

These minutes have not been reviewed or approved by the Board of Dentistry

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DENTISTRY
January 16, 2026

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Dentistry was called to order by Terrence Lanphier, DDS, Vice-Chairperson, at 9:05 a.m. on January 16, 2026, in the Husker Room at the Hampton Inn & Suites, located at 7343 Husker Circle, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68504. The meeting was conducted In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered the roll call:

Terrence Lanphier, DDS, MBA, MAGD – Vice-Chairperson
Michael O’Hara, JD, PhD – Secretary
Gene Giles, DDS
Brent Johnson, DDS
Amy Killeen, DDS, MS
Lynlee Medhi
Takanari Miyamoto, DDS, PhD, MBA, MDA, CAGS
Hannah Randell, MHPTT, RHD, PHRDH
Abby Rennau, RDH, BSDH, PHA
David Verbik, DDS, PhD

Absent: None

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

The Board “Welcomes” two new members Dr. Amy Killeen and Dr. David Verbik they are replacing Dr. Cope and Dr. Ameku who both retired from the Board.

Also present to participate in the meeting: Vonda Apking, Program Manager; Janis Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Teresa Hampton, Department Attorney; T.J. O’Neill, Assistant Attorney General; Randy Clark, Trevor Klaassen, Alexandria Belcher, Haley Alvarado, Investigators with the Investigation Unit and Tricia Allen, Program Manager with the Investigation Unit.

Lanphier 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.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> and posted on the Bulletin Board at the entrance to the Nebraska State Office Building on January 6, 2026, and revision posted January 14, 2026.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Giles moved, seconded by Miyamoto, to approve adoption of the agenda with the Chair having the authority to rearrange agenda items as needed. Voting aye: Giles, Johnson, Killeen, Lanphier, Medhi, Miyamoto, O’Hara, Randell, Rennau and Verbik. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

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PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND APPRECIATION FOR RETIRING BOARD MEMBER DR. DEAN COPE, DDS and DR. YOSHIHARU AMEKU, DDS

Dr. Lanphier presented Dr. Cope with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health "Certificate of Appreciation Award" for his outstanding performance and lasting contributions to the citizens of the State of Nebraska for his service to the Board of Dentistry from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2025.

Dr. Lanphier also presented Dr. Cope with the "Distinguished Award" from the Board of Dentistry, representing his tireless efforts for serving ten (10) years as a Dental Member on the Board of Dentistry. His insight and knowledge have been appreciated and will be greatly missed.

Lastly Dr. Lanphier presented Dr. Cope with the "Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska" Award from Governor Jim Pillen. As an "Admiral" Dr. Cope can become a member and join his fellow Admirals in the "Nebraska Admirals Association" to promote the "Good Life" through scholarships and hospitality. For more information on the Association visit: <http://www.nebraskaadmirals.org/>

We wish Dr. Cope all the best in the next chapter of his life.

Dr. Ameku was not available to attend this meeting to receive his awards in person, however Dr. Lanphier acknowledged that the Board will truly miss his strong leadership and teamwork skills. Dr. Ameku served the Board from January 24, 2017 to November 30, 2025. Dr. Ameku also serves as a faculty member of the University of Nebraska School of Dentistry and has always been a strong advocate of the discipline of dental education. Good Luck Dr. Ameku in all your future endeavors.

The Board and the Department will greatly miss Dr. Cope and Dr. Ameku and will always treasure the commitment that they made to the citizens of the State of Nebraska.

PRESENTATION: CRDTS (Central Regional Dental Testing Service) CARE PROGRAM

Sheli Cobler, CRDTS Executive Director, was present giving the presentation to the Board and Catrice Opichka, CRDTS Director of Special Programs, joined via WebEx. The CRDTS office is at 1725 SW Gage Blvd, Topeka, KS.

CRDTS is an organization with 50+ years of dental and dental hygiene examinations and clinical and testing calibration experience and has developed programs to help state dental boards provide a resource for reeducation and remediation education for dental professionals.

<https://crdtscare.com/care>

CRDTS Care Programs include:

- Board Ordered Remediation
- Self-Referred Re-Education
- Local Anesthesia Refresher Course
- Didactic Programming
- Periodontal Calibration Program for the Dental Practice

CRDTS partners with EBAS (Ethics and Boundaries Assessment Services) for remediation ethics essay assessment and boundaries in a professional workplace environment.

<https://ebas.org/ethics-assessments/>

Assessment Topics/Areas:

- Fraud
- Boundaries
- Substance Abuse
- Unprofessional Conduct

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- Professional Standards

CRDTS is in the process of developing a program for Nebraska, with a projected launch date of Summer 2026:

- Polishing Program for Dental Assistants
- Radiography Program for Dental Assistants

The Board and the Department would like to express “Thanks” to Sheli Cobler and Catrice Opichka for an outstanding presentation.

CRDTS DENTAL EXAMINATION REVIEW COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING REPORT

Sam Jacoby, DDS

NE Board Representative to CRDTS Dental Examination Review Committee (DERC) submitted the following report:

A Zoom meeting of the Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS) Dental Exam Review Committee (DERC) was held on December 16, 2025. The focus of the meeting was to review and discuss possible modifications to the 2025-2026 exam content, scoring, and criteria in an effort to continually improve the exam for use by CRDTS Member State Boards in assisting their mission to protect the public. The Nebraska Board has this opportunity to give feedback to their DERC representative, to be included at the in-person meeting of the DERC in June of 2026, where exam modifications will be recommended. Any changes will then need to be ratified by the CRDTS Steering Committee before they can be incorporated into the 2026-2027 CRDTS Examination. The following items have been identified for input from State Boards:

- 1) *Endodontics: The posterior endo procedure contains references to incomplete removal of the pulp chamber roof in two different criteria. Is the candidate being penalized twice for poor performance in that area? The anterior endo procedure “Size of Access” criteria levels are now referenced as fractions of the lingual surface dimension. Would it be better to have measurements in millimeters?*
- 2) *Prosthodontics: Does the candidate manual need to be modified to clarify that occlusal reduction needs to be adequate at all points of the occlusal table rather than just at the section line of the matrix?*
- 3) *Periodontics: Currently the perio calculus detection is evaluated on a 3D printed maxillary model and the perio scaling is done on a mandibular model with added simulated calculus. Should the calculus detection and scaling be done on the same arch? Possible benefits are that this would more closely resemble what happens in actual practice and it is difficult to make 3D printed calculus feel very similar to actual calculus. The 3D printed model can decrease cost to the candidate because it can be reused.*
- 4) *Restorative: Re-evaluate criteria for gingival contact not open, isthmus width, and pulpal floor depth. The goal is to clarify descriptors in these criteria with millimeter measurements to avoid confusion.*
- 5) *Do Member State Boards have a limit on the number of retakes a candidate can do for failed procedures before requiring remediation or a total retake of the exam? Do retakes done while the candidate is still in school and can receive remediation there count toward those limits?*

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I would appreciate feedback from the Board that relates to the above topics or any other concerns with the exam that I could relay to the DERC, at the meeting in June. CRDTS prides itself on the fact that each Member State can have a voice in exam development annually. I would especially be interested in having feedback on topic #5. Please let me know if you would like me to attend a Board meeting to supply more information and answer questions.

The Board will ask for feedback on Dr. Jacoby's report at the March meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made at this time in the meeting.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

O'Hara moved, seconded by Miyamoto, to go into closed session at 10:15 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: Giles, Johnson, Killeen, Lanphier, Medhi, Miyamoto, O'Hara, Randell, Rennau and Verbik. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Board Break at 11:00 a.m.
Board Returned at 11:20 a.m.

Dr. Killeen Recused at 11:38 a.m.
Dr. Killeen Returned at 11:51 a.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 12:00 p.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

There were no applications for review.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 3, 2025

One edit was noted on page 1 last paragraph, second line need to change "her" to "his"
Giles moved, seconded by Randell, to approve October 3, 2025, minutes with the noted correction.
Voting aye: Giles, Johnson, Lanphier, Medhi, Miyamoto and Randell. Voting nay: None. Absent: None.
Abstain: Killeen, O'Hara, Rennau and Verbik. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

There are no updates currently.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

There are no updates currently.

BOARD DISCUSSION(S)

A. Radiography Courses – Content, Availability and Acceptance

Dr. Giles has expressed that access to Dental Care is a problem/challenge especially in western Nebraska areas. There is also a lack of availability for dental assistants to attend radiography courses to become certified.

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Crystal Stuhr, Instructor at Southeast Community College has agreed to create a syllabus for the Board's approval to help with getting individuals located in western Nebraska a radiography course and a coronal polishing course to attend.

The Board agreed to review the developed syllabus for approval.

B. Tele dentistry –

Dr. Miyamoto, Dr. Lanphier and Abby Rennau were part of a Sub-Committee for the Board to research and develop a draft of Tele dentistry Guidelines for the Board's review:

Tele Dentistry Guidelines: Draft for Nebraska State Board:

- 1) Source of Authority
 - Tele dentistry in NE should be authorized under the Dental Practice Act, in coordination with Telehealth/Telemedicine statutes where applicable
 - The NE State Board should issue directives and regulations to ensure compliance.
- 2) Types of Allowable Services
 - Synchronous (real-time video or audio): Permitted for consultations, follow-ups, and diagnostic discussions.
 - Asynchronous (store-and-forward, images, records, email/mobile apps): Allowed for case reviews, diagnostics, and coordination of care.
 - Both models should be recognized to maximize access for rural and underserved populations.
- 3) Required Modalities
 - Synchronous Telehealth: Must use video or audio only platforms that meet HIPAA-compliant standards (the NE State Board should issue directives and regulations for the selection of allowable vendors)
 - Other Modalities: Store-and-forward technologies (secure email, mobile apps, digital scans, radiographs) are permitted when clinically appropriate (The NE State Board should issue directives and regulations for the selection of allowable vendors)
- 4) Patient Protections
 - Informed Consent
 - Providers must document informed consent in the patient's chart
 - Consent must be obtained before or during the first telehealth visit
 - Patient of Record Requirement
 - NE may adopt a flexible approach, allowing tele dentistry services for both new and existing patients, provided that diagnostic standards are maintained.
- 5) Allowed Providers
 - Dentists licensed in NE
 - Dental Hygienists operating under collaborative or supervisory agreements
 - Providers must practice within their scope of licensure and comply with all state regulations
- 6) Dental Insurance Reimbursement
 - NE Dental Insurance should recognize CDT codes D9995 (synchronous tele dentistry) and D9996 (asynchronous tele dentistry)
- 7) Compliance and Standards
 - Providers must follow all HIPAA and state privacy requirements
 - Telehealth platforms must ensure confidentiality, security and recordkeeping
 - Clinical documentation must meet the same standards as in-person visits
- 8) Policy Notes
 - NE should periodically review and update tele dentistry regulations as technology evolves
 - Consistency with national best practices (ADA, ADEA) should guide revisions
 - The Board should encourage data collection to evaluate access, quality and outcomes of tele dentistry in NE

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C. Regulation 172 NAC 53.010.01(B) – requirements for Dental Assistant for coronal polishing

The Board discussed that requirement surrounding having to have 1500 hours of practice prior to obtaining a coronal polishing certificate. The regulations would need to be changed in order to eliminate the requirement.

PRACTICE QUESTION(S)

A. Do you have to hold an expanded function permit to place attachments for clear liners?

Dr. Jessica Meeske, DDS
Hastings, NE

Rennau moved, seconded by Johnson that it is the opinion of the Board that if you hold a Dental Hygienist license with an Expanded Function Restorative #1 permit or a licensed Dental Assistant with an Expanded Function Restorative #1 permit then a licensee would be within their scope of practice to place attachments for clear liners. Voting aye: Giles, Johnson, Killeen, Lanphier, Medhi, Miyamoto, O’Hara, Randell, Rennau and Verbik. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

DESIGNATION OF THE METHOD BY WHICH THIS BODY WILL GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF ITS MEETINGS

Apking explained that the Board needs to inform the public each year the method by which the Board will provide notice of their meetings. In the past, the Board had chosen to post meeting agendas on the Bulletin Board at the Nebraska State Office Building, to e-mail agendas to the interested parties list, and to post agendas on the Department’s website. O’Hara moved, seconded by Johnson, to continue the same method that the Department has been using to provide public notice of this Board’s meetings by posting meeting agendas at the Nebraska State Office Building, by e-mailing agendas to the interested parties list, and by posting agendas on the Department’s website. Voting aye: Giles, Johnson, Killeen, Lanphier, Medhi, Miyamoto, O’Hara, Randell, Rennau and Verbik. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

O’Hara moved, seconded by Miyamoto to elect new officers for 2026 as follows:
Chairperson: Lanphier
Vice-Chairperson: Giles
Secretary: O’Hara

Voting aye: Giles, Johnson, Killeen, Lanphier, Medhi, Miyamoto, O’Hara, Randell, Rennau and Verbik.
Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2026.

To see the list of meeting dates, agendas and minutes go to:
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tim Brady
Sweet Dreams Anesthesia
TJ77brady@yahoo.com

Mr. Brady asked for clarification as to what changed with the way anesthesia in the dental office is being offered by other practitioners. Johnson provided a brief explanation that there is a need to make sure that when other licensed professionals (outside of dentistry) are offering sedation in a dental office, they are adhering to the same standards as those dentists that offer sedation under a moderate or a deep sedation permit are following. The discussion focused on maybe creating a host license that the dental office would have to carry which would not put any responsibility on the licensed professional outside of dentistry. This is just the beginning stages of discussion. If you'd like to be added to the list of interested parties regarding this issue, the Department can do that. The Board thanks you for your interest in this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

(signature on file with the Department)

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