



Board of Dental Examiners

Office of Professional Regulation, Vermont Secretary of State

89 Main Street, 3rd Floor • Montpelier, VT 05620-3402

Approved Meeting Minutes

Remote Meeting

Wednesday, March 13th, 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, Elizabeth Merrill, Cassandra Coakley, Lucille Kelly, Linda Greaves and Toby Kravitz.

Members Absent: Farid Hamidzadeh

OPR Personnel Present: Emily Tredeau, Staff Attorney; Ultan Doyle, Deputy Chief Prosecutor; Julie Bowen, Docket Clerk; and Corey Young, Licensing Administrator II.

Guests: John Echternach, Jenny Pitz, Diane Dumas, Debora Teixeira, Leslie Hills, Patrick Gallivan, Heather Blair, Justin Hurlbert, Tyler Ludington, Nicole Andreson, and Bob Frenier.

2. Changes to the Agenda:

- Ms. Kelly asked for dental assistant scope of practice be added at the request of VSDS.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes:

Ms. Merrill moved to approve the minutes of January 10th, 2024, Dr. Kravitz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Discipline:

- 9:15 a.m. – *In re: Tyler Ludington, Docket No. 2022-52; Stipulation and Consent Order*
 - Dr. Koch and Ms. Greaves recused themselves from proceedings.
 - Ms. Kelly moved to accept the stipulation as presented. Ms. Merrill seconded the motion, motion carried.

5. Other Business

- **Vermont State Dental Society**

Diane Dumas of VSDS presented a number of questions to the Board regarding dental assistants' scope and clarification of a prior Board guideline.

 - **6 Month waiting period for traditional dental assistants for coronal polishing**
 - Attorney Tredeau reminded the Board and VSDS that the draft administrative rules are not in effect, and the Board cannot routinely waive existing rules.
 - **Waiting period for traditional dental assistants to take radiography course**
 - The Board expressed interest in amending the draft administrative rules to

state that traditional dental assistants need to be formally trained or have four months' experience to be eligible for coronal polishing or taking a radiography course.

- Attorney Tredeau will draft language for the pending rules to reviewed in May.
- Frequency of periodic dental examinations
 - The Board considers regular to be at least annually.
- Traditional Dental Assistant Scope
 - Ms. Kelly will draft a document stating what the scope of practice is for a TDA. Once received and approved by the Board, OPR will request approval to email the document to all Vermont licensed Dentists.
- **PGY-1 Presentation – Dr. Justin Hurlbert**
 - Dr. Hurlbert presented to the Board on PGY-1 residencies as an alternative to the clinical board examination.
 - The Board expressed interest in creating this option so long as the residency was clinical in nature.
 - Attorney Tredeau will draft language for the Board to consider at its May meeting.
- **Discussion of draft SMART rule**
 - Attorney Tredeau shared the SMART draft rule she collaborated with Dr. Ruhl and Dr. Grimes on.
 - Dr. Grimes moved to accept the SMART draft rule. Dr. Koch seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

6. Vermont Department of Health Update – Ms. Greaves

7. Public Comment:

- Mr. Gallivan asked for an update on the pending dental administrative rules.

8. Next Meeting topics:

- **Ms. Kelly to draft language for guidance document regarding traditional dental assistant scope.**
- **Board to consider stating an opinion on Interstate compact licensure (if all Board members attend).**
- **Consideration of draft administrative rules language on PGY 1 as an alternative to clinical examination, radiography, and coronal polishing.**

9. Adjournment:

After inviting public comment, Dr. Ruhl adjourned the meeting at 11:24am.

Next Scheduled Meeting
Wednesday, May 8th, 2024
Please check the [OPR Meeting Calendar](#) for updates