



Department of Health

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN DENTISTRY
Conference Room 401
Providence, Rhode Island**

**Wednesday, June 3, 2020
Conference Call Meeting
8:00 A.M.**

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

- 1. Establishment of a Quorum**-an 8:AM roll-call of board members established that a quorum was present:

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Marian Royer, DMD, Chair
Ernest Votolato, DMD, Vice Chair
Julie Galleshaw, RDH/PHDH, Secretary
Charlotte Bigg, DMD
Marie Jones-Bridges, RDH/PHDH
Ricardo Burdiel, DMD
Virginia Cairrao, CDA
John Duhaime, DMD
Mary McCabe, DDS
Kelly Orr, Pharm D.
Samuel Zwetchkenbaum, DDS, Dental Director

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Lindsay Cassidy, DMD

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Peter Ragosta, BS Pharm, RPh, Administrator
Robert Bartro, DDS, Administrative Consultant
Kenny Alston, Esq.

2. Special Order of Business

- none

3. Presentation of the March 4, 2020 Open Session Minutes

- Upon a motion by Ms. Galleshaw, seconded by Dr. Votolato, the March 4, 2020, Open Session Minutes were unanimously approved as presented. (Note: The Dental Board did not meet in April or May due to the COVID-19 pandemic and guidance from the Department of Administration).

4. Chairman's Report

- In her opening remarks, Dr. Royer respectfully reflected upon those people who have died during the pandemic.
- Dr. Royer thanked the staff for the Board, the Department of Health, the RI Dental Association (RIDA), the RI Dental Hygiene Association (RIDHA), the RI Dental Assistants Association (RIDAA) for their diligent work during this difficult situation. The Department of Health was able to acquire PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for dentistry, plus, the RI Dental Association has done remarkable work with acquisition and distribution of PPE. This took a tremendous amount of volunteerism, time and physical labor.
- Dr. Royer stated that this has been a period to reflect, to try to understand, learn, and to be thankful for health; and thanks to individuals in the community that are working on our behalf to keep the public safe; and that the Board has a fiduciary duty relative to COVID-19 issues.
- Dr. Royer welcomed all new and incoming dental, dental hygiene, and dental assisting graduates to the profession and to the state.

5. Consulting Administrator's Report

Dr. Bartro advised the Board of the most recent Licensees:

- New Licensee Report:
- Margaret V. Ennis, DDS
- Valia R. Sammarco, RDH
- Kristen F. Leo, RDH
- Adriane K. Shilmover, DMD
- Kristina M. Mackie, RDH
- Sook-Bin Woo, DMD
- Alyssa M. Simpson, RDH

- Allison T. Laquerre, RDH
- Warren J. Nogueira, DMD
- Zachary L. Potts, DDS
- Arround Mahmondi, DDS
- Brian Duffy-Limited-residency
- Adam Ellenthal-Limited-residency
- Anna Lam-Limited-residency
- Christopher Padhl-Limited-residency
- Tyler Beninati-Limited-residency
- Victoria Anne Gill-Limited-residency
- Gabrielle Lieberman-Limited-residency
- Hayley Lofquist-Limited-residency
- Michael R. Gallucci, DMD
- Connor M. Hagerty, DMD
- Joseph R. Laffin, RDH

6. Report of the Dental Director

Dental director update: Samuel Zwetchkenbaum, DDS, MPH

Thank you Dr. Royer. It's good to hear and speak to the board at this time. I want to thank those who reached out during what has been a unique time. We are learning more about covid-19 and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to work with a fine group of people here at the department of health, and a great number of professionals in the dental community, as we work to get through this period safely and continue to work for optimum oral health for all Rhode islanders. I'll report on a several items.

First, Teledentistry, Per Governor's Executive orders 20-06, telehealth services were promoted during COVID-19 as a way to obtain information and triage care to reduce the need for people to get out. My understanding is this was used in dental practices and the health centers, and is still being used for our most vulnerable at long term care facilities. No doubt in the case of dental care there are limitations, but we've seen significant opportunity and we look forward to resuming the conversation we started before COVID-19.

Second, timeline of some of the advisories which were produced by RIDOH

1. March 17 issued first advisory (Tues).
 - a. 21 day advisory in alignment with ADA recommendations.
2. We provided additional information the next day and scheduled a phone call.
3. March 31 (#3)- Extended to May 1
4. May 4 (#7): Offices that are in a position to begin offering urgent, emergent, and time-sensitive dental care again, can plan to do so on May 9 or after.
5. May 22- Guidance posted on web <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/for/dental/>

PPE- RIDA worked with RIDOH to get PPE, including N95's.

There is still a significant shortage of N95s and other PPE and it is a difficult balance of encouraging offices to go slow to preserve PPE, people needing care, and offices needing to stay financially afloat.

Role of the Board

Every state has handled things differently. About 27 states had mandates from the governor's office, in some states boards played a big role, in others the department of health played a role outside the board, and in most states the dental associations played a big role.

We can't look back, we need to look forward. What should the role of the board be?

Third: Temporary licenses

We had received information from recent grads of dental and dental hygiene schools about the inability to take a board exam for licensure. Numerous states had recognized this and provided an opportunity for temporary license. In other states this was pushed through either by legislature, governor's order, or the board. Again, big variation. Dr. Bartro and I worked within some of the existing policies to see if such a measure could take place here in RI. There is an Emergency 90-day license which applies to those with out of state licenses who wish to come in and help with pandemic-related work. We felt that that really did not apply as these are not people coming in with out of state licenses, and they are not coming in for pandemic related work, but given the limited staff it seemed like an option to pursue.

7. Old Business

- none

8. New Business

- Dr. Votolato recognized Dr. Zwetchkenbaum for his diligent work on keeping the dental profession informed of the status of allowable procedures as we shift from one phase to another of office re-openings, and his attention to maximizing safety for the profession and the public.
- Dr. Votolato provided the Board with insight to actual costs that his office has experienced relative to instituting the EPCS (Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances) at his dental office. Although it is acknowledged that this requirement exists in Statute, it is a financial burden due to high costs.
- Approval of Compedont and Mannequin based regional examinations. Motion was made by Ms. Galleshaw, seconded by Ms. Jones-Bridges to accept the utilization of the newly developed mock tooth by the name of Compedont, and Mannequin based regional exams. Following discussion, individual voice votes were cast, with unanimous approval.

9. Public Comment

- A request was made to permit a discussion of the allowability of charging a fee to a patient for the cost of PPE incurred during a dental procedure. This topic was not an agenda item, and in order to be permitted, a unanimous vote of the Board is required. Motion was made by Dr. Burdiel, seconded by Dr. Royer, and unanimously approved to permit discussion. The topic is widely under consideration by stakeholders associated with the dental profession.
- Jessica Burns, a recent graduate of CCRI was interested in clarification about scope and duties allowed while operating with a temporary provisional license, and if there would be restrictions imposed during this period of licensure. The Board will research her questions and try to reply outside of the meeting.
- Dr. Russell Chin thanked the Board for the acceptance of Compedont for testing purposes. He also advised that his office uses EagleSoft software for E-prescribe and accessing the PDMP. He stated that offices should be allowed to charge for supplies related to the pandemic.
- Christy Durant, Esq., Executive Director of RIDA stated that according to the Open Meeting laws, members of the Board are allowed to respond to an inquiry by a member of the public. She spoke about whether insurance companies will cover the costs associated with protective equipment. Ms. Durant also expressed concern about how malpractice companies will cover dentists with temporary/provisional licenses and who have not yet completed their board exams. Ms. Durant advised the Board about 'The Telemedicine Bill' that is before the General Assembly and that she plans on introducing dentistry provisions into the bill.

10. Adjournment

Motion was made by Ms. Galleshaw, and seconded by Dr. Votolato, to adjourn; The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:55A.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
Robert Bartro
Administrative Consultant
State of Rhode Island
Center for Professional Boards and Commissions
Board of Examiners in Dentistry*