

GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY
Dental College of Georgia – Augusta University
1430 John Wesley Gilbert Drive
Augusta, GA 30912
December 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. - Minutes

The following Board members were present:

Dr. Michael Knight, President
Dr. Greg Goggans
Dr. Lacey Green
Dr. Glenn Maron
Dr. Larry Miles
Dr. Ami Patel
Dr. David Reznik
Mark Scheinfeld
J.C. Shirley
J. Don Spillers, Jr. Vice President
Jeffrey D. Schultz
Nancy B. Young

Staff present:

J. Clinton Joiner, II, Executive Director
Tommy McNulty, Sr. Assistant Attorney
General
Stacy Altman, Deputy Director – Investigations
Itovia Evans, Deputy Director – Licensing
Angela C. Johnson – Board Administrative
Support

Visitors:

Dr. Lester G. Jackson III, Senator/ GSO
Jon Hoin, GDA
Luke Ray, AU/ DCG
Lesly Hamm, Dental College of GA (DCG)
Cynthia Hughes, GDHA
Tristan Bennett, DCG
Carter Shelton, DCG
Margie Miller, Augusta University (AU)
Kevin Frazier, Vice Dean DCG

Ashton Blackwood, AU/ DCG
Theresa S. Gonzles, Dental College of Georgia
Rhonda Banks, DCG
Wes Zamzow, DCG
Jerry Cooper, Promethean Dental Systems
Colton Villa, DCG
Alan Furness, DCG
Russell Keen, EdD, President AU

Open Session

Dr. Knight established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Introduction of Visitors

Dr. Knight welcomed the visitors and asked that they introduce themselves.

Dr. Knight recognized President Keen for comment. President Keen thanked the Board for visiting campus and for their commitment to the citizens of Georgia. President Keen announced that Dr. Spillers is receiving the honor of alumnus of the year for the Dental College of Georgia. Dr. Spillers graciously accepted the honor and thanked the college.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Maron made a motion to approve the Public and Executive Session minutes from the November 1, 2024, meeting. Dr. Green seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Report of Licenses Issued

Dr. Goggans made a motion to ratify the list of licenses issued. Dr. Maron seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Petitions for Rule Waiver or Variance

Rule Waiver Request from Jimmy Gibson: The Board discussed this request for waiver of Rule 150-3-.01(7)(g). Dr. Shirley made a motion to grant the petition based on the special circumstances noted in Dr. Gibson's petition. Additionally, the Board also finds that Dr. Gibson provided adequate justification for the variance since he passed the ADEX manikin-based exam in 2020 and has completed his residency requirements. Ms. Green seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Correspondence

Correspondence from Briah Manuel – requesting clarification on Rule 150-5-.03. The Board discussed this correspondence seeking guidance regarding the direct supervision of Dental Hygienist. The Board clarified that a dentist must be on the premise fulltime during any hygiene appointments.

General – Dr. Michael Knight

Dr. Knight had no report.

Internal Committee Reports

Infection Control Committee – Dr. David Reznik, Dr. JC Shirley, Dr. Nancy Young, Dr. Debra Wilson, Ms. Lisa Selfe, RDH

Dr. Reznik reminded everyone of the upcoming public hearing in January to adopt Rule 150-8-.05 Dental Unit Water Quality.

External Committee Reports

Electronic Database Review Advisory Committee (PDMP) Report – Dr. Lisa Shilman

No Report.

CRDTS Steering Committee Report – Dr. Brent Stiehl

No Report.

CRDTS Examination Committee Report - Dr. Ami Patel

No Report.

Dental College of Georgia Liaison Report – Dr. Michael Knight

Dr. Knight thanked the Dental College for hosting the meeting and providing dinner for the Board members.

CDCA-WREB-CITA Steering Committee Report – Dr. Ami Patel, Dr. JC Shirley, Ms. Misty Mattingly, RDH

No Report.

GDHEA Liaison Report – Dr. David Reznik, Ms. Lisa Selfe, RDH

No Report.

Attorney General's Report – Mr. Tommy McNulty

No Report.

Executive Director's Report – Director J. Clinton Joiner, II

Director Joiner discussed correspondence that he received from Marcia Mann with CE Brokers. CE Brokers is setting up a tracking system that will monitor the continuing education (CE) credit for licensees. Director Joiner advised that the system should be live soon but that there is no firm date yet.

Ms. Mann is seeking clarification on **Rule 150-3-.09(3)(f) Continuing Education for Dentists:**

Effective on and after January 1, 2022, one (1) hour of the minimum requirement shall include legal ethics and professionalism in the practice of dentistry, which shall include, but not be limited to, education and training regarding professional boundaries; unprofessional conduct relating to the commission of acts of sexual intimacy, abuse, misconduct, or exploitation with regard to the practice of dentistry; legislative updates and changes to the laws relating to the practice of dentistry and rules, policies, and advisory opinions and rulings issued by the Board; professional conduct and ethics; proper billing practices; professional liability; and risk management.

Ms. Mann's question was whether or not an educational provider would need to include all of the topics in the rule to meet the requirements. Dr. Maron responded that yes, all topics in the rule must be covered in order for the course to meet the requirements of the rule and he advised that the rule was based on law.

Director Joiner advised that as part of the budget process he was asked to put together the Board's licensing timeline. After review of the analysis he was impressed that staff member Ruth Reece, who processes most of the dental applications, was able to process the applications and stay under the advertised processing time, even during the pandemic, and has been consistent for the last five years. Dr. Knight added that Ms. Reece works hard for the Board and is always quick to respond and help the Board.

Director Joiner recognized Stacey Mitchell, who has taken over processing sedation applications this year, commenting that Ms. Mitchell is processing applications much faster and with more efficiency. He advised that Ms. Mitchell has reduced the sedation application timeline down to a quarter of what it was in the past to around 90 days.

The Board discussed the current procedure of processing applications. Dr. Knight advised that as part of the budget discussions the review of timelines is part of the preparation of implementing more online functions to further reduce the application completion time.

Legal Services – Director J. Clinton Joiner, II

No report.

Miscellaneous

ADA New Licensure Questions

Dr. Shirley provided the Board with an article written by Mary Beth Versaci titled "States remove stigmatizing mental health questions from dental licensure applications" from the October 9, 2024, ADA News website.

Dr. Shirley advised that he provided this article to the Board as information only and that he is not proposing any changes at this time. He wanted to share the article so that the Board would be able to see what other states are doing with regard to changing wording to the application process to

remove stigmatizing mental health questions.

Dr. Maron stated that he would like to see the Board's rules committee to review the current applications and renewal process to remove stigmatizing mental health questions.

Approval of New Sedation Course - Dr. Pruett's/ Athens Regional Hospital Syllabus for proposed Intravenous Moderate Sedation Course.

The Board had discussion about the request for approval of new GPR program in Athens (Dr. Pruett's/ Athens Regional Hospital Syllabus for proposed Intravenous Moderate Sedation Course). Dr. Knight asked the Board if they had any questions, comments or concerns.

Dr. Shirley commented that Dr. Pruett submitted this request for a sedation program before it had CODA (Commission of Dental Accreditation) approval for the GPR. Dr. Shirley advised that he does not have a problem with the course necessarily, but he is concerned that the GPR program has no status with CODA. He added that there is a need for more GPR programs, but that CODA has very specific guidelines that if a program enrolls students without first having been granted the initial accreditation status that CODA will not accept the application for accreditation.

Dr. Maron advised that he agreed with Dr. Shirley. Dr. Maron made a motion to table this conversation until the Board can get verification of this program situation.

Dr. Spillers questioned whether or not the Board requires CODA's approval on a proposed course before the Board can act and whether or not the proposed course met all of the Board's guidelines for review. He mentioned that other courses have been approved without CODA approval in the past. Dr. Shirley responded that a course does not necessarily have to be CODA approved before the Board can review it. He added that due to the recent discoveries of two general practice residencies in Georgia that enrolled students without going through the proper process to get CODA approval, that GPR courses should be reviewed for status with CODA before the Board's approval. Dr. Shirley advised that for this specific course when the syllabus was submitted to the Board for review that it started the inquiry and review process.

Dr. Spillers asked again whether or not the course syllabus met all of the Board's requirements for review. Dr. Maron responded that the Board was not approving Dr. Pruett's residency but is reviewing Dr. Pruett's request for a sedation training course that is unknown and not CODA approved. Dr. Spillers asked why the Board would withhold approval because the program has not been CODA approved. Dr. Maron responded that it is because every other program was out of some institution that had justification of existence. Dr. Maron added that Dr. Pruett's request is not a program yet.

Dr. Goggans commented that when other programs have been offered that where not CODA approved that the students enrolled in those programs were advised that they were not CODA approved and that upon graduation the students would have to take an additional training since they told a program that was not CODA approved.

Dr. Maron stated that it is the goal of the Board to make sure that the students are getting a quality program out of what is being offered. Dr. Maron stressed that this program is not official yet and that there are a lot of questions that need to be answered. Questions such as, where is the site and what would Dr. Pruett be doing. The other programs that have been approved were more established institutions that have locations and have been used before. Dr. Spillers offered that the proposed syllabus listed Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital as a location. Dr. Maron commented that he contacted Piedmont Medical System and was told that they have no relationship with this program.

Dr. Maron stated that the Board is missing the big picture on understanding the quality of care in sedation training that is required in the country for every other provider other than Dentists. He stressed that if there is one death that comes out of all of this then it is one death too many.

Dr. Maron repeated his motion to table this conversation until the Board can get verification of this program situation. Dr. Maron stated that he believes that Dr. Pruett is only creating this course at this institution for financial reasons. Dr. Spillers replied that most courses provided are for financial reasons. Dr. Knight added that he has been informed that Piedmont Regional Hospital has been allowing residents in the OR. Dr. Knight stated that he was advised that they go every Friday. Dr. Maron asked who the attending doctor was. Dr. Knight responded that he believes that Dr. Hall and Dr. Pruett are the attending doctors.

Dr. Maron repeated his motion to table the discussion until the Board has time to review Dr. Pruett's newest letter that was received just before this morning's meeting. Dr. Spillers commented that if a course doesn't have to be CODA certified for the Board to approve then why is the Board holding the approval of this course when other courses submitted were not held to having to be CODA certified before being approved. Dr. Spillers stated that the Board should be fair across the board on requirements for Board approval. Dr. Shirley responded that if it is determined that something in a course might be done inappropriately, like not getting CODA certification before the enrollment of the students, what does that say about ethics or professionalism. Dr. Shirley questioned that if the Board knows that there is something unusual about a course would the Board go ahead and approve the course? Dr. Spillers commented that Dr. Shirley was accusing Dr. Pruett of being unethical and he wanted to know the basis of the accusation. Dr. Spillers asked again why the Board is asking for this course to be CODA approved.

Several Board members commented that it was their understanding that a program could get started while it is waiting to be CODA approved. Dr. Maron advised that was incorrect. Dr. Shirley commented that he asked Dr. Sherin Took, who is a senior director at CODA, about this scenario. She advised him that if a program has submitted an application, they cannot enroll students until the program has initial accreditation. Dr. Young stated that is not what she heard from Dr. Cecile Feldman, Dean at Rutgers Health School of Dental Medicine, who is on CODA also who deals with GPR.

Dr. Shirley responded that in the operating manual for CODA Section 1 (page 53 of the August 2024 EOPP) Enrollment of Students in A Developing Program Prior To Granting of Initial Accreditation Status states:

["Initial accreditation" status is an accreditation classification that is applicable to developing programs. It is granted when a proposed or developing program demonstrates that it has the potential to meet the accreditation standards. For this reason, the Commission is firm in its policy that the developing program must not enroll students/residents until "initial accreditation" status has been obtained. If a program enrolls students/residents without first having been granted "initial accreditation" status, the Commission will not accept the application for accreditation until after the first enrolled class has graduated. In addition, the Commission expects that the program will notify all students/residents enrolled of the possible ramifications of enrollment in a program operating without accreditation. The Commission will also notify the applicable state board of dentistry.]

Dr. Maron repeated his motion to table the discussion until the Board has time to review Dr. Pruett's letter and have discussion with Dr. Pruett. Dr. Maron said he did not want to echo Dr. Shirley but wanted to add that if anyone is trying to set up a program and are trying to go around the

normal way that things are done, that calls into question their motive, ethics and morals. Dr. Maron added that he knows that several members of the Board are good friends of Dr. Pruett and will probably take offense to his comment but that he agrees with what Dr. Shirley has said.

Dr. Spillers asked what if someone was not asking for CODA approval but was just asking for a course to be approved, would the Board approve that request? Dr. Spillers asked if the Board is applying the same standards in this situation. Dr. Spillers stated that he knows that Dr. Maron's comment was directed at him and that his friendship with Dr. Pruett is public knowledge.

Dr. Schultz asked Dr. Shirley if he was sure that there was no such thing as a provisional approval where a program is started and is monitored and then given CODA approval later in the program. Dr. Shirley said no, the application is first, then around a year the program would get a pre-enrollment visit. After the pre-enrollment site visit the program can begin to be evaluated. Dr. Shirley confirmed on CODA's website that there is no status for this program. Therefore, it does not have initial accreditation and should not be enrolling students.

Dr. Knight stated that Dr. Pruett was just seeking approval of the course before he applies for accreditation. He confirmed that the program does have a site, and that Dr. Pruett has provided a syllabus for the program. Dr. Shirley commented that the Board has a process for conflict-of-interest matters of recusal.

Dr. Schultz asked Dr. Shirley if a CODA approved GPR course versus a GPR course with a moderate sedation are distinctly different? And would a Board approval of a sedation course affect the CODA approval of the course in general? He opined whether or not there is an advantage to seeking program approval of a state Board before seeking CODA approval. Dr. Shirley responded that CODA has standards for each program, and they have certain criteria for sedation courses and that to approve a course the Board would need to look at the curriculum.

Dr. Spillers asked when the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation (DOCS) training program, that the Board recommends for sedation, was CODA approved did the Board request their CODA status? Dr. Shirley responded that he does not believe that the Board has issued a statement recommending the DOCS program but that it was an approved course. Dr. Spillers commented that the DOCS sedation program was approved by the Board before it had CODA accreditation. Dr. Spillers wanted to know what the difference is that one is denied and the other is approved before accreditation.

Dr. Green mentioned that there have been several courses, such as continuing education courses, that were approved by the Board that did not have to be CODA approved before the Board approved it and that since GPR courses are not designed for a specialty degree, that the GPR courses are also considered continuing education. She commented that by the doctors taking the sedation courses they are receiving continuing education and not a specialty degree, then why would it need to be CODA approved before the Board could approve the program. Director Joiner commented that it doesn't have to be CODA approved for licensure. Dr. Shirley reiterated that there are two separate issues for this request. The first one being that the Board is evaluating the course and that during the evaluation the Board identified the second issue that the program has enrolled students before CODA approval.

Dr. Spillers reiterated that Board approval of courses should not have a double standard.

Mr. Scheinfeld asked if the argument was about how the course is being advertised and whether it would be different if it was advertised as just a sedation course versus a GPR sedation course. Mr. Scheinfeld stated that it seems like Dr. Pruett is promoting this course as a GPR residency required

program. He asked whether or not in order to state that something is a residency type program that it must seek CODA approval first. Mr. Scheinfeld stated that while he understands that more sedation courses are needed that he understands what Dr. Shirley is talking about also. He added that he also understands the benefit of having CODA approval for the courses before the Board's approval.

Dr. Maron repeated his motion to table discussion on the program until the Board can get further clarification from Dr. Pruett. Dr. Knight and Dr. Young recused themselves from the vote. Dr. Shirley seconded the motion to table, the Board had further discussion about Dr. Pruett's proposed syllabus and agreed to table the discussion until the January meeting so that Dr. Pruett could attend the meeting to respond to additional questions from the Board.

Discussion

Dr. Spillers commented that he would like the Board to review an email from Michelle Walker with Lincoln Memorial University College of Dental Medicine regarding creating a program partnership to add for discussion at the next meeting in January. The Board agreed to add the correspondence to the January agenda.

Dr. Knight acknowledged Dr. Maron for comment. Dr. Maron thanked the Dental College staff and students that were present for hosting the Board meeting. He commented that these types of visits are educational for the students and the Board. He spoke about the challenges of the changes in the world of dentistry and reminded everyone that dentistry is a healing art and that the goal is to take care of the health and wellbeing of the patients. He encouraged the students to stay focused on patient care and not focus on the business side of dentistry only.

Dr. Knight thanked the Board and support staff for their hard work this year.

Dr. Green made a motion and Dr. Schultz seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(h), § 43-11-47(h), § 43-1-2(h) and § 50-14-3(b)(2). Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Dr. Michael Knight, Dr. Greg Goggans, Dr. Lacey Green, Dr. Glenn Maron, Dr. Larry Miles, Dr. Ami Patel, Mark Scheinfeld, Dr. J.C. Shirley, Dr. J. Don Spillers Jr., Jeffrey D. Schulz, Dr. Nancy B. Young and Dr. David Reznik.

Executive Session

Appearances

- B.M. - Sedation application

LOC Recommendations

No Report.

Applications

J.G.	A.R.	A.M.	A.N.	B.P.	J.P.	M.A.	Y.W.
A.C.	E.P.	F.H.	F.E.	K.M.	L.C.	J.C.	S.P.

Investigative Committee's Referral Case List:

No Report.

Attorney General's Report – Mr. Tommy McNulty

- P.T. – OSAH Hearing scheduled
- K.P. – OSAH Hearing scheduled

- P.K. – Revocation hearing pending
- S.S. - OSAH Hearing being scheduled

Executive Director Report – Mr. Clint Joiner

Director Joiner reminded the Board that the Annual Disclosure Forms will be due in January.

Legal Services – Mr. Clint Joiner

No Report.

Discussion

- Update on budget
- Consideration of sending the rule to define abandonment to the rules committee for review
- Update on public hearing request

Open Session

Dr. Maron made a motion to approve all recommendations based on deliberations made in Executive Session as follows:

Applications

J.G.	Dental Exam Applicant	Approved Application
A.R.	Sedation Permit Evaluation	Approved Application
A.M.	Additional Locations Sedation Permits	Board needs additional information
A.N.	Initial Enteral Conscious Sedation	Board needs additional information
B.P.	Parenteral Conscious Sedation	Board needs additional information
J.P.	Additional Locations Sedation Permits and Request for Extension	Referred to Committee
M.A.	Enteral Conscious Sedation	Approved Application
Y.W.	Sedation Permit Evaluation	Approved Application
A.C.	Dentist Reinstatement	Denied Application
E.P.	Dentist Reinstatement	Approved with Consent Order & \$500 Fine
F.H.	Dental Hygienist Reinstatement	Approved with Consent Order & \$500 Fine
F.E.	Dentist Reinstatement	Referred to Committee
K.M.	Dental Hygienist Reinstatement	Approved with Consent Order & \$500 Fine
L.C.	Dentist Reinstatement	Approved with Consent Order & \$500 Fine
J.C.	Faculty License	Approved Application
S.P.	Faculty License	Approved Application

Dr. Spillers seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Georgia Board of Dentistry will be held on Friday, January 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the office of the Georgia Board of Dentistry, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, East Tower 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Minutes recorded by Angela C. Johnson, Board Administrative Secretary
 Edited J. Clinton Joiner, II, Executive Director