



# **Board of Dental Examiners**

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

89 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor • Montpelier, VT 05620-3402

### **Approved Meeting Minutes**

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

**Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**at 9:00 a.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, Cassandra Coakley, Lucille Kelly, Linda Greaves, and Farid Hamidzadeh.

**Member(s) Absent:** Elizabeth Merrill and Toby Kravitz

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

**Guests:** Jenny Pitz, Diane Dumas, Debora Teixeira, Patrick Gallivan, Heather Blair, and Justin Hulburt.

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

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

Dr. Coakley moved to approve the minutes of May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Discipline: None**

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

- **Dental Assistant Application of SDF**
  - Dr. Ruhl provided a correspondence to the Board, asking for more information on dental assistants applying SDF to patients.
  - Dr. Koch moved to have attorney Tredeau add language to the pending administrative rules, stating that traditional dental assistants may apply SDF if appropriately trained. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion. Dr. Grimes opposed the motion. Motion carried.
- **Possible Expansion of Dental Assistants role in Dental Hygiene Service**
  - Dr. Koch and Dr. Coakley stated that this could affect the quality of care. Dental hygienists are appropriately trained, whereas dental assistants do not require training for licensure.
- **Dental Laboratory/Dentist interaction with direct patient care**
  - Dr. Koch presented a scenario to the Board: A patient brings a loose crown to a

dental laboratory. The assistant then puts their hands in the patients mouth to remove or place temporary crown.

- Attorney Tredeau informed the Board of Vermont State Dental Statute 26 V.S.A. § 561 (3)(C)
  - “Practicing dentistry” means ...except on the written prescription of a duly licensed dentist and by the use of impressions or casts made by a duly licensed and practicing dentist”
- Dr. Koch suggested that the referring Dentist be specific in the work order what you’re asking the lab to do.

- **Officer Elections**

- Chair: Dr. Koch moved to nominate Dr. Ruhl as Board Chair, Dr. Grimes seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Vice Chair: Dr. Ruhl moved to nominate Dr. Koch as Board Vice Chair, Dr. Coakley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Secretary: Dr. Koch moved to nominate Ms. Kelly as Board Secretary, Ms. Greaves seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**2025 Dental Board Officers**

**Chair:** Dr. Robert Ruhl

**Vice Chair:** Dr. William Koch

**Secretary:** Ms. Lucille Kelly

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

- Ms. Greaves informed the Board that VDH did not received the CDC grant. Therefore, there will be cuts to the 802 Smiles Program.

**7. Public Comment:**

- Dr. Ruhl wanted to thank everyone for their help in finishing up the pending administrative rules. With a special thanks to Dr. Grimes and Attorney Tredeau.
- Ms. Kelly and Heather Blair provided recommended changes to the pending administrative rules regarding the wording of EFDA eligibility.

**8. Next Meeting topics:**

**9. Adjournment:**

After inviting public comment, Dr. Ruhl adjourned the meeting at 9:50am.

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