

NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR DENTISTRY

**Friday, January 16, 2026, at 9:00 AM
New York State Education Department
Manhattan Regional OPD Office
1411 Broadway, 10th Floor, Regents Room
New York, NY 10018**

ATTENDANCE: Suzanne Cassata, Chairperson; Paul Chu, Vice-Chairperson, Martin Boorin, Eleanor Coney, Karl Dixon, Charles Grannum, Maureen Hankin, Aristotle Lyssikatos, Kerry McEntee, Michael McGarvey, Roya Mohajer, Evelyn Salgado, Stanley Smith, Katie Tonkin, and Julie Varney

SED STAFF: Steven Calderon, Michael Puspurs

ABSENT: Tera Jenkins, Lorraine Carhart

EXTENDED MEMBERS: Audrey Haynes, Ralph Epstein

GUESTS: Michael Herrmann (NYSDA), Beth Krueger (NYDHA), Donna Hickey (NYDHA), Belangie Perez Torres (NYDHA), Christine Tsang, Michelle Lee, Nichole Silva.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. Welcome and introductions were made.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Dr. Cassata began by stating that she continued to send out the weekly AADB updates to the board members. Dr. Cassata informed members that she was contacted only once to review an OPD case. Dr. Cassata stated that she attended the November 9th, 2025, zoom meeting for the Licensure committee. Dr. Cassata informed members that she will participate in a Touro CODA site visit in March.

Dr. Cassata requested for the agenda to be moved forward (Grannum/McGarvey).

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Dr. Chu stated that he attended a grounds meeting for the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) on October 23rd, 2025. Dr. Chu informed members that he attended several webinars for special needs on October 14th, 2025, and January 14th, 2025. Dr. Chu stated that he met virtually with Dr. Gary Oldstein, where he received the new codes for special needs for 2026. Dr. Chu informed members that he will be attending OPWDD meetings on February 25th, May 20th and October 7th. Dr. Chu ended his report by stating he had three zoom meetings for the Anesthesia committee.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Dr. Calderon began his report by thanking the Dental Board for their donation to the Alzheimer's Association.

Dr. Calderon informed members that the Practice alert for Do It Yourself: Dental/Orthodontic Treatment was approved by Legal, and it was posted to the Professional Practice for Dentists webpage.

Dr. Calderon stated that the Board office is waiting for NYSDA'S recommendations to update the Anesthesia regulations.

Dr. Calderon stated that he attended the American Board of Dental Examiners Dental Testing & Regulatory Summit from October 16th-19th, 2025 in Grapevine, Texas. Dr. Calderon stated that he enjoyed meeting many hygienists throughout the state. Dr. Calderon informed members that Ms. Maureen Hankin is the new Chair for the ADEX committee and the ADEX Representative will be Ms. Lorraine Carhart, who will represent the NYS Board for Dentistry.

Dr. Calderon reported that the RDH-CP bill has been signed by the Governor and that the Board has met with NYDHA to ensure alignment on the approach for implementing the RDH-CP. He also noted that the ADEX Committee is currently developing the required eight-hour continuing education course.

Dr. Calderon stated that the Anesthesia committee has met numerous times to update the regulations and it will take some time. Dr. Calderon informed members that the Licensure and Practical Review of Dental Regulations committees reviewed the suggested updates to 61.2. Dr. Calderon stated that he has changed the verbiage and he will email the updated draft to the Licensure committee.

Dr. Calderon stated that he went to Yeshiva University on November 5th and 6th to see the new College of Dental Medicine for a site visit. Dr. Calderon stated that it will be the only three-year DDS program in NYS. Dr. Calderon stated that the initial class is planned to start in August 2026 and there will be 150 students per cohort, with a maximum of 450 students' total.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 3, 2025:

A motion was made for approval of October 3, 2025, draft board meeting minutes (Dixon/McEntee). Minutes approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Webpage – Dr. McEntee, Chair; reported that Ms. Carhart and Ms. Varney have been working on revising the exam requirements for the Registered Dental Assistant and that there are only 2 licensure pathways with links to the Department approved Registered Dental Assisting programs.

Legislative –Dr. Lyssikatos Chair; The following two bills were discussed:

- Bill A09137: Makes certain permanent provisions relating to reimbursement for commercial and Medicaid services provided via telehealth; establishes the rural healthcare professional loan repayment award program and the rural healthcare professional tax credit program; establishes a tax credit for rural healthcare providers.

- Bill AO9258 S03530: Establishes a veterans' dental insurance program through the department of civil service; appropriates funds.

Scope of Practice – Ms. Hankin on behalf of Ms. Lorraine Carhart, stated that a question was sent to the board asking if a dentist can report on tetanus. Ms. Hankin stated that Dr. Haberman will get back to Ms. Carhart with a response. Ms. Hankin informed members that the Board also received an email with a question asking if a registered dental assistant can use a sandblaster. Ms. Hankin stated that yes, registered dental assistants can use a sandblaster, but only extra orally. Ms. Hankin stated that on November 18, 2025, the Board received an email asking about the educational requirements for registered dental hygienists, regarding restorative dentistry. Ms. Hankin stated that restorative dentistry is within the registered dental hygiene scope of practice and it has been around since 2013 and registered dental hygienists can finish a crown to lab competency.

Corporate Practice –Dr. Grannum, Chair; reported that he enclosed some notable articles from companies that put out corporate dentistry news. Dr. Grannum informed members of some notable laws that relates to DSO's; New York Education Law 6512- which criminalizes unauthorized practice of dentistry by unlicensed entities, §66044-A that mandates continuing education for dentists, regardless of DSO involvement which is a nonclinical entity and §6605-A and §6605-B which regulate anesthesia and hygiene services, requiring dentist supervision. The Board had a lengthy discussion about salons and teeth whitening. The Board also had a lengthy discussion about social media and pop-up dentistry.

Anesthesia – Dr. Chu, Chair; reported that we have had three anesthesia zoom meetings on October 20, 2025, November 12, 2025, and January 5, 2026. Dr. Chu stated that the next Anesthesia committee meeting is on February 23, 2026.

Practical Review of Dental Regulations – Dr. Mohajer, Chair; reported that they had a zoom committee meeting where they reviewed the proposed regulations changes to 61.2, for pathways to licensure. Dr. Mohajer stated that the RDH-CP bill was signed into law by the Governor. The Board had a lengthy discussion about S3966A and A3244, that would expand Education Law to allow a five-year preceptorship of experience for foreign dentists, helping expand the pool of dentists. The Board had a lengthy discussion about Bill S6929/A1364 that would require all dental laboratories doing business in NYS to register with the NYS DOH.

Licensure – Dr. McGarvey, Chair; reported that the licensure committee met multiple times on zoom and they had a flurry of emails to update the regulations for 61.2 and gave their suggestions to Dr. Calderon. Mr. Herrmann from NYSDA stated that the House of Delegates passed a resolution to complete at least one year of residency and then get licensed or get licensed by the completion of the ADEX exam.

Dental Assistant Laws, Rules & Regulations Committee – Ms. Varney, Chair; reported that that registered dental assistants can now apply topical fluoride. Ms. Varney stated that in October 2025 DANBE has been working on national standards for registered dental assistants. Ms. Varney informed members that Dr. Cottrell was a big part of that workforce, and there will be different levels of dental assistants such as immediate dental assistant and restorative expanded

functions dental assistant. Ms. Varney stated that the website committee is still working on making the examination requirements for registered dental assistants clearer for applicants.

Tele-Dentistry – Dr. Salgado, Chair; reported that the tele dentistry guidelines are on the Professional Practice for Dentists webpage. Dr. Salgado stated that dental consultations and screenings can be conducted remotely and the the future of tele dentistry will be integrating AI. Dr. Salgado informed members that VR and AR are now in dental education and training where they simulate real life dental procedures, allowing dental students to practice and refine their skills in a controlled environment.

Special Needs – Dr. Chu; Chair; listed out the objectives of the OPWDD meetings. Dr. Chu reported that he had a meeting with Dr. Kapral, Head of Special Needs at the University of Rochester, and Dr. Epstein on sedation classification about minimal conscious sedation terminology. Dr. Chu stated that he met with Dr. Gary Goldstein via zoom on November 19, 2025, to discuss the iv sedation reimbursement rates and new CDT codes. Dr. Chu stated that the Farmingdale Dental Hygiene school now has a program for patients with special needs.

AADB – Dr. Cassata.; Chair; reported that she will continue to forward AADB emails and articles to the Board. Dr. Cassata stated that the IDHLC compact has been enacted in the state of Louisiana in 2025. Dr. Cassata informed members to save the dates for the 2026 midyear meeting, which is scheduled for April 24- 25, 2026 in Chicago Illinois. Dr. Cassata stated that the tentative annual meeting date is October 2026 at the Gaylord National Harbor in Maryland. Dr Cassata stated that she is going to the annual meeting in Maryland.

ADEX and CDCA-WREB-CITA – Ms. Hankin, Chair; reported that the ADEX meeting was in Gaylord Texas on October 16-19, 2025. Ms. Hankin stated that there was a large attendance at the meeting with over seven hundred attendees and one hundred guests. Ms. Hankin informed members that the new name is the American Board of Dental Examiners. Ms. Hankin invited any board members that are interested in being examiners to reach out to the American Board of Dental Examiners.

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 – Ms. Hankin, Chair stated that Dr. Calderon formed an ADHOC Board committee to implement the process for the educational component on December 23rd, 2025. Ms. Hankin stated that the new RDH-CP licensees must complete a one-time eight-hour course. Ms. Hankin informed the board members that the Bill will take effect after June 2027. Ms. Hankin stated that the RDH-CP will be available to all active registered dental hygienists. Ms. Hankin stated that on December 19, 2025, the Governor signed the bill which expanded the collaborative practice to now be allowed in schools, group homes, FACHQ's and other settings. Ms. Hankin informed members that the RDH-CP can provide their services under general supervision, without the dentist being present. Ms. Hankin said the plan is for Dr. Calderon and the ADHOC Board committee to finalize the regulations by

Spring/Summer 2026. Ms. Hankin stated that the applicants for the RDH-CP must be a registered dental hygienist with three years of practice and 4,500 hours of practice experience. The Board discussed adding CPR to the eight-hour course requirement. Ms. Hankin stated she will share the updated regulations with the licensure and ADEX committees. Ms. Hankin informed members that in the Summer/Fall of 2026 there will be the course development, and the NYDHA committee members and dental board members will be working together. The Board had a lengthy discussion about ways to promote the RDH-CP among dentists.

AAPD Practice Guidelines- Dr. Chu stated that in May 2025 the American Dental Association (ADA) had a meeting with the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology (ADSA) and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). Dr. Chu stated that the main issue between the two organizations is the definition of the pediatric age of the patient. Dr. Chu informed members that the ADA has guidelines that were created by individual pediatric dentists.

FUTURE MEETING DATE: Friday, May 1, 2026, in Albany.

ADJOURN:

Motion for adjournment at 11:37 a.m. (Dixon /Chu).

Motion to go into Executive Session at 11:59 a.m. (McGarvey/Hankin).

Discipline Cases were discussed.

Motion to move out of Executive Session at 12:36 p.m. (Grannum/Boorin).