

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

NEBRASKA BOARD OF DENTISTRY
WEBEX MEETING MINUTES
September 27, 2024

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Dentistry was called to order by Dean Cope, DDS, Chairperson, at 9:00 a.m. on September 27, 2024, in conference room Meadowlark at the State Office Building, located at 301 Centennial Mall S, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68509. The meeting was conducted by WebEx. The following members answered the roll call:

Dean Cope, DDS – Chairperson
Melanie Steckelberg, DDS, Vice-Chairperson via in Person
Michael J. O’Hara, JD, PhD – Secretary
Yoshiharu Ameku, DDS
Gene Giles, DDS
Terrence Lanphier, DDS
Lynlee Medhi
Takanari Miyamoto, DDS
Hannah Randell, RDH

Absent: Lisa Kucera, RDH

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

Also present to participate in the meeting: Becky Wisell, Deputy Director of Licensure Unit and Environmental Health via in person; Lindsay Braddock, Unit Administrator via in person; Heather Ord, Health Licensing Coordinator – via in person; Mindy Laester, Assistant Attorney General; T.J. O’Neil, Assistant Attorney General, Danielle Sund, Department Legal; Teresa Hampton, Department Legal; and Timothy Tesmer, Department of Health and Human Services Chief Medical Officer.

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 September 17, 2024.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Timothy Tesmer
State of Nebraska
DHHS Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Tesmer addressed the board of the issue of the acceptance of examination for the dentistry profession. As of right now Nebraska only accepts the CRDTS practical examination. Many people believe that this is a significant barrier to recruiting dentists to Nebraska. Respects that the board must follow the statutory requirements. Statistics shows that dentists in Nebraska have decreased about approximately 60% since 2017, even though the Nebraska population has increased since 2017. Future projections are on a continuous decrease unless we do something to recruit and retain dentists to practice in Nebraska. He states he does not understand what is significantly different about another clinical practical licensing exam, ADEX, that makes it NOT comparable to CRDTS. Can not find any instance disciplinary cases alleging incompetent or unsafe care based on which practical exam, CRDTS or ADEX, a dentist took to obtain their license. ADEX is accepted in almost every other state. Having trouble understanding safety as a reason for the exclusion of the exam. Dr. Tesmer humbly and respectfully ask the Board of Dentistry thoughtfully consider ADEX be accepted due to Nebraska deserves to have well trained and competent dental professionals. Especially when there is more than one pathway to measure the competency to obtain a license. Accepting ADEX, would decrease the barriers to recruiting dentists in the State of Nebraska.

DENTAL AND DENTAL HYGIENE CLINICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR 2025-2026 TESTING SEASON DISCUSSION

Cope opened the discussion with how ADEX has changed and how ADEX has not changed. ADEX still has variable decay, full cast restoration, three levels of scoring, there is still no perio probe and there is an offsite Computer Simulated Clinical Examination (OSCE). Changes recently are three different lengths of tooth for the endodontics exam and an increase point deduction or request of removal of caries or decalcification without clinical justification.

Starting point of this discussion is to compare ADEX to CRDTS. Ameku mentioned that it is a challenge to choose exams based off of patient based clinical exam to mannequin-based exams. The rubrics and preparation design of each exam are different. In terms of compatibility, once they graduate, they will not practice on plastic teeth. With ADEX the students are practicing on simulated teeth and not on natural teeth where they would gain the experience as a patient care provider.

Steckelberg talks about how the board is tasked with evaluating exams. They are dependent on that examining agency to provide the board with statistics of the recent technical review and occupational analysis. However, ADEX has not provided the board with this information with several attempts requesting this information. We cannot compare examinations when we do not receive the requested information.

Lanphier responds that the job of the board is to protect the public. Is ADEX and CRDTS are similar? No but they are comparable. Like Dr. Tesmer mentioned, there has been no instances of disciplinary action of students who have taken ADEX. If ADEX was an inadequate exam, then it would show up as disciplinary action with those who have passed the exam in a higher rate than those who have taken CRDTS.

Steckelberg responds the technical review shows and tells us that their exam is valid. Which is why it's important to get the technical review and occupational analysis to compare the two

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exams. The statistics outlines how they meet the different parameters and how the exam is valid. It measures how they are evaluating the questions in the exam.

Sam Jacoby, DDS
CRDTS Representative
Bridgeport, NE 69336

Jacoby walked through the process on what CRDTS does to test the students on their skills. They make sure the students are on the same page and what the criteria is, and they need to do to meet the goal. He mentions that CRDTS exam is standardized, where everyone starts at the same place, to make it easy to evaluate.

Kimber Cobb
ADEX Representative

Cobb walked through the process on what ADEX does to test the students on their skills. Their process is similar to CRDTS where they have several workshops throughout the year for training for the exam. They are in the process of finishing up the technical reports and have not sent those. They did not send out the occupational analysis since it is currently in process.

Miyamoto directing his question to the CRDTS representative, he asks how many candidates fails on the exam? And how relevant is the CRDTS exam when compared to ADEX? ADEX is strictly using mannequins.

Jacoby answers that the members don't have a way to evaluate if a candidate practices on a patient, which is why ADEX uses a mannequin.

O'Hara suggested to add ADEX and CRDTS during the draft session for statutory change.

Ameku stated that when statutes were drafted it was focused on patient-based examination not mannequin.

Steckelberg states she is open to finding other pathways to licensure. Such as, accepting an extra post graduate year after graduation.

Teresa mentioned that the term "compatibility" doesn't have to mean exactly the same. It means it has to be similar or alike. When looking at the exam, it's important to look to see if they do the same things and whether or not someone is competent or not.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments at this time.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 4, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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(signature on file with the Department)

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