

These minutes have not been reviewed or approved by the Board.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF DENTISTRY

July 11, 2025

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Dentistry was called to order by Dean Cope, DDS, Chairperson, at 9:00 a.m. on July 11, 2025, 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:

Dean Cope, DDS – Chairperson
Yoshiharu Ameku, DDS
Gene Giles, DDS
Terrence Lanphier, DDS – Vice-Chairperson
Takanari Miyamoto, DDS
Hannah Randell, RDH
Brent Johnson, DDS
Abby Rennau, RDH, MS
Michael O'Hara, JD, PhD - Secretary

Absent: Lynlee Medhi

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

Also present to participate in the meeting: Vonda Apking, Program Manager; Heather Ord, Health Licensing Coordinator; Janis Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Teresa Hampton, Department Attorney; T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General; Patricia Lemke, Investigator; and Jeff Newman, Investigator with the Investigation Unit.

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.

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 June 30, 2025.

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: Ameku, Cope, Giles, Rennau, Lanphier, Miyamoto, Randell, O'Hara and Johnson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 4, 2025

Page 1: Added “RDH, MS” behind Abby Rennau’s name.

Page 3: Corrected title from “Moderate Sedation Reinstatement Application(s)” to “Minimal Sedation Reinstatement Application(s)”.

Page 3: Paragraph 1 line 1: Changed “license” to “permit” under “Moderate Sedation Reinstatement Application(s)”.

Page 3: Paragraph 1 line 5: Cope abstained.

Page 6: Corrected spelling of “Central” in the title “Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS) Semi Annual Meeting Summary – Dr. Gene Giles, DDS”.

Page 10: Corrected spelling of “Central” in the title “Central Regional Dental Testing Service 9CRDTS) Compacts Press Release”.

Page 11: Corrected spelling of “Massachusetts” under “Status of AADB Compact Movement in 2025 Legislative Session”.

Lanphier moved, seconded by Giles, to approve the April 4, 2025, minutes as corrected. Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Giles, Rennau, Lanphier, Miyamoto, Randell, O’Hara and Johnson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Presentation of Awards and Appreciation for the Board Members: Dr. Melanie Steckelberg, DDS and Lisa Kucera, RDH.

Dr. Cope, Chairperson for the Board of Dentistry, presented Dr. Steckelberg with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health “Certificate of Appreciation Award” for her outstanding performance and lasting contributions to the citizens of the State of Nebraska for her five (5) years of service to the Board of Dentistry from December 1, 2019 to November 30, 2024.

Dr. Cope presented Dr. Steckelberg with the “Distinguished Award” from the Board of Dentistry, representing her tireless efforts for serving five (1) years as a Dental Member on the Board of Dentistry. Her insight and knowledge have been appreciated and will be greatly missed.

Dr. Cope presented Dr. Steckelberg with the “Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska” Award from Governor Jim Pillen. As an “Admiral” Lisa can become a member and join her 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/>

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Dr. Cope, Chairperson for the Board of Dentistry, presented Lisa with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health "Certificate of Appreciation Award" for her outstanding performance and lasting contributions to the citizens of the State of Nebraska for her ten years of service to the Board of Dentistry from December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2024.

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

Dr. Cope presented Lisa with the "Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska" Award from Governor Jim Pillen. As an "Admiral" Lisa can become a member and join her 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/>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

O'Hara moved, seconded by Johnson, to go into closed session at 9:16 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, Rennau, Lanphier, Miyamoto, Randell, O'Hara and Johnson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Board Break left: 10:47 a.m.

Board Break return: 10:53 a.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:17 a.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

Dental Hygiene Application(s)

Steele, Andrea – application for initial Dental Hygiene license. Lanphier moved, seconded by Randell to recommend the approval of the application for initial Dental Hygiene license. Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Giles, Rennau, Lanphier, Miyamoto, Randell, O'Hara and Johnson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

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Dental Application(s)

Kidder, Payton, DDS – application for initial Dentist license. Giles moved, seconded by Miyamoto to recommend the approval of the application for initial Dentist license. Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Giles, Rennau, Lanphier, Miyamoto, Randell, O'Hara and Johnson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried..

Minimal Sedation Reinstatement Application(S)

Feldner, Barry, DDS – application for Reinstatement of his permit. Lanphier moved, seconded by Rennau to approve the reinstatement of his Minimal Sedation application with a \$2,500 civil penalty for practicing minimal sedation without a permit for over two (2) years. Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Giles, Rennau, Lanphier, Miyamoto, Randell, O'Hara and Johnson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

E-MAIL BALLOTS SINCE THE LAST MINUTES

- A Dental Hygiene License was issued to Andrea Steele on 7/14/2025. Her License number is 3393.
- A Local Anesthesia Permit was issued to Andrea Steele on 7/14/2025. Her Permit Number is 2228.
- A Public Health Authorization Permit was issued to Andrea Steele on 7/14/2025. Her Permit Number is 338.
- A Dentist License was issued to Payton Kidder on 7/14/2025. His License number is 8146.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

There are no updates at this time.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

There are no updates at this time.

APPOINTMENT TO THE CENTRAL REGIONAL DENTAL TESTING SERVICE (CRDTS) DENTAL EXAMINATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (DERC)

Giles moved, seconded by Ameku to appoint Dr. Sam Jacoby, DDS as representative for the Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS) Dental examination review committee (DERC). Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Giles, Rennau, Lanphier, Miyamoto, Randell, O'Hara and Johnson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

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APPOINTMENT TO THE CENTRAL REGIONAL DENTAL TESTING SERVICE (CRDTS)
DENTAL HYGIENE EXAMINATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (ERC)

Randell moved, seconded by Rennau to appoint Cindy Gaskill as representative for the Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS) Dental Hygiene examination review committee (ERC). Voting aye: Ameku, Cope, Giles, Rennau, Lanphier, Miyamoto, Randell, O'Hara and Johnson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

AMERICAN BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS (ADEX) AND CDCA-WREB-CITA
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ANNOUNCEMENT

*(June 20, 2025) The American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) and CDCA-WREB-CITA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on **June 12, 2025**, to merge into a single organization under the unified name American Board of Dental Examiners. This decision reflects a shared commitment to national dental licensure standards and uniting exam development and delivery under one roof.*

The combined organization will continue to include the direct representation of dental boards throughout the United States and North America, furthering the ADEX national exam standard and its innovative psychomotor performance exam administration capabilities.

"The new ADEX is uniquely positioned to bring the dental community the licensure uniformity it has sought for decades," explained CDCA-WREB-CITA Chair Dr. Mark Armstrong.

This combination marks a new chapter in dental licensure, one that advances public protection, professional mobility, and common competency exam standards throughout the United States and beyond.

"At each step, it has taken forethought and intention to create the path to where we are today. I am proud of what we have already achieved and grateful for the thoughtful leadership that has guided us here," noted current ADEX President Dr. Conrad McVea.

What This Means for Stakeholders:

One connected organization: Combining ADEX's exam development expertise with CDCA-WREB-CITA's national exam administration delivery network, similar to Medical's USMLE and Nursing's NCLEX.

Broader representation: All member dental boards will have the opportunity to appoint both a dentist and a dental hygienist to participate in the development of exam content and oversight.

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Continued innovation: The organizations' successful joint efforts, including the CompeDont™ and SimuDont exam technology, will continue under a common mission.

Next Steps:

Final approval of the merger is expected later this summer, pending votes by both organizations, including the ADEX House of Representatives and the General Assembly of CDCA-WREB-CITA.

Stakeholders will be kept informed throughout the process, with additional details to be shared following ratification.

For additional information, contact Renea Chapman [at office@adexexams.org](mailto:office@adexexams.org) or Stephanie Beeler [at sbeeler@adextesting.org](mailto:sbeeler@adextesting.org).

HEAD START DENTAL SCREEN – DR. CRAFT/DR. ELSIE VERBIK

The Difference Between Oral Exams and Oral Health Screenings

headstartgov/oral-health/article/difference-between-oral-exams-oral-health-screenings

Oral examinations and oral health screenings are procedures for assessing the health of children's mouths, but they serve different purposes. An oral health screening does not take the place of an oral exam.

Knowing which procedure each child receives is important for Head Start programs. The table below describes the differences between an oral exam and an oral health screening.



Check out [A Guide to the Dental Periodicity Schedule and Oral Exam](#) for information on the timing of the first oral exam and who can provide an exam.

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Categories Oral Exam

Oral Health Screening

Purpose Provides a complete evaluation of a child's oral health status. Results in a diagnosis and a treatment plan.

Provides a limited assessment of a child's oral health status. May result in a referral to a dentist or mid-level oral health professional* for an oral exam.

Performed by Dentist or mid-level oral health professional.*

Mid-level oral health professional,* dental hygienist, or health professional (e.g., physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant trained to conduct an oral health screening).

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Categories Oral Exam

Oral Health Screening

Follow-up	If tooth decay or another oral health problem is identified, treatment is provided by a dentist or mid-level oral health professional,* and the child is scheduled for their next dental appointment. If no oral disease is identified, the child is scheduled for their next oral exam in 6-12 months.	If signs of possible tooth decay or other problems are identified, the child is referred to a dentist or mid-level oral health professional* for an oral exam. Case management may be provided if a child does not have an ongoing source of continuous, accessible oral health care.
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Differences Between an Oral Exam and an Oral Health Screening

*In some states, mid-level oral health professionals (e.g., advanced dental hygiene practitioners, dental therapists, dental health aide therapists) are licensed by the dental board. These professionals are legally allowed to conduct oral assessments and evaluations that qualify as an oral exam under their state's dental practice act.

Read more:

[Access to Oral Health Care, Health Screening, Oral Health](#)

Last Updated: March 27, 2025

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NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



aim Pillen, Governor

March 26, 2025

Barbara Lacina, Regional Administrator
Administration of Children and Families
Kansas City Regional Office
601 E. 12th Street, Rm. 349
Kansas City, MO 64106-2818

Dear Ms. Lacina:

Serving as Medical and Dental Directors for Nebraska DHHS, this letter describes our position to allow Public Health Hygienists (PHRDHs) to perform dental screenings that would comply with the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule requirements for entry into the Head Start program.

Nebraska Legislative Statute 38-1130 allows a licensed dental hygienist with a public health authorization to perform public health-related services in a public health setting or in a health care or related facility. These services include dental screenings, dental cleanings, topical fluoride applications, dental sealant placement, silver diamine fluoride applications, caries risk assessments and professional referrals.

There are approximately 200 hygienists with a public health authorization across Nebraska. This unique workforce provided almost 30,000 dental screenings for people of all ages in 2023. They often work with local health departments in remote areas of the state where there is a shortage of dentists. Utilizing the PHRDHs to perform the EPSDT dental screenings for entry into the Head Start program reduces a significant barrier for our children.

This challenge can be overcome by utilizing our qualified public health hygienists to perform screenings that capture the same basic oral health information that an initial child dental examination does. Oral screenings detect early dental issues, provide proper dental referrals for urgent needs, offer educational services and help establish dental homes. The Nebraska Head Start Dental Screening Form is attached here.

Dental screenings (D0190) and assessments (D0191) have been recently approved for reimbursement to PHRDHs by Nebraska Medicaid. The screening services provided by PHRDHs meet the dental evaluation requirements of Nebraska's EPSDT program. We are aware that this same approach has also been taken

in Minnesota and Iowa and we believe it should also be recognized here in Nebraska.

Please let us know if there are any questions. Thank you.

Dr. Elsie Verbik
Medical Services Director
Medicaid and Long-Term Care NE
Health and Human Services

Dr. Charles F. Craft
State Dental Health Director
Office of Oral Health
Nebraska DHHS



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ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Region VII | 601 East 12th Street, Room 349, Kansas City, MO 64106 | www.acf.hhs.gov

April 17, 2025

Dr. Charles F. Craft
State Dental Health Director
Office of Oral Health
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Dr. Craft:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 16th providing written request, intent, and confirmation that Nebraska's Public Health Hygienists (PHRDH) model meets the requirements of providing prescribed dental services as defined by Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule.

Based on the information submitted, the Office of Head Start accepts your assurance that this practice complies with Nebraska Statute 38-1130; allowing licensed dental hygienists with public health authorization to provide prescribed dental services as required on the EPSDT schedule.

Thank you for your support in providing quality services to the Head Start children and families of Nebraska. If you have additional questions regarding this letter, please contact Latrice Davis, Regional Program Manager latrice.davis@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely

Clarance Small

Clarence Small
Regional Program Director
Region VII Office of Head Start

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Nebraska Head Start Dental Screening Form

Child's Name: _____

Birth date: _____ **Sex:** ☐ Male ☐ Female

Parent or Guardian: _____ (Name) _____ (Relationship)

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ **Email:** _____

Place of Screening: _____

Date of Screening: _____ **Dental Home:** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date of last exam by a Dentist: _____ (Month) _____ (Year)

Findings on Screening: Check and describe all that apply

- ☐ Teeth have existing fillings or restorations
- ☐ Teeth have no visual dental problems...**Category 0**
- ☐ Teeth have possible problems that need early dental care...**Category 1**
- ☐ Teeth have obvious problems that need immediate dental care...**Category 2**
- ☐ Other findings/comments _____

Topical Fluoride: Check one

- ☐ Applied at this visit
- ☐ Not applied at this visit

Plan of care: Check one

- ☐ Referral to dentist for routine examination every 6 months
- ☐ Referral to dentist for exam and early care within 3 months
- ☐ Referral to dentist for exam and urgent care ASAP

Screener's Name: _____ **Credentials:** _____

Address: _____

Phone Number _____ **Signature:** _____

Flip page over for information about obtaining access to dental care

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If you need help obtaining access to dental care you may contact:

- Nebraska Total Care: <https://www.nebraskatotalcare.com/contact-us.html> or call 1-844385-2192 (TTY 711)
- Molina Health Care: <https://www.molinahealthcare.com/members/NE/en-us/mem/medicaid/contact.aspx> or call 1-844-782-2018 (TTY: 711)
- United Health Care: [Find your plan | Find Care](#) or call 1-800-641-1902 (TTY 711)
- American Dental Association Find-a-Dentist: <https://findadentist.ada.org/>
- Nebraska Public Health Dental Clinics: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Dental-Resources.aspx>

Ord, Heather

From: Craft, Charles
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 4:19 PM
To: Ord, Heather
Cc:
Subject: BOD July 25 Head Start Screening Topic
Attachments: Head Start Dental Screening Letter Signed Mar 25.pdf; Head Start Dental Screening Form FINAL Mar 25.docx; Head Start ACF Screening Response 17 Apr 25.docx; Head Start Exams and Screenings Apr 25.pdf

Heather Ord MS
Health Licensing Coordinator
DHHS Nebraska

The purpose of this topic is to inform the BOD that after an internal DHHS review, it was determined that dental screenings performed by Nebraska Public Health Hygienists, meet the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule requirements for an initial dental evaluation and for entry into the Nebraska Head Start program. Attached here is a letter from DHHS to the Administration of Children and Families in Kansas City that explains Nebraska Statute 38-1130, along with the Nebraska HS Dental Screening Form. The reply from the Region VII Office of Head Start is also attached along with a document from the Head Start explaining the difference between oral exams and dental screenings.

My intention is to join this meeting by Zoom through a Starlink Satellite connection. I will be fishing in Alaska on a boat in the Yukon River near the Bering Sea (the wilderness) so this may or may not work. If I cannot attend, then perhaps you could bring this topic up to inform the BOD of this new development. This is a professional courtesy and we are not asking for a vote. I am hopeful that Dr. Verbik is available to join the call too!

Dr. Charles F. Craft I *State Dental Health Director*
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH - OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH

These minutes have not been reviewed or approved by the Board.

The board acknowledges the information provided by Dr. Craft and Dr. Verbik pertaining to the head start dental screening.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2025.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

(signature on file with the Department)

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