

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DENTISTRY
October 3, 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 October 3, 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
Terrence Lanphier, DDS, MBA, MAGD – Vice-Chairperson
Michael O’Hara, JD, PhD – Secretary
Gene Giles, DDS
Brent Johnson, DDS
Lynlee Medhi
Takanari Miyamoto, DDS, PhD, MBA, MDA, CAGS
Hannah Randell, MHPTT, RHD, PHRDH

Absent: Yoshiharu Ameku, DDS
Abby Rennau, RDH, BSDH, PHA

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

Also present to participate in the meeting: Vonda Apking, Program Manager; Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Teresa Hampton, Department Attorney; T.J. O’Neill, Assistant Attorney General and Randy Clark, 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 September 19, 2025, and revision posted September 26 and second revision posted October 1, 2025.

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

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND APPRECIATION FOR RETIRING BOARD MEMBER DR. JOHN B. THOMAS, DMD, MPA.

Dr. Cope presented Dr. Thomas 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, 2014 to March 11, 2024.

Dr. Cope also presented Dr. Thomas with the “Distinguished Award” from the Board of Dentistry, representing her 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.

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Lastly Dr. Cope presented Dr. Thomas with the “Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska” Award from Governor Jim Pillen. As an “Admiral” Dr. Thomas 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 want to acknowledge Dr. Thomas for serving Nebraska on the CRDTS (Central Regional Dental Testing Services) strategic planning committee and as an examiner. This association with CRDTS gave a voice for Nebraska to the testing agency during his tenure.

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

DISCUSSION(S)

A. Ideas to Regulate Dental Anesthesia Administered by Other Individuals Beside Dentists

Discussing with the Board on this subject were:

Dr. Nicholson, Anesthesiologist
Dr. Brownstein, Anesthesiologist
Ellen Hutteger, CRNA
Travis Teetor, MD
Monte Zysset, DDS

All agree that there needs to be oversight for safety, and the same rules need to apply to all professionals performing dental anesthesia.

If adding a new “host permit” for external providers is to be entertained this will take Legislative changes. The Board agrees that a subcommittee needs to be formed to address this issue. Board members interested in being on the subcommittee are Johnson, Lanphier, Miyamoto, Giles and O’Hara. Advisors to the subcommittee are Dr. Nicholson, Dr. Brownstein, Dr. Teetor, Ellen Hutteger and Dr. Zysset.

Board Break left: 9:45 a.m.

Board Break return: 10:10 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Charles F. Craft, DHHS Dental Health Director, shared with the Board that the 3rd Annual NE Veterans Mission of Mercy Dental event (VETMOM) was held September 25-27, 2025 in Yutan, NE at the Titan Army National Guard Readiness Center. This event is a partnership with the NE Department of Veterans’ Affairs, NE National Guard, NE DHHS Oral Health & Dentistry, NE Dental Foundation, UNMC College of Dentistry, Creighton University School of Dentistry, NE Dental Association and the NE Dental Hygienist’s Association.

There were approximately 450 patient visits with 2500 different procedures; of that 100 were denture cases, all at a value of over \$550,000.00. Sadly, it’s been reported that only 15% of Veterans have dental benefits.

For more information go to: [Nebraska VETMOM Dental Event Provides Free Care to Veterans, Spouses | Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs](#)

Dr. Craft also wants to share the Public Health viewpoint on Dental Sealants. There are no vaccines for dental disease. There are a few preventative measures:

- Eat Well
- See your Dentist twice a year
- Brush your teeth twice a day
- Topical Fluorides twice a year – can reduce decay at a rate of 25%
- Water Fluorides – cut dental disease by 25%

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However, the #1 preventative measure is dental sealants, which can reduce dental disease by 65%. Dental sealants have evolved over the last few years and are making a difference in Nebraska. In 2022 51% of young children at the 3rd grade level receive dental sealants.

Visit the DHHS Oral and Dental Health website and learn more about the “Nebraska Teeth Forever” Program and the “Early Dental Health Starter Kit”: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Dental-Health.aspx>

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

O'Hara moved, seconded by Miyamoto, to go into closed session at 10:16 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: Cope, Giles, Johnson, Lanphier, Medhi, Miyamoto, O'Hara and Randell. Voting nay: None. Absent: Ameku and Rennau. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:57 a.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

Dental Reinstatement Application(s)

Haskins, Jeffrey W., DDS – application for reinstatement of his Dentist license. Lanphier moved, seconded by Miyamoto to recommend the approval of the application for reinstatement of his Dentist license subject to a \$500.00 Civil Penalty and a requirement to complete the Nebraska Jurisprudence exam within 90 days. Basis is due to failure to report action in another state according to the Mandatory Reporting Regulations. Voting aye: Cope, Giles, Johnson, Lanphier, Medhi, Miyamoto, O'Hara and Randell. Voting nay: None. Absent: Ameku and Rennau. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

General Anesthesia/Deep Sedation Permit Application(s)

Guo, Jiasheng David, DDS, MD – application for General Anesthesia/Deep Sedation Permit. O'Hara moved, seconded by Giles, to table the application for additional information. Voting aye: Cope, Giles, Johnson, Lanphier, Medhi, Miyamoto, O'Hara and Randell. Voting nay: None. Absent: Ameku and Rennau. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 11, 2025

O'Hara moved, seconded by Johnson, to approve the July 11, 2025, minutes as presented.

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

PRACTICE QUESTION(S)

A. Can Dental Assistants (DA) that hold a Restorative 1 EFDA Permit place sealants as directed by the Dentist?

Discussing with the Board on this subject were:

Dr. Hanquist, DDS, Aurora

Darlene Carritt – Dental Hygienist

Crystal Stuhr – Southeast Community College

Ben Reimer, DDS, Omaha

Richael Cobler, Executive Director, CRDTS

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It is the opinion of the Board that according to current statute it is not permitted for a DA to perform sealants. It needs to be added to the statutes under the Scope of Practice for DA's, which would require a statutory change and maybe a 407 Credentialing Review to address the change in scope of practice.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

There are no updates currently.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

There are no updates currently.

ACCEPTABLE CLINICAL EXAMINATIONS

Richael Cobler, Executive Director, CRDTS and Dr. Ben Wall, with ADEX shared comments with the Board

A. Dentist Exam:

Lanphier moved, seconded by Medhi to approve both CRDTS and ADEX clinical examinations as acceptable clinical examinations for Nebraska. Voting aye: Cope, Giles, Johnson, Lanphier, Medhi, Miyamoto, O'Hara and Randell. Voting nay: None. Absent: Ameku and Rennau. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

B. Dental Hygienist Exam:

Randall moved, seconded by O'Hara to approve CRDTS clinical examination as the acceptable clinical examination for Nebraska. Voting aye: Cope, Giles, Johnson, Lanphier, Medhi, Miyamoto, O'Hara and Randell. Voting nay: None. Absent: Ameku and Rennau. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

2025 CRDTS ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

Dr. Giles attended the meeting on August 26, 2025, and commented that it was very informative. He noted that the CARE Program has been utilized by a dozen states and adding programs regularly. The CARE program offers comprehensive remediation and re-education for state boards and individual licensees or students. To learn more, go to: <https://www.crdts.org/SpecialPrograms>

FYI(S):

A. X-Ray and Coronal Polishing Requirements for Unlicensed Dental Assistants

Dr. Giles wanted to reiterate some of the duties that an unlicensed dental assistant can perform regarding x-rays and coronal polishing:

When a supervising licensed dentist is physically present on the premises, the unlicensed dental assistant may:

- Monitor nitrous oxide if the dental assistant has a current and valid board-approved certification for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- Place topical local anesthesia
- Perform dental x-rays or coronal polishing, upon meeting the education or experience requirements below:

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X-Ray Requirements for Unlicensed Dental Assistants:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Have either:
 - ❖ Successfully completed one of the following schools' Dental Radiography courses:
 - University of Nebraska College of Dentistry, Lincoln
 - Creighton University School of Dentistry, Omaha
 - Central Community College, Hastings
 - ❖ Passed the national certification exam for dental assistants (CDA) offered by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB)
 - ❖ Successfully completed an ADA-accredited dental assisting course which provides training in dental radiography as part of its curriculum

Coronal Polishing Requirements for Unlicensed Dental Assistants:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Have either:
 - ❖ Graduated from an ADA program that includes coronal polishing; or
 - ❖ One year (1,500 hours) of clinical work experience as a dental assistant and successfully completed a board-approved course in polishing procedures

For a complete review of the Statutes and Regulations for Dental Assistants (Licensed or Unlicensed), please go to the DHHS public website:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Dental-Assistant.aspx>

B. Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP)

The Board acknowledges the importance of ESAR-VHP.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2026.

Dates for the balance of 2026 are:

March 27, 2026

July 10, 2026

October 2, 2026

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>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

(signature on file with the Department)

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