

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DENTISTRY

October 13, 2023

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Dentistry was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Dean Cope, DDS, Chairperson, in the Husker Room at the Hampton Inn & Suites, located at 7343 Husker Circle, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68504. The Agenda and Revised Agenda (revised more than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting and posted/available for public inspection at the Board's office more than 24 hours prior to the meeting) were sent to the Board members and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The following members answered the roll call:

Dean Cope, DDS - Chairperson  
Melanie Steckelberg, DDS, Vice-Chairperson  
Michael J. O'Hara, JD, PhD – Secretary  
Yoshiharu Ameku, DDS  
Gene Giles, DDS  
Lynlee Medhi  
Hannah Randell, RDH  
John Thomas, DMD

Absent: Terrence Lanphier, DDS  
Lisa Kucera, RDH

Also present were: Vonda Apking, Interim Program Manager; Jan Gadeken Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Teresa Hampton, Department Attorney (via WebEx); T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General; Abigail Nissen, Assistant Attorney General; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General; and Anna Harrison, RN, BSN, Compliance Monitor (via WebEx).

Cope announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

Cope provided an overview of the Board of Dentistry's purpose.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

O'Hara moved, seconded by Giles, to adopt the agenda as rearranged per Chairperson. Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Giles, Randell, Medhi, O'Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kucera, Lanphier. Motion carried.

DENTAL COMPACTS

Cope explained that he wanted to remind the Board members that there are two separate dental compacts. Use this as a reminder that these will need to be discussed at a later date.

## DISCUSSION REGARDING CLINICAL EXAMINATION EQUIVALENCY

Background was provided regarding how Central Regional Dental Testing (CRDTS) Agency became the standard examination for Nebraska. Ameku mentioned that there is a push for portability for students. Steckelberg commented that it is the Board's responsibility to make sure that other clinical examinations are equivalent to the CRDTS clinical examination. There is a need to help students at both Nebraska dental schools for portability.

Jillian Wallen, BDS, MS, Professor and Dean  
Creighton University School of Dentistry  
2109 Cummings ST  
Omaha NE 68102

Dr. Wallen provided additional information regarding Creighton's plan to offer both clinical examinations so that their students have portability and provide information regarding the financial burden for their students and the hurdles that Creighton University School of Dentistry has in offering both examinations. Ameku commented that University of Nebraska College of Dentistry has the same issues with offering two clinical examinations. Dr. Wallen also mentioned this decision to only accept CRDTS clinical examination is impacting their ability to recruit for both residency programs and faculty.

Steckelberg mentioned that she wished that someone from ADEX was available to answer questions regarding the technical report, including a listing of the authors. Giles noted that the periodontal and restorative portions of ADEX are not comparable to CRDTS. Cope added that prosthodontic portion is also not comparable. Ameku mentioned that UNL College of Dentistry faculty try to prepare their students for taking the examination and provides training in all aspects of crown and bridge preparation. Steckelberg questioned teaching students on preparing and finishing amalgams and composites. Ameku noted that yes students are trained on all foundational dental skills. Steckelberg commented that she still has issues with the x-rays of the tooth offered to students to prep during the restorative portions of the ADEX examination. Testing of the periodontal skills is necessary with more dentists performing hygiene services across the country.

Randell mentioned that the Board is responsible for public safety in Nebraska, and which also demands holding agencies to a higher standard. Randell commented that the Board should not be worrying about student portability and student/faculty recruitment.

Dr. Edwards, Director of Dental Examinations, CRDTS  
1725 SW Gage BLVD  
Topeka KS 66604-3333

Dr. Edwards commended the Board for their due diligence in comparing the two clinical examinations. There is a need for consistency amongst each procedure being examined. COVID brought a new light on how clinical examinations should be offered (patient based versus simulation). The examination should strive to test against minimal competencies (similar decay and scaling and root planning not just diagnosing within the periodontal portion of the examination).

Giles mentioned that he had additional questions for ADEX. Thomas mentioned that he contacted several dental labs regarding what percentage of crown materials are they seeing. Steckelberg also mentioned the desire to see candidate manuals from the Southern Regional Testing Agency (STRA).

Steckelberg moved, seconded by Giles, determined based on the information the Board has at hand, that CRDTS clinical examination is the only examination that will be accepted during the 2024-2025 testing season. Voting aye: Cope, Giles, Randell, Medhi, O'Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kucera, Lanphier. Abstain: Ameku. Motion carried.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### July 7, 2023

Page 1: No changes.

Page 2: No changes.

Page 3: No changes.

Page 4: Fifth paragraph, line 7, change the word "Bord" to "Board".

Page 5: Fourth paragraph, line 14, change "s" to "a" after the word "use".

Page 6: No changes.

Page 7: First paragraph, line 3, delete "and CRDTS examinations" after "ADEX Letter".

Thomas moved, seconded by Ameku, to approve the July 7, 2023, minutes as corrected. Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Giles, Randell, Medhi, O'Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kucera, Lanphier. Motion carried.

### August 18, 2023

Steckelberg moved, seconded by Thomas, to approve the August 18, 2023, minutes as presented. Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Giles, Randell, Medhi, O'Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kucera, Lanphier. Motion carried.

## INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

O'Hara moved, seconded by Steckelberg, to go into closed session at 9:53 a.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Giles, Randell, Medhi, O'Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kucera, Lanphier. Motion carried.

Giles left the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:03 a.m.

## APPLICATION REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

### Dental Application(s)

Steckelberg moved, seconded by Thomas, to recommend postponing the recommendation on the dental application of Oluwole Ayagabe for additional information. Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Randell, Medhi, O'Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Giles, Kucera, Lanphier. Motion carried.

Dental Assistant Application(s)

Nothing to discuss at this time.

Dental Hygienist Application(s)

Nothing to discuss at this time.

E-MAIL BALLOTS SINCE THE LAST MINUTES

No e-mail ballots reviewed since the last meeting.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

Board members requested reviewing the draft regulations and hearing summary comments one at a time because of how late that the documents were received. Hampton provided an overview of the regulation's approval process.

172 NAC 58 – Faculty Licensure had no hearing comments to review.

172 NAC 57 – Dental Hygiene licensure had two hearing summary comments. The Board commented that no change is needed regarding comment 1 except fixing the typo in 012.A (i,ii,iii,iv,v) remove the first “or” in the list; and that no change is needed regarding comment 2.

172 NAC 56 – Dental Licensure – had 1 hearing summary comment. The Board decided that no change is needed regarding the comment 1.

172 NAC 53 – Dental Assistant Licensure had one hearing summary comment. The Board decided that no change is needed regarding the comment 1.

Steckelberg moved, seconded by Thomas, to adopt the following regulations and the hearing summary comments and responses for 172 NAC 53, 172 NAC 56, 172 NAC 57, and 172 NAC 58. Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Randell, Medhi, O’Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Giles, Kucera, Lanphier. Motion carried.

CPR COURSE APPROVAL – COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF PRE-HOSPITAL CONTINUING EDUCATION (CAPCE)

Steckelberg moved, seconded Ameku, to approve the CPR course offered by Commission on Accreditation of Pre-Hospital Continuing Education. Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Randell, Medhi, O’Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Giles, Kucera, Lanphier. Motion carried.

EXPANDED FUNCTION COURSE APPROVAL (RESTORATIVE 1 & 2) – UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

Thomas moved, seconded by Medhi, to approve the amended course for expanded function restorative 1 given by the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry. Voting aye: Cope,

Randell, Medhi, O'Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Giles, Kucera, Lanphier. Abstain: Ameku. Motion carried.

Steckelberg moved, seconded by Thomas, to approve the amended course for expanded function restorative 2 given by the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry. Voting aye: Cope, Randell, Medhi, O'Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Giles, Kucera, Lanphier. Abstain: Ameku. Motion carried.

BOARD CLARIFICATION REQUESTED – CRDTS ASKED IF IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE A SEPARATE MANUAL/EXAM FOR NE EXPANDED FUNCTION OR IS THEIR CURRENT RESTORATIVE AUXILLIARY EXAM NE RESTORATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Dr. Edwards clarified the actual question was whether CRDTS could combine the manuals. Steckelberg moved, seconded by O'Hara, to recommend leaving the Nebraska manual as is. Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Randell, Medhi, O'Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Giles, Kucera, Lanphier. Motion carried.

CRDTS ANNUAL MEETING – AUGUST 25-26, 2023 – Report

Randell mentioned that there was a big discussion regarding the compacts. O'Hara agreed.

Richael "Sheli" Cobler, Executive Director, CRDTS  
1725 SW Gage BLVD  
Topeka KS 66604-3333

Ms. Cobler has provided an email which includes CRDTS comparison between the two compacts.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2024.

Future meetings date:       April 5, 2024  
                                      July 12, 2024  
                                      October 4, 2024  
                                      January 10, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

(signature on file with the Department)

Michael O'Hara, JD, PhD, Secretary  
Board of Dentistry