



# **Board of Dental Examiners**

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

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### **Approved Meeting Minutes**

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

**Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9:00a.m.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M., by Dr. Ruhl.

**Members Present:** Robert Ruhl, William Koch, Jennie Kendall, Elizabeth Merrill, David Baasch, Lucille Kelly, Randy Miller, Cheryl Ullman, and Linda Greaves

**Member(s) Absent:** Mimi Kevan

**OPR Personnel Present:** Gabriel Gilman, General Counsel; Corey Young, Licensing Administrator I

**Guests:** Mary Ellen Murphy, Debora Teixeira, Diane Dumas, Ellen Grimes and Patrick Gallivan

#### **2. Approval of previous minutes:**

Ms. Kendall moved to accept the minutes from the July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 board meeting. Ms. Kelly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **3. Topics for discussion:**

- **Covid-19 Impacts:**

Dr. Koch informed the Board of information compiled during the last 3 months on how COVID-19 is affecting dental practice in Vermont.

- **Recognition of non-patient-based exams:**

The Board discussed that many clinical exam providers are moving to non-patient clinical examination. Students of the dental arts are sometimes uncertain whether new, non-patient exams will be accepted toward licensure.

Dr. Baasch moved that the Board issue the following clarification:

*The examinations recognized by Administrative Rule will continue to be recognized if the relevant examining body elects to offer a non-patient exam. The Board shall monitor non-patient exams at least annually to ensure that the integrity of those exams is preserved.*

Dr. Miller seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Kendall sought to clarify that the motion applies to *all* clinical exams, whether in dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting. All present agreed.

Mr. Gilman asked the Chair if he would like OPR to begin reaching out to test providers to learn of transitions to non-patient exams. The Chair felt outreach would be helpful.

- **Dr. Lionel Noel Vera – Caraballo : 4 year residency**

Licensing staff and General Counsel recommended to the Board that it waive the five-year PGY-1 holdout in the case of Dr. Vera-Caraballo, who applied having completed four postgraduate residency years, and two further years of practice, for six total years of practice, but who technically did not present continuous 5-year unrestricted licensure in his state of origin.

Dr. Randall moved that the Board find Dr. Vera-Caraballo's experience overcomes the absence of clinical examination in his state of origin, and he should be approved for licensure. Dr. Baasch seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Staff will see Dr. Vera-Caraballo through steps necessary to finalize license issuance.

- **Current legislative update:**

Mr. Gilman spoke to the board about S.233 – An act relating to uniform licensing standards. Of most consequence is a provision that would create three-year universal endorsement from other states, with an option for regulatory bodies to justify a different standard. The Board will want to follow the legislation, and if it passes, will need to assess what the least rigorous U.S. jurisdiction allows and whether three years of experience would suffice to demonstrate competency to practice to Vermont standards.

- **CE request:**

The Board discussed but declined to take up the application of University of Vermont's Dental Residency Program for 1 continuing education unit derived from reviewing charts and conferring with medical colleagues. The program is asked to provide more information explaining how the activity is educational in character, as opposed to an ordinary incident of peer interaction.

- **Officer Election:**

The Board noted that officers—Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary—are to be elected each September. Dr. Koch moved to re-elect the incumbent officers in each position. Dr. Baasch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair: Dr. Ruhl  
Vice Chair: Dr. Koch  
Secretary: Ms. Kendall

#### **4. Adjournment:**

Dr. Ruhl adjourned the meeting at 10:08am.

Next Scheduled Meeting – Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Please check the [OPR Meeting Calendar](#) for updates