



# **Board of Dental Examiners**

## **Office of Professional Regulation, Vermont Secretary of State**

89 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor • Montpelier, VT 05620-3402  
<https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/>

### **Approved Meeting Minutes**

#### **\*Remote Meeting\***

**Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**at 9:00a.m.**

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Dr. Ruhl.

**Members Present:** Robert Ruhl, William Koch, Ellen Grimes, Farid Hamidzadeh, Elizabeth Merrill, Cassandra Coakley, and Toby Kravitz.

**Members Absent:** Lucille Kelly & Linda Greaves.

**OPR Personnel Present:** Lauren Layman, General Counsel; Emily Tredeau, Staff Attorney; and Corey Young, Licensing Administrator II.

**Guests:** John Echternach, Jenny Pitz, Diane Dumas, Debora Teixeira, Guy Shampaine, Dan Melo, Leslie Hills, Kimber Cobb, Heather Ross, and Bob Frenier.

#### **2. Changes to the Agenda:**

- Discussion of draft SMART rule to be moved to the last discussion point of the meeting.

#### **3. Approval of Previous Minutes:**

Dr. Koch moved to approve the minutes of November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Dr. Coakley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Discipline:**

#### **5. Other Business**

- **VDH Health Equity and Communications suggested revisions to the SDF consent form for use in 802 Smiles programs**
  - Dr. Coakley suggested that an additional bullet be added to the consent form in reference to the Dental Hygienist providing services will help connect the patient with a Dentist for a follow-up.
- **Presentations on interstate dental compacts**
  - Guy Shampaine presented to the Board similarities and differences between the CSG & AADB compacts.
  - The Board is not required to render an opinion on which if any compact Vermont should join, but may do so. The Board will table this matter until the March meeting, when the full Board is available.

- **Dr. Tais Torezan, renewed request for waiver of national exam**
  - The Board dismissed the waiver request and wished Dr. Torezan best of luck on her national exam retake.
- **Discussion of Substantial equivalence of Canadian licensing exam**
  - Dr. Melo spoke to the Board on his opinion of the Canadian exam and asked the Board to reconsider their stance on not accepting the Canadian exam as equivalent.
  - Dr. Ruhl voiced that Vermont should not deviate from the standards held to US educated dentists.
- **Discussion of draft SMART rule**
  - Attorney Layman and Attorney Tredeau collaborated with the Board to draft SMART rule.
  - Dr. Ruhl and Dr. Grimes offered to work with OPR staff on the draft prior to the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**6. Vermont Department of Health Update – Ms. Greaves**

- Mr. Young read Ms. Greaves’s email stating that Vermont Department of Health will be moving to Waterbury January 27<sup>th</sup>. VDH employees will have the choice of working remotely from home or going into the office a few days a month.

**7. Public Comment:**

- Ms. Dumas asked about Canadian graduates/dentists being eligible for licensure in Vermont if they attend a Vermont residency program.

**8. Next Meeting topics:**

- **Board to consider revised SMART rule draft**
- **Board to consider stating an opinion on Interstate compact licensure (if all Board members attend).**

**9. Adjournment:**

After inviting public comment, Dr. Ruhl adjourned the meeting at 11:48am.

Next Scheduled Meeting  
 Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
 Please check the [OPR Meeting Calendar](#) for updates