr. Jones stated that Dr. Swicord's Instructor permit is expiring three days before the next scheduled instructor course is being offered in February which will impact the current ADHP student he is sponsoring. Mr. Dettling stated that there is nothing in the Board statutes nor rules that address this specific situation, and he believed that a three-day gap would not be detrimental to the training protocol. Dr. York suggested the student would not need to see patients as a hygienist until Dr. Swicord completed the Instructor Certification course. Dr. White asked if this course schedule is always available at the same time each year. Ms. Latham stated that the course schedule can vary depending on venue availability but generally it is offered around the same time each year. Dr. Jones read the current rule dealing with transfer of sponsorship from the Board Rules.

Dr. Gray made a motion to allow Dr. Swicord to remain the instructor for the student despite the three-day gap but during that time period the student could work but not see patients as a hygienist until Dr. Swicord completed the February Instructor Certification course. Dr. White seconded the motion.

Motion was approved by roll call vote: Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes, Dr. York – yes, Dr. Gray – yes, Dr. White – yes.

By email, Dr. Davis requested the Board address the situation of a sponsoring dentist leaving the practice while supervising an ADHP student, when the owner dentist is already sponsoring another ADHP student. Dr. Jones explained the Dental Practice Act states that currently there must be a one-to-one relationship with a dentist only able to sponsor one student at a time. Dr Gray agreed.

Dr. Gray made a motion to deny this request. Dr. Sims seconded the motion. Motion was approved by roll call vote: Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes, Dr. York – yes, Dr. Gray – yes, Dr. White – yes.

Discussion was held regarding an ADHP student that missed class due to illness. Dr. Basma and Ms. Latham both advocated to allow her to remain in the program. Dr. Sims made a motion to allow the student to continue participating in the program. Dr. McIlwain seconded the motion.

Motion was approved by roll call vote: Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes, Dr. York – yes, Dr. Gray – yes, Dr. White – yes.

Dr. Gray discussed that the Board newsletter template should be set up by hierarchical order of Board first and staff second. Dr. Gray made a motion to rework the template for the newsletter. Dr. White seconded the motion.

Motion was approved by roll call vote: Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes, Dr. York – yes, Dr. Gray – yes, Dr. White – yes.



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Dr. Gray discussed that the Board should continue to have Town Hall meetings and outreach efforts on-going. He added that the goal is to offer a Town Hall/Outreach session so that we can have collaborative discussions dealing with many issues that impact the dental community. Dr. Gray explained this could include three board members at different events during the year and would also allow a Q&A session for the attendees. A good example could be holding a Town Hall with Q&A immediately following the upcoming ADHP Instructor certification course in February during Alumni Weekend. Another example would be during the Gulf Coast Dental Conference. At a minimum, the Board could offer Ethics credit which would give participants the chance to obtain CE credit. Dr. Gray made a motion to offer Town Halls and outreach efforts. Motion was seconded by Dr. Sims.

Motion was approved by roll call vote: Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes, Dr. York – yes, Dr. Gray – yes, Dr. White – yes.

Dr. Jones led discussion on the proposed upgrade to the Board's licensee database software, inLumen. Dr. Jones added that Dr. Finn has obtained a great deal financially with inLumen which includes not having any database conversion costs. Dr. White made a motion to proceed with the upgrade to the inLumen platform. Dr. McIlwain seconded the motion.

Motion was approved by roll call vote: Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes, Dr. York – yes, Dr. Gray – yes, Dr. White – yes.

Dr. Jones discussed the recognition of added statutory language to the personnel manual and the bad debt write-off policy requested by the Board. She explained there are no changes to existing language, just added statutory documentation. Dr. Jones confirmed the validation as necessary for auditing purposes. This will be placed on the February board meeting agenda and a complete packet of information will be made available to the board.

- Dental License Applications

- By Regional Exam

- Matthew Johnson, DDS; Marquette (2024)
 - Deok Kim, DMD; Boston University (2023)
 - Raman Saha, DDS; University of Oklahoma (2022)
 - Walter Stallings, DMD; University of Mississippi (2024)

Dr. Gray recommended approval of the above applicants for Dental Licensure by Regional Exam contingent upon successful completion of the jurisprudence exam. Dr. Sims made a motion to approve the applications. Dr. White seconded the motion. Motion was approved by roll call vote: Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes, Dr. York – yes, Dr. Gray – yes, Dr. White – yes.

- By Credentials

- Stephanie Dagley, DDS; Creighton (2009)



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Dr. Gray recommended approval of the above applicant for Dental Licensure by Credentials contingent upon successful completion of the jurisprudence exam. Dr. McIlwain made a motion to approve the applicant. Dr. Sims seconded the motion. Motion was approved by roll call vote: Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes, Dr. York – yes, Dr. Gray – yes, Dr. White – yes.

- Dental Hygiene License Applications

- By Regional Exam

- Maria Mokhtari, RDH; Calhoun St. Community College (2024)

Dr. Sims recommended approval of the above applicant for Dental Hygiene Licensure by Regional Exam contingent upon successful completion of the jurisprudence exam. Dr. White made a motion to approve the applicant. Dr. York seconded the motion. Motion was approved by roll call vote: Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes, Dr. York – yes, Dr. Gray – yes, Dr. White – yes.

- By Credentials

- Heather Triscritti, RDH; Roane St. Community College (2015)

Dr. Sims recommended approval of the above applicant for Dental Hygiene Licensure by Credentials contingent upon successful completion of the jurisprudence exam. Dr. White made a motion to approve the applications. Dr. York seconded the motion. Motion was approved by roll call vote: Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes, Dr. York – yes, Dr. Gray – yes, Dr. White – yes.

Dr. McIlwain reported that the search committee is moving forward to finding a replacement for the Executive Director. The committee is looking at information and resumes and will report to the Board as soon as there is information to share.

Dr. York left the meeting at approximately 6:12 p.m.

Dr. Jones reported on a meeting of the Sunset Committee.

Ms. Latham asked for clarification regarding the student that no longer has an instructor. Dr. Jones explained that the student will have 60 days to find a sponsoring dentist before she is no longer able to remain in the program.

Dr. Gray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Sims seconded the motion. Motion was approved by roll call vote: Dr. Jones – yes, Dr. Sims – yes, Dr. McIlwain – yes, Dr. York – yes, Dr. Gray – yes, Dr. White – yes.

Dr. Jones adjourned the meeting at 6:17 pm.

Submitted by: Steve Hancock



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Respectfully Submitted,

Mark R. McIlwain MD

Dr. Mark McIlwain, Secretary/Treasurer