

**NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR DENTISTRY**

**Friday, January 10, 2025 at 9:00am**

New York State Education Department

1411 Broadway, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Regents Room

New York, NY 10018

**ATTENDANCE:** Suzanne Cassata, Chairperson, Paul Chu, Vice Chairperson; Eleanor Coney, Karl Dixon, Charles Grannum, Patricia Haberman, Maureen Hankin, Tera Jenkins, Aristotle Lyssikatos, Kerry McEntee, Roya Mohajer, Stanley Smith, and Julie Varney.

**SED STAFF:** Dolores Cottrell, Michael Puspurs

**ABSENT:** Martin Boorin, Evelyn Salgado, Lorraine Carhart, Michael McGarvey

**GUESTS:** Beth Krueger (NYDHA); Donna Hickey (NYDHA), Michael Herrmann (NYSDA), Briana McNamee (NYSDA), Marlyce James (NYDHA), Harold Jennings (NYDHA), Jean Hall (NYDHA), James Coney, Diana Grubaya, Paula Bostick

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. Welcome and introductions were made.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Dr. Cassata stated that she received a lot of OPD case review requests.

Dr. Cassata informed members that she responded to the request for input for the VA Dental Hygienist National Standard of practice.

Dr. Cassata stated that she received an email from the American Association of Orthodontics (AAO) that a lawsuit was filed by the former owners of Smile Direct Club for a violation of California laws.

Dr. Cassata requested for the agenda to be moved as necessary (Haberman/Lyssikatos).

**VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Dr. Chu apologized for not being at the October meeting. Dr. Chu thanked Dr. Haberman for her work as past Chair and Board member.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Dr. Cottrell began her report by stating that Ms. Carhart would not be attending the board meeting because of illness and that Dr. McGarvey will not be attending the board meeting because he lost a family member.

Dr. Cottrell reported briefly on her participation in the following meetings and events:

- Attended the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) Professional Workforce Coalition meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> in Chicago.
- Presented at the New York Dental Hygiene Association (NDHA) on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Presented the regulation changes for Registered Dental Assistants (RDA's) to administer fluoride varnish to the Board of Regents on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Cottrell ended her report by congratulating Dr. Haberman for her ten years of exemplary service on the Dental Board. Dr. Cottrell presented plaques and certificates for her ten years on the Board and for being the Dental Board Chair.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 18, 2024:**

A motion was made for approval of the October 18, 2024, draft board meeting minutes (Dixon/Coney). Minutes approved unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Webpage** – Dr. McEntee, Chair; has nothing new to report.

**Legislative** –Dr. Cottrell stated on December 10 that she met with the Board of Regents to present the regulation change to allow Registered Dental Assistants to administer fluoride varnish. Dr. Cottrell stated that Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN's) can also now administer the fluoride varnish. Dr. Cottrell informed members that in April 2025 there will be the final adoption of this regulation change by the Board of Regents. Ms. Krueger stated that the New York Dental Hygiene Association (NYDHA) will be working on the Block Anesthesia Bill for Dental Hygiene and the Collaborative Practice Bill for Dental Hygiene. Ms. McNamee stated that the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) will be reintroducing the bills that would allow dentists to administer HPV, COVID, Influenza and other health emergency immunizations.

**Scope of Practice** –; Dr. Cottrell presented the report on behalf of Ms. Carhart. Dr. Cottrell stated that an email request was sent to the Registered Dental Hygienists on the Board, by the Board Office to review if RDH's in New York State could perform the following tasks: Placing and removing prosthetics-No, filling access holes with Gingi fast, Teflon tape, or composite- Yes, taking light body wash impressions- Yes, recording T-scan bite records- Yes, and conducting AIC tests- No.

**Corporate Practice** – Dr. Grannum agreed to be the new Chair for the Corporate Practice Committee.

**Anesthesia** – Dr. Chu, Chair; stated that Anthem Blue Cross blue shield put a limit for a certain number of units for anesthesia for dental patients, only allowing two units for anesthesia. However, Anthem Blue Cross Blue shield reversed this decision.

**Practical Review of Dental Regulations** – Dr. Haberman, Chair; informed members that the dental regulations have not kept up with the times, for example, with the digital procedures. Dr. Haberman suggested reviewing the guidebook that OPD uses and for the Board to update that book.

**Licensure** – Dr. Chu, Chair; emailed out the updated compact map. Dr. Chu stated there has been no further movement on the compacts. Dr. Cottrell informed members that there now eight states accepting the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) exam. Dr. Cottrell suggested that the Board review the DLOSCE examination guide excerpts so they're informed for future discussions on the topic and how it may or may not impact NYS licensure in the years ahead.

**Dental Assistant Laws, Rules & Regulations Committee** – Ms. Varney on behalf of Ms. Carhart stated that the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) has a new five-year strategic plan. Ms. Varney informed members that she and Ms. Carhart reviewed the DANB 2025 application for the NYPDA and NY combo exams. They made a few edits, and they were sent to DANB and approved. Ms. Varney suggested adding a link to a word document on the OP dental assisting page for licensure eligibility pathways. The Board discussed the American Dental Association (ADA) resolution to allow foreign dentists to practice as Registered Dental Hygienists and Registered Dental Assistants. The Board agreed that current New York State statutes do not allow this, because they are separate licensed professions, with separate education and examination requirements.

**Tele-Dentistry** – Dr. Cottrell stated that the Tele-Dentistry guidelines are still with Legal.

**Special Needs** – Dr. Chu; Chair; presented an update of the University of Buffalo's special needs program. Dr. Chu informed members that the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is a pathway for families to get dental care for patients with special needs.

**AADB** – Dr. Cassata; Chair; stated that she has been forwarding recent AADB newsletters, which discuss ways to recruit dentists, registered dental hygienists and registered dental assistants to the Board members. Dr. Cassata informed members that the Mid-Year AADB meeting will be on April 11<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> in Chicago, and she plans on attending.

**ADEX and CDCA-WREB-CITA** – Mr. Dixon, Chair; stated that the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) has introduced a strategic plan which focuses on advancing the

accreditation process for dental education programs, enhancing the operational efficiency, and improving communications using artificial intelligence (AI). Mr. Dixon stated that the next CDCA-WREB-CITA meeting is January 30-31, 2025.

**Wellness** – Dr. Cassata, Chair; explained the purpose of the voluntary fund. She informed Board Members of expenditures and the current fund balance.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Collaborative Practice/RDH-CP – The Board discussed how hopefully; this will gain traction in this Legislative session.

Dental Assistants and LPN's administering topical fluoride- In the Legislative committee report.

Patient Shielding Practice Alert- Dr. Cottrell informed members that it has been posted on the OP professional practice webpage for dentists.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

VA Dental Hygiene National Standard of Practice- Dr. Cottrell thanked the Board for their responses and sent a collective comment from the Board to the VA.

**FUTURE MEETING DATE:** Friday, May 30, 2025 in Albany.

### **ADJOURN:**

Motion for adjournment 10:26 a.m. (Mohajer/Dixon).

Motion to go into Executive Session 11:02 a.m. (Smith/Mohajer).

Discipline Cases were discussed.

Motion to move out of Executive Session at 11:28 a.m. (Lyssikatos/Hankin).