

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DENTISTRY
October 2, 2026

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Dentistry was called to order by Terrence Lanphier, DDS, Chairperson, at 9:00 a.m. on October 2, 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, Chairperson
Gene Giles, DDS, Vice-Chairperson
Michael O'Hara, JD, PhD – Secretary
Brent Johnson, DDS
Amy Killeen, DDS, MS
Takanari Miyamoto, DDS, PhD, MBA, MDA, CAGS
Hannah Randell, MHPTT, RHD, PHRDH
Abby Rennau, RDH, BSDH, PHA
Vacancy, DDS Member

Absent: Lynlee Medhi

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

Also present to participate in the meeting: Vonda Apking, Program Manager; Janis Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Marley Sanberg, Department Attorney; T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General; Hayle Alvarado and Alexandria Belcher, Investigators; 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 September 18, 2026, and revision posted September 28, 2026 and a second revision posted on September 30, 2026.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made at this time in the meeting.

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PRESENTATION to the BOARD – ADEX (American Board of Dental Examiners)
Regarding the DENTAL HYGIENE EXAMINATION

Stephen Prisby, ADEX Regulatory and Educational Affairs Director and Melissa Barbara, RDH, MS, ADEX Examiner, Director of Regulations-CE Zoom were present for discussion with the Board.

ADEX represents the combined experience and expertise of three leading dental testing organizations (CDCA, WREB, CITA) merged to create a better pathway to licensure.

The merger unites the entire examination lifecycle under one organization, creating a more efficient and cohesive process from development through delivery, allowing for greater Board involvement at every stage, ensuring examinations remain relevant, rigorous and reflective of current dental licensure standards.

The ADEX Dental Hygiene Examination is a two-part series that measures the clinical competence required for entry level practice and initial licensure in 48 states.

Clinical Exam (SPTCE)

Hands-on skills, performed on a simulated patient (typodont)

- Calculus Detection
- Calculus Removal
- Tissue management
- Periodontal probing measurements
- Scored to published criteria set by the Dental Hygiene Exam Committee

Computer Exam (CSCE OSCE)

Judgment and decision-making, at a computer testing center

- Assessment, diagnosis and treatment planning
- Case-based items using clinical photographs, radiographs, models and lab data
- Approx. 2 hours of testing time
- Content reviewed annually by the CSCE OSCE Committee

Nebraska is encouraged to participate as a member state of ADEX – Benefits include:

- All Nebraska Dental Board Members invited to participate as ADEX examiners or observers - there are over 1,400 examiners
- Participate on Dental Examination Committee & Subcommittees via the Council on Examinations
- Contribute to and review examination scoring, content, and criteria
- Collaborate with other states on relevant regulatory and examination issues
- Participate in the upcoming and future Dental Testing & Regulatory Summits – this year nearly 1,000 participants plan to attend
- Join the 48 other states that accept the ADEX Exams

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Why Nebraska should consider joining ADEX as a Member State and accept the ADEX Dental Hygiene Examination for initial licensure:

- Nebraska Law Already Authorizes Approval
Section 38-1118(1)(c) requires a dental hygiene applicant to pass CRDTS “or any other regional or state practical examination that the Board of Dentistry determines to be comparable.” The statute requires comparability—not identical examinations.
- Nebraska Already Trusts ADEX for Dentists
- Recognition Would Strengthen Nebraska’s Workforce
- The Governor’s 2024 Letter & Rationale for dental licensure seems applicable to dental hygiene licensure
- Acceptance Complements Nebraska’s Dental & Dental Hygiene Compact Commitment
- Nebraska would still retain its rigorous public-protection standards and full authority over licensure
- Join the most widely accepted pathway for dental hygiene licensure in the United States, and open Nebraska up to more practitioners, by removing barriers and supporting mobility

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

Johnson moved, seconded by Miyamoto, to go into closed session at 9:50 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, Miyamoto, O’Hara, Randell and Rennau. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Dr. Lanphier Recused at 9:52 a.m.

Dr. Lanphier Returned at 10:03 a.m.

Dr. Killeen Recused at 10:06 a.m.

Dr. Killeen Returned at 10:12 a.m.

Board Break at 12:07 p.m.

Board Returned at 12:15 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 12:30 p.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

Dental Initial Application(s)

Sayers, Trent, DDS – application for initial licensure for a dentist license. Giles moved, seconded by Randell for denial of the application for a dentist license. Basis for the denial is: 1) misrepresentation of material facts in procuring or attempting to procure a credential; 2) discipline in another jurisdiction. Voting aye: Giles, Johnson, Killeen, Lanphier, Miyamoto, O’Hara, Randell and Rennau. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Dental Hygienist Initial Application(s)

Koch, Hannah, DH – application for initial licensure for a dental hygienist license. Rennau moved, seconded by Miyamoto to approve the application for a dental hygienist license. Voting aye: Giles, Johnson, Killeen, Lanphier, Miyamoto, O’Hara, Randell and Rennau. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 10, 2026

O'Hara moved, seconded by Killeen to approve July 10, 2026, minutes as presented. Voting aye: Giles, Johnson, Killeen, Lanphier, Miyamoto, O'Hara, Randell and Rennau. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

There were no legislation updates at this time.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

A. NDAA (Nebraska Dental Assistants Association) letter to the Board:

Thank you for including NDAA representation in the discussion regarding potential revisions to state dental assisting regulations. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and offer the following comments and recommendations:

1. Required Clinical Experience for Coronal Polish

NDAA is **opposed** to reducing the current clinical experience requirement.

The existing requirement was established to ensure that individuals performing coronal polishing possesses a foundational level of clinical experience and knowledge before completing the coronal polish course. Educational and regulatory requirements should be based on public safety and quality patient care. We do not support such a drastic reduction in the clinical experience requirement.

2. Online Didactic Education with In-Person Training and Testing

NDAA strongly **supports** allowing didactic instruction to be completed online while maintaining in-person lab training and competency testing requirements.

3. Testing Conducted Through a CODA-Accredited Program

NDAA strongly **supports** requiring all educational courses which include competency testing to be conducted through a CODA-accredited program. This approach aids in qualified faculty, standardized education with competency assessments, and protection of the public.

4. Reciprocity Pathway

NDAA **supports** the development of a reciprocity pathway but believes it must be implemented carefully to maintain public safety and ensure competency.

Applicants should be required to complete a coronal polish course with curriculum comparable to current Nebraska regulation requirements. If the applicant's training was not completed through an accredited program, as required in Nebraska, additional documentation demonstrating successful practice of the skill should be required.

The following language is suggested and is consistent with reciprocity language for dental hygiene contained in Nebraska Statute §38-1121:

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Every applicant seeking authorization to perform coronal polishing based on qualifications obtained in another state must have successfully completed a coronal polish course and submit the course curriculum for approval by the Board. The applicant must also document active engagement in the practice of coronal polishing for at least three years, one of which must be within the three years immediately preceding the application.

A similar requirement and approach could be considered for radiography reciprocity. Currently, the Board permits dental assistants who have successfully completed all three parts of the DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) examination to expose dental radiographs. We would be willing to discuss an alternative pathway that would allow dental assistants to demonstrate radiography competency by passing only the DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) Examination. Unlike the full CDA certification, the RHS examination does not require the 3,500 hours of clinical work experience required for CDA eligibility. This option would provide a more accessible and substantially less costly pathway to radiography certification while still ensuring that assistants have demonstrated competency in radiation health and safety.

5. Increasing Course Availability in Western Nebraska

NDAA is in **support** of increasing access to courses in Western Nebraska.

Potential strategies include:

- Partnering with Mid-Plains Community College to host approved courses.
- Improving communication between the accredited programs regarding regional workforce needs.
- Establishing testing sites in Western Nebraska as outreach locations for accredited programs.

6. Waivers

NDAA is **opposed** to implementing a waiver process.

Determining what qualifies as a special circumstance and waivers could lead to inconsistencies in credentialing standards and may affect public safety.

7. If regulatory changes are pursued, the NDAA would also like consideration given to the following:

A. Sealant Placement by EFDAs

Adding the placement of sealants to the EFDA Simple Restoration Permit. The Board of Dentistry has indicated that EFDAs are not currently authorized to place sealants. However, if an EFDA is permitted to place a one-surface composite restoration, we believe sealant placement should also be within the scope of the permit.

B. Sealant Placement by Licensed Dental Assistants

Allowing Licensed Dental Assistants to place sealants upon completion of an approved educational course and issuance of the appropriate permit. Expanding this function would increase access to preventive care while maintaining patient safety through education and competency requirements.

C. Nitrous Oxide Titration Clarification

Including the term "titration" within the regulations governing the administration of nitrous oxide by Licensed Dental Assistants. This clarification would support consistent and safe clinical practice, as the current regulatory language has resulted in differing interpretations regarding the adjustment of nitrous oxide concentration during administration.

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D. Clear Aligner Attachments

Adding the placement and bonding of clear aligner attachments to the EFDA and EFDH Simple Restoration Permits. The Board of Dentistry has previously expressed support for this function at the request of dentists. Formal inclusion in the regulations would provide clarity for licensees and employers and help ensure consistent application of the rules across practice settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. We appreciate the Board's efforts to carefully consider these issues while balancing workforce needs with the responsibility to protect the public through appropriate education, training, and competency requirements.

Sincerely,

Crystal Stuhr
NDAA Legislative Co-Chair

Cindy Cronick
NDAA President
NDAA Legislative Co-Chair

B. NDA (Nebraska Dental Association) letter to the Board:

The Nebraska Dental Association Board of Trustees recently discussed the potential revisions to Nebraska's dental assisting regulations, including the recommendations submitted by the Nebraska Dental Assistants Association (NDAA). We appreciate the Board's continued work on these issues and the opportunity to provide the NDA's perspective.

The NDA Board of Trustees supports efforts to modernize Nebraska's dental assisting regulations, improve access to appropriate education and training, and address workforce challenges while maintaining appropriate standards for patient care. Our position on the items currently under consideration is outlined below.

1. Required Clinical Experience for Coronal Polishing

The NDA supports reducing the current clinical experience requirement from 1,500 hours to 1,000 hours. The NDA had previously recommended reducing the requirement to 500 hours and continues to believe there is an opportunity to reduce unnecessary barriers to training while maintaining appropriate education and competency requirements. However, we would support the proposed reduction to 1,000 hours as a step in that direction.

2. Online Didactic Education with In-Person Training and Testing

The NDA supports allowing didactic education to be completed online while maintaining appropriate in person clinical training and competency testing.

3. Education and Testing Through a CODA-Accredited Program

The NDA supports requiring education and competency testing for both coronal polishing and dental radiography certification to be completed through a CODA-accredited program. We believe this provides an appropriate and consistent standard for education and demonstration of competency.

4. Reciprocity Pathway

The NDA supports establishing a pathway for dental assistants who have received education, training or credentials in another state to obtain recognition in Nebraska, provided appropriate competency and education requirements are met.

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5. Increasing Course Availability in Western Nebraska

The NDA supports efforts to increase access to required dental assisting education and training in western Nebraska. Geographic access to required courses should not create an unnecessary barrier for dental practices seeking to appropriately train and utilize dental assistants.

6. Waivers

The NDA supports establishing a waiver process that would allow the Board to consider individual circumstances when appropriate. We believe a clearly defined waiver process can provide needed flexibility while allowing the Board to maintain appropriate oversight and competency standards.

7. Additional Regulatory Considerations

A. Sealant Placement by EFDAs

The NDA supports adding sealant placement to the functions that may be performed by EFDAs under the Simple Restoration Permit.

B. Sealant Placement by Licensed Dental Assistants

The NDA supports allowing appropriately educated and trained Licensed Dental Assistants to place sealants.

C. Nitrous Oxide Titration Clarification

The NDA supports clarifying the regulations regarding nitrous oxide administration by Licensed Dental Assistants, including clarification regarding titration. Clear regulatory language will help ensure consistent interpretation and application in dental practices.

D. Clear Aligner Attachments

The NDA does not believe that an Expanded Function Restorative permit should be required for a dental assistant to place temporary clear aligner attachments under the supervision of a dentist. We do believe dental assistants performing this function should receive appropriate education and training to ensure competency and patient safety. We request that the Board reconsider their 1/16/2026 decision for the Practice Question: "Do you have to hold an expanded function permit to place attachments for clear liners?".

Thank you for considering the NDA's perspective as the Board evaluates these potential regulatory changes. We appreciate the Board's willingness to engage Nebraska's dental community in this process and look forward to continuing to work together to ensure Nebraska's regulations support patient safety, an appropriately trained dental workforce, and access to dental care throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Dr. Todd Wragge
President
Nebraska Dental Association

Lisa Sypal
Executive Director
Nebraska Dental Association

Giles moved, seconded by Killeen, to amend the Board's opinion on the Practice Question given at the January 16, 2026, meeting. It is now the opinion of the Board that the Expanded Function Restorative #1 permit is not required for a dental assistant to place temporary clear aligner attachments under the supervision of a dentist, provided that they have the appropriate education and training. Voting aye: Giles, Johnson, Killeen, Lanphier, Miyamoto, O'Hara. Voting nay: Randell and Rennau. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

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BOARD DISCUSSION(S)

A. ADEX Nebraska membership consideration

Giles moved, seconded by Lanphier, to accept the ADEX Dental Hygienist Examination for Nebraska initial licensure. Voting aye: Giles, Johnson, Killeen, Lanphier, Miyamoto, O'Hara, Randell and Rennau. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

O'Hara moved, seconded by Giles, to request membership as an ADEX member jurisdiction. Voting aye: Giles, Johnson, Killeen, Lanphier, Miyamoto, O'Hara, Randell and Rennau. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Killeen moved, seconded by Lanphier to have Vonda Apking, Program Manager represent the Board at the ADEX Member States 3rd Annual Dental Testing and Regulatory Summit October 14-18, 2026, in Washington D.C. Voting aye: Giles, Johnson, Killeen, Lanphier, Miyamoto, O'Hara, Randell and Rennau. Voting nay: None. Absent: Medhi. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

FYI(S)

A. JOMS (Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery) Special Contribution – Anesthesia

The Board acknowledges receipt of the document.

EMAIL BALLOT(S) SINCE LAST MEETING

There were no email ballots presented.

CRDTS 2026 WORKSHOP & ANNUAL MEETING – August 28-29, 2026

Dr. Giles attended the meeting representing the Nebraska Board.

Recap and Update: CRDTS Steering Committee Meeting (August 28, 2026)

Dear State Dental Board Members and Executive Directors,

Thank you to everyone who was able to travel to Omaha for our recent CRDTS Annual Meeting at the Embassy Suites. Your time, insights, and engagement are deeply appreciated as we work together to advance our testing and education standards. For those who were unable to attend, you were greatly missed, and we hope to see you at our next gathering. Your voice is important!

To keep everyone informed, here is a comprehensive recap of the actions, approvals, and reports from the August 28 session:

Administrative & Officer Actions

- **Meeting Governance:** The committee officially established a quorum, adopted the meeting agenda, reviewed the organizational charter, and approved the minutes from the January 24, 2026, regular meeting.
- **Compliance Reminder:** President, Dr. Deena Kuempel led a review of the Code of Conduct and Confidentiality rules. Committee members are reminded that the annual questionnaire must be completed and signed online via the Examiners tab under "CRDTS Docs".

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- **Leadership Updates:** The committee approved the Standing Committee Membership slate following the President & Executive Committee Report from Dr. Kuempel. Financial updates, leadership summaries, and strategic outlooks were also delivered by President-Elect Dr. Sean Ellis, Vice-President Rebecca Ficken, and Secretary/Treasurer Linda Jorgenson.

Exam Review Committee Reports

- **Dental Exam Review (Dr. Rodney Hill):** The committee formally approved a summary of examination changes and welcomed nine new dental exam testing sites.
- **Dental Hygiene Exam Review (Lisa Kucera, RDH):** Five new dental hygiene testing sites were approved. Additionally, Suzanne Luken was approved to fill the South Dakota seat on the DH ERC, Mara Gordon was appointed as a Restorative Auxiliary Consultant/Subject Matter Expert, and Abby Rennau was appointed as the Faculty/Educator Representative.

Committee & Staff Briefings

- **Leadership Slate:** The Nominating Committee (Dr. Dohm) presented a slate of officers, which was approved to be forwarded to the General Assembly.
 - **Congratulations to Dr. Bryon Killpack** on his election to the Dental ERC Chair position and thank you to all of the incumbents for agreeing to continue in your position.
- **EEAC Changes:** The Examiner Evaluation and Assignment Committee (Dr. Wright) secured approval for attached charter changes. The committee also approved Dr. Dohm to fill the EEAC seat vacated by Dr. Wright.
- **Operations & Finance:** Operational updates were provided by the professional staff directors covering dental exams, dental hygiene exams, special programs, marketing, and business strategies. Executive Director Richael Cobler concluded the briefings with an executive presentation.

Budgeting: The committee officially reviewed and approved the 2025–2026 financials, adopted the 2026–2027 budget, and set the meeting calendar for 2027.

Upcoming Events & Save the Dates

- **Next CRDTS Steering Committee Meeting:** January 23, 2027. This will be a hybrid meeting held at the Marriott Kansas City Airport.
- **Next Annual Meeting:** August 27, 2027 – San Antonio on the Riverwalk

Thank you again for your continued dedication to CRDTS and the dental regulatory community. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding these updates.

Warm regards,

Sheli Cobler
Richael “Sheli” Cobler
Executive Director
www.crdts.org

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Report to the Nebraska Board of Dentistry

From Cynthia Gaskill, RDH, MAE

CRDTS Dental Hygiene Examination Review Committee Meeting

August 27, 2026, 2-8pm, Embassy Suites Old Market, Omaha

Roll Call by State:

- Present: AL – Sharp, AZ – Nenad, GA- Brothers, HI- Yamada, IA- M. Kelly, ID- Long, IL-Fasula, KS- Harding, MN- Stokke, MO- Fletcher-Adams, NE- Gaskill, NM- Althoff, ND- Marsh & Gustafson, OR- Simmons, SC- Barbare, SD- Luken, UT- Harris, WA- M. Johnston, WI- Bahr, WY- Hamilton
- Absent: TX- Jones
- Faculty- NE- Rennau, LA Consultant- WY- Sasse-Englert, RA Consultant- WA- Gordon, Staff- Mandella, Saldana- absent, Gomez, Gideon
- Guests- R. Ficken Vice-Pres,

Reports:

Chair DHERC and Director of Dental Hygiene Examinations

Year to Date Statistics

What we are charged to do as members of the DHERC

New Business:

Discussion on using SIM Lab to host CRDTS exam. Tabled for now and will continue to investigate and start collecting data about what each schools' SIM lab is like.

Subcommittees:

Hygiene 1- Soft Tissue – removed the word distention in the discussion of unwarranted damage. A vote was taken to offer same exam retakes at no charge after critical failures with the exception of unprofessional conduct. The vote passed. Suggested to form subcommittee to look at soft tissue trauma and the definition of errors. Lisa and Kelly will ask steering for approval to have a committee create recommendations for changes in content, criteria and scoring of soft tissue trauma.

Hygiene 2: Hard Tissue – worked on the wording for the candidate and the examiners manuals. Will only have critical errors that would require professional follow-up this next year. The pilot study of hard tissue grading was held at three different exams this year and it was determined that this is the best direction for us as the scratching of the tooth surface was too subjective at this point.

Discussion was held on the cost to retake after a critical failure on hard and soft tissue errors. The committee recommended same day retake with no additional charge if it was not failure due to unprofessional conduct. Committee also recommended that the retake policy be the same for hard tissue and soft tissue trauma errors.

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Restorative Auxillary - made several recommendations including the following:

Soft tissue/shroud

- Under sub add the words scuff and abrasion to the wording on both the calibration ppt and candidate manual.
- Under def add punctures/slice.

New Bonding Agent Criteria (excess bonding agent)

- Sat – no excess +4 points
- Acc – less than 1 mm of excess bonding agent +3 points
- Sub – more than 1 mm of excess bonding agent – 1 point.

Calibration note: excess bonding is measured from the margin of the restoration

New penalty points

- rubber dam remnants remaining in the typodont- 1 point.
- Uncleanliness of model (scrap amalgam, bur, matrix, any foreign object)-1 point
- Increase communication with Shanee/Katrina when we see possible candidate failures on our end.
- Photos will be included with critiques

Local Anesthesia - reviewed 3 current textbooks, looked at calibration and will plan to change some of the videos that have been sent to Janine. Created a Table with the Comparison of Local Anesthetic Drugs by all 3 current textbooks used. No changes made to the candidate manual or the examiner's calibration. Janine will review the last 6 videos submitted to her to see if they are better than the current ones being used in calibration. All changes must be made by November 1st of this year.

Adjournment

The next DHERC is in San Antonio on the River Walk. The meeting will be on Thursday August 26th at 2:00 pm.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2027.

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

The following letter was submitted to the Board from the Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association:

The Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association (NDHA) appreciates the Board's work to modernize Nebraska's dental workforce regulations while maintaining appropriate education, competency, and patient-safety standards.

Although NDHA was not included in discussions regarding proposed dental assisting regulatory changes, the recommendations now presented to the Board include matters involving delegation of clinical functions, scope of practice, education and competency, and interpretation of the Dentistry Practice Act which directly relate to our clinical practice and patient populations. As such, NDHA respectfully requests that its perspective be included before recommendations or proposed regulatory language are finalized.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and offer the following comments and recommendations:

1. Required Clinical Experience for Coronal Polish

NDHA is **strongly opposed** to reducing the current clinical experience requirement.

We are in agreement with NDAA that the existing requirement was established to ensure that individuals performing coronal polishing possess a foundational level of clinical experience and knowledge before completing the required coronal polish course. We, too, believe educational and regulatory requirements should be based on public safety and quality patient care.

Because the procedure itself is already authorized in statute, our concern is the basis for changing the clinical-experience requirement. We ask what evidence or competency rationale supports 1,000 hours as the appropriate threshold, rather than the previously implemented 1,500 hours of clinical experience. Without any substantiating evidence for this change, we do not support such a drastic reduction in the clinical experience requirement.

2. Online Didactic Education with In-Person Training and Testing

NDHA **supports** allowing didactic instruction to be completed online as long as in-person lab training and competency testing requirements are maintained.

3. Testing Conducted Through a CODA-Accredited program

NDHA **strongly supports** requiring all educational courses which include competency testing to be conducted through a CODA-accredited program to maintain consistent, high-standards for education and training.

4. Reciprocity Pathway

NDHA **supports** the development of a reciprocity pathway for dental assistants who have received education, training, or credentials in another state which are equal to or greater than those already required by the State of Nebraska, to Obtain recognition in Nebraska given appropriate documentation is provided.

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5. Increasing Course Availability in Western Nebraska

NDHA is in **support** of increasing access to courses in Western Nebraska. We agree with the NDA and NDAA that regional location should not act as a barrier to appropriate education and training opportunities for dental professionals.

6. Waivers

NDHA is **opposed** to implementing a waiver process. We are in agreement with NDAA that providing Waivers on a case-by-case basis could lead to inconsistently applied credentialing standards which could be detrimental to maintaining public health and safety standards.

7. Additional Regulatory Considerations:

The requests proposed by NDAA and supported by NDA in their letters to the Board of Dentistry in advance of the October 2, 2026, meeting deserve a clear, function-by-function statutory analysis.

Neb. Rev. Stat. 538-1136.01 expressly authorizes the Department, with the recommendation of the Board, to prescribe additional functions, procedures, and services for an LDA by rule and regulation when performed under dentist supervision and intended to attain or maintain optimal oral health. NDHA therefore does not suggest that every additional LDA function necessarily requires a statutory amendment.

At the same time, NDHA asks the Board to identify on the record how 538-1136.01 applies to each proposed function, whether another statutory provision limits or controls the function, and what education, competency, permit, and supervision requirements are appropriate.

A/B. Sealant Placement by EFDAs and Sealant Placement by Licensed Dental Assistants

Does 538-1136.01 provide sufficient authority to add sealant placement for LDAs by regulation, and if so, how does that authority apply to EFDAs and the Simple Restoration Permit?

NDHA also requests reconciliation with prior Board discussions indicating that dental-assistant sealant placement would require statutory change.

C. Nitrous Oxide Titration Clarification

Section 38-1135 authorizes a permitted LDA to "monitor and administer" nitrous oxide analgesia. Nebraska law separately uses "administer and titrate" for dental hygienists. NDHA requests clarification whether titration is already encompassed within LDA administration or is being added as an additional function under 538-1136.01.

D. Clear Aligner Attachments

NDHA requests identification of the credential, statutory authority, required education/competency, and supervision level that would apply if this function is changed by regulation.

Thank you for considering NDH's viewpoint as you consider these proposed changes.

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NDHA welcomes the Opportunity to work collaboratively with the Board, the Department, the Nebraska Dental Association, the Nebraska Dental Assistants Association, and other stakeholders to ensure that Nebraska's dental workforce laws and regulations can be modernized, evolving through a transparent, consistent, and patient-centered process

Sincerely,

Megan Christiansen
President,
Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association

Dr. Courtney Rudick
President-Elect,
Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association

Joey Enright
Legislative Chair,
Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association

Members of the Public that spoke during the meeting on different discussion:

Todd Wragge, DDS – President, NDA
Lincoln, NE

Lisa Sypal, Executive Director, NDA
Lincoln, NE

Megan Christiansen, RDH, BS President NDHA
Lincoln, NE

Crystal Stuhr, NDAA Legislative CoChair
Southeast Community College
Lincoln, NE

Cindy Cronick, NDAA President & Legislative CoChair
Plattsmouth, NE

Connie Kugel, RDH – Dental Hygienist & CE Director UNMC College of Dentistry
Lincoln, NE

Darlene Carritt, RDH
carrittdarlene@gmail.com

Emily Willett, DDS, MS
Lincoln, NE

Melanie Steckelberg, DDS
Lincoln, NE

Deb Schardt, RDH, PHRDH, EFDH, CDHC, EMT
Carleton, NE
debschardt@icloud.com

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AWARDS PRESENTATION to Retiring Board Member – Terrence Lanphier, DDS, MBA, MAGD

Dr. Giles presented Dr. Lanphier 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 January 2021 to November 2026.

Dr. Giles also presented Dr. Lanphier with the “Distinguished Award” from the Board of Dentistry, representing his tireless efforts for serving as a Dental School Faculty Member on the Board of Dentistry. His insight and knowledge have been appreciated and will be greatly missed.

Lastly Dr. Giles presented Dr. Lanphier with the “Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska” Award from Governor Jim Pillen. As an “Admiral” Dr. Lanphier 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/>

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

(signature on file with the Department)

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