

GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334
Board Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2026

Board members in attendance:

Dr. David Reznik, President (via Microsoft Teams)
Dr. Brent Stiehl, Vice President (via Microsoft Teams)
Dr. Gregory Goggans (via Microsoft Teams)
Dr. Lacey Green
Dr. Michael Knight, Sr.
Dr. Glenn Maron
Ms. Misty Mattingly
Dr. Larry W. Miles, Jr.
Dr. Ami Patel
Mr. Mark Scheinfeld
Dr. Jeffrey Schultz
Ms. Lisa Selfe
Dr. J.C. Shirley (via Microsoft Teams)
Dr. Don Spillers, Jr. (via Microsoft Teams)
Dr. Debra Wilson
Dr. Nancy Young

Staff present:

Clint Joiner, Executive Director
Itovia Evans, Deputy Director – Licensing
Stacy Altman, Deputy Director – Investigations
Tommy McNulty, Sr. Asst. Attorney General
Angela Johnson, Board Admin. Secretary
Kimberly Holland, Investigator

Board members not in attendance:

Dr. Lisa Shilman

Visitors:

Jon Hoin, GDA
Lester Jackson, GSO
Lisa Taylor
Richard Hammond
Andrew Shaul

Alan Furness, DCG
Richard Callahan
Byron Thernes, Huff Powell Bailey
Iris Mason, GDHA
Elizabeth Lewis, DPH

Abbreviations:

DPH, Georgia Department of Public Health
DCG, Dental College of Georgia
GDA, Georgia Dental Association
GA DRN, Georgia Dental Recovery Network

GDHA, Georgia Dental Hygiene Association
GSO, Georgia School of Orthodontics
ADSO, Association of Dental Support Organizations

Open Session

Dr. Knight established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

Introduction of Visitors

Dr. Knight welcomed the visitors and asked them to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Maron made a motion to approve the Public and Executive Session minutes from the December 5, 2025, meeting. Ms. Mattingly seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Report on Licenses Issued

Director Joiner presented the Board's licensing activities for ratification. He reported that since the previous meeting, 41 licenses were administratively issued, 15 inactive status applications were processed, and 3 Injectable Pharmaceutical (IP) registrations were approved.

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

Petitions for Rule Waiver or Variance:

Dr. James Park -Waiver of Rule 150-3-.01(7)(g)

Dr. Park requested a variance related to his completion of the ADEX examination in 2020, prior to the Board's acceptance of the examination in January 2021. Dr. Park seeks Board approval to accept his 2020 restorative examination results, which were completed on a manikin due to the unavailability of live patient examinations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Maron made a motion to approve the waiver petition based on past precedent. Dr. Wilson seconded, and the Board voted in favor of the motion.

Dr. Bruce McCoy - Variance of Rule 150-3-.09

Dr. McCoy stated that he retired from the practice of dentistry in December 2024 and did not intend to renew his dental license. Consequently, he did not complete continuing education or CPR requirements after 2023. Dr. McCoy advised that he is now considering a consulting position requiring an active dental license and asserted that compliance with Rule 150-3-.09 prior to the renewal deadline would be impossible, thereby precluding consideration for the position absent approval of the variance request.

The Board reviewed the request and, after discussion, denied the waiver request. To resolve the matter, the Board approved issuance of a private consent order. The terms of the consent order include probation until the continuing education requirements are satisfied, a \$500 fine, and a six-month deadline to complete the required continuing education.

Dr. Green made a motion to deny the variance petition. Dr. Stiehl seconded, and the Board voted in favor of the motion.

Nneka Roberson - Variance of Rule 150-5-.05

Ms. Roberson requested a variance from Rule 150-5-.05 or placement of her license in active status. Ms. Roberson reported completion of 24 hours of continuing education, including 11 hours of live webinar continuing education, but acknowledged that she did not complete the required 11 hours of in-person live continuing education. Ms. Roberson stated that she has been unable to work for the past two years due to significant caregiving responsibilities for a medically fragile child, which limited her ability to meet licensure requirements.

The Board acknowledged Ms. Roberson's hardship and determined that she should apply for inactive status. The Board further agreed to waive the associated fee.

Ms. Mattingly made a motion to deny the variance petition. Dr. Green seconded, and the Board voted in favor of the motion.

Loren Donofrio-Freeman - Waiver of Rule 150-5-.05

Ms. Donofrio-Freeman reported that beginning in September 2023, her son's severe behavioral needs have required constant supervision for his safety and the safety of others, significantly limiting her ability to leave the home. She stated that she lacks childcare and family support in Georgia and has been unable to attend in-person continuing education courses, which are primarily offered outside her geographic area. Ms. Donofrio-Freeman advised that her son is now enrolled in a virtual education program requiring full-day supervision and coordination with behavioral therapists, which has prevented consistent employment and created financial hardship. While she completed the CPR requirement in person, she was unable to complete the remaining in-person continuing education hours. She asserted that these circumstances would continue through the late renewal extension period, necessitating a waiver rather than an extension.

The Board found that the licensee demonstrated a substantial hardship. The Board determined that, due to ongoing and extraordinary caregiving responsibilities for a dependent requiring constant

supervision, lack of available childcare or local support, limited access to in-person continuing education within the licensee’s geographic area, and the continuation of these circumstances through the late renewal extension period, strict application of the continuing education requirements would be impracticable.

Ms. Mattingly made a motion to approve the waiver petition. Dr. Wilson seconded, and the Board voted in favor of the motion.

Dr. Jonathan Holskin - Waiver of Rule 150-3-.09(4)(d)

Dr. Holskin reported that he was unable to attend scheduled live continuing education courses due to a family emergency in early December 2025 and was unable to reschedule any live courses prior to the December 31, 2025 renewal deadline. He further stated that health issues in 2024 prevented completion of live continuing education requirements, though his health has improved in 2025. The applicant requested a waiver to renew his license with a remaining deficiency of 5.5 live continuing education hours.

The Board reviewed a waiver request related to incomplete CE. The Board determined the request did not meet the standard for a waiver and denied the request, noting that the licensee still had time to complete CE requirements within the renewal extension period.

Dr. Maron made a motion to deny the waiver petition. Dr. Green seconded, and the Board voted in favor of the motion.

Correspondence

Dr. Michael Seitz - Response to his denial

Dr. Michael Seitz, a New York–licensed dentist, submitted correspondence to the Board requesting feedback regarding the denial of his application to serve as a volunteer dentist at a Remote Area Medical (RAM) mission in Stone Mountain, Georgia. In his letter he describes traveling to Georgia despite the denial, speaking with RAM personnel, and learning that another out-of-state dentist (from California) was permitted to volunteer without completing a clinical examination. Dr. Seitz asserts that he was treated differently, suggests possible ageism, and criticizes the Board’s requirements as unnecessarily burdensome to volunteer dentists. He emphasizes the humanitarian importance of RAM missions and urges the Board to make volunteering more accessible.

The Board discussed correspondence related to the denial of licensure. The Board directed staff to issue a response letter clarifying that the denial was based on statutory requirements, not discretionary authority, and that allegations of discrimination were unfounded.

General – Dr. Knight

No Report.

Internal Committee Reports

Legislative Committee – Dr. Reznik, Dr. Stiehl, Dr. Knight, Dr. Maron, Dr. Goggans & Ms.

Mattingly

No Report

Dental Hygiene Committee – Ms. Mattingly, Ms. Selfe, Dr. Reznik, Dr. Young and Dr. Patel

Photobiomodulation Rule

Ms. Mattingly reported that the committee met and reviewed the proposed rule language regarding photobiomodulation. The committee recommended revisions to clarify that photobiomodulation procedures performed by dental hygienists must be non-ablative, shall not involve cutting, coagulation, vaporization, or ablation of tissue, and must be performed under the direct supervision

of a dentist. Director Joiner noted a clarifying edit to spell out “photobiomodulation” rather than using the abbreviation PBM.

Board members discussed scope of practice, safety considerations, and the role of dentist diagnosis and supervision. Ms. Iris Mason and Mr. John Hoin addressed the Board and provided comments regarding the proposed rule language and scope considerations.

Mr. Hoin advised that GDA continues to solicit feedback on the revised language and emphasized the importance of clear definitions, limits, and safety requirements related to photobiomodulation. He noted a potential inconsistency between the rule language and the referenced technical report, which distinguishes between surgical use, disinfection, and photobiomodulation as a non-destructive modality, and recommended aligning the rule language accordingly.

Ms. Mason, representing GDHA, stated that hygienists practice within a defined scope and under dentist supervision and do not independently diagnose or treat lesions. She described photobiomodulation as a non-invasive modality that is safe when properly trained and expressed support for the Board’s consideration of its use. Ms. Mason also offered educational resources or training to the Board through GDHA.

After further discussion and minor editorial revisions to emphasize direct supervision and avoid redundancy, the Board reached consensus on the revised language.

Rule 150-5-.08. Use of a Dental Diode Laser by a Dental Hygienist

- (1) A dental hygienist, under the direct supervision of a Georgia licensed dentist may use a dental laser for photobiomodulation. The use of a dental diode laser shall be limited to the use of bacterial reduction/disinfection of the gingival sulcus at settings that preclude hard and soft tissue removal except for incidental gingival curettage, provided:
 - (a) Prior to utilizing a dental diode laser, the dental hygienist must successfully complete interactive didactic and clinical training which includes laser safety, infection control, patient management and the operation of the specific laser(s) utilized in the dental practice. Training must consist of not less than 8 hours of instruction, and must be obtained through a course provided or recognized by any of the following organizations, a successor organization thereof, or approved by the Board:
 1. The Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association;
 2. The American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program; or
 3. The Academy of General Dentistry Program Approval for Continuing Education.
 - (b) A dental hygienist utilizing a dental diode laser shall maintain evidence of required training which shall be prominently displayed at the location where the dental hygienist is authorized to utilize a dental diode laser.
 - (c) A dental hygienist utilizing a dental diode laser shall complete two (2) hours of continuing education every two (2) years in the use of dental diode lasers in the practice of dental hygiene.
 - (d) All lasers shall be used in accordance with accepted safety guidelines.
 - (e) “Photobiomodulation procedures performed under direct supervision by a dental hygienist shall not involve cutting, coagulation, vaporization, or ablation of tissue.”
- (2) When utilizing a dental diode laser pursuant to this Section, a dental hygienist shall document the following information in the patient's record:
 - (a) the type of laser utilized, including the wavelength of the laser;
 - (b) the settings used, such as pulse or continuous wave, and the power setting;
 - (c) local anesthesia used, if any; and
 - (d) the procedure attempted/performed, including details as to whether hard or soft tissue was removed.

Authority: O.C.G.A §§ 43-11-1, 43-11-7, 43-11-9, 43-11-73.1, 43-11-74.

Ms. Selfe made a motion to approve the posting of the revised rule for public hearing and comments. Ms. Mattingly seconded, and the Board voted in favor of the motion.

Investigative Committee – Dr. Stiehl, Dr. Maron, Dr. Green, Dr. Knight and Dr. Shirley
No Report

License Overview Committee – Dr. Shilman, Dr. Miles, Ms. Mattingly, Dr. Patel and Dr. Wilson
No Report

Sedation Committee – Dr. Maron, Dr. Knight, Dr. Schultz, Dr. Shilman and Dr. Shirley
Dr. Maron reported that the Committee is scheduled to meet on January 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to review current applications and forms. Director Joiner announced that the Committee has established a recurring meeting schedule. The Sedation committee will meet virtually via Microsoft Teams on the third Tuesday of every month.

External Committee Reports

Electronic Database Review Advisory Committee (PDMP) Report – Dr. Shilman
No Report.

CRDTS Steering Committee Report – Dr. Stiehl
No Report.

CRDTS Examination Committee Report - Dr. Patel
No Report.

Dental College of Georgia Liaison Report (DCG)– Dr. Young
Dr. Knight thanked Dr. Young and the Dental College of Georgia for hosting dinner for Board members and commended the institution for its continued outreach and collaboration.

ADEX Examination Committee Report– Dr. Patel, Dr. Shirley, Ms. Mattingly, RDH
No Report.

GDHEA Liaison Report – Dr. Knight, Ms. Selfe, RDH
No Report.

Attorney General’s Report – Mr. Tommy McNulty
No Report

Executive Director’s Report – Mr. Clint Joiner
GDA Convention Panel

Director Joiner reported that the Board’s session at the upcoming Georgia Dental Association Convention will be conducted in a question-and-answer format, with both predetermined and attendee-submitted questions. Board member participation will be finalized shortly to meet advertising and certification deadlines.

Workforce Survey

Board members expressed concern regarding the inclusion of a workforce survey in the renewal process and the absence of the previously discussed antibiotic stewardship survey.

Dr. Shirley stated that although the Board had previously discussed and attempted to include an antibiotic stewardship survey in the renewal process, it was not implemented, and a workforce survey was later introduced without clear notice or discussion by the Board. He requested clarification regarding how the workforce survey was added to the renewal process.

Director Joiner explained that the workforce survey was initiated at the encouragement of the Governor's Office and in collaboration with the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce. The survey was requested and approved by Dr. Knight in January 2025, and was financed by the Board of Health Care Workforce. Development and testing of this survey, despite its similarity to previous surveys for other healthcare boards, took 8 months. The Board's approval of the Antibiotic Stewardship Survey came too late for our database administrators to implement in time for this renewal. .

Director Joiner further advised that similar surveys had been conducted by other professional boards and stated that, despite technical difficulties, the survey was expected to yield meaningful data based on comparable experiences by other boards. He further advised that Dr. Knight and he jumped at the opportunity to deploy a similar survey for dentistry as the pharmacy board, whose survey was done last year, found the information to be very informative. The information is not presently collected for dental licensees, and the survey data is expected to be similarly valuable to the Board of Dentistry.

Board members expressed concern regarding communication, process transparency, and technical issues associated with the workforce survey, noting that these issues contributed to delays and frustration during the renewal process.

After discussion, the Board proceeded to consider the appropriate course of action regarding the renewal extension.

Renewal Extension

Director Joiner advised that license renewal had been extended through January 15th due to technical issues related to the workforce survey and payment processing, primarily affecting the survey component. He recommended extending the renewal deadline through the next Board meeting to allow time to address the issues and re-evaluate at that time.

Dr. Wilson made a motion to extend the renewal deadline to February 6, 2026. Ms. Mattingly seconded, and the Board voted in favor of the motion.

The Board extended the renewal deadline to February 6, 2026, with the understanding that a further extension may be considered at the next meeting if needed.

Dr. Maron asked GDA and GDHA to notify their members of the renewal extension deadline through their websites and/or newsletters.

Legal Services – Mr. Clint Joiner **Agency Legislation**

Director Joiner reported that he spoke with Chairman Dr. Hawkins, who agreed to carry the Board's agency legislation during the upcoming legislative session. The legislation includes two proposed changes related to conscious sedation and general anesthesia requirements to allow for remote inspections. Chairman Hawkins also requested that Dr. Knight and Director Joiner testify in support of the bill before the appropriate legislative committee, with timing to be determined. Dr. Maron added that as the chair of the Board's Sedation Committee he would be available to testify as well.

Discussion

Discussion was held regarding the use of CE Broker for license renewal documentation.

Dr. Maron inquired about the status and use of the CE Broker system and whether it was linked to the renewal process. Director Joiner explained that CE Broker is available via a link on the Board's website but cannot currently be required for all licensees due to a lack of clear statutory authority. He noted that CE Broker will primarily be used during audits to streamline review of continuing education compliance and improve audit efficiency.

Board members discussed whether the Board has the legal authority to mandate use of CE Broker, noting that other professional boards require its use. Director Joiner advised that prior legal guidance indicated the Board lacks authority to require mandatory participation, though further clarification from the Attorney General's Office may be warranted.

The Board requested that the Attorney General's Office review the Board's authority to require CE Broker usage and report back at a future meeting. Board members also discussed a phased approach, focusing first on completion of the current renewal cycle and use of CE Broker in audits before considering broader implementation.

Teledentistry Implementation

Mr. Altman addressed the Board regarding implementation of the recently enacted teledentistry legislation, noting that there is currently no formal application or notification process for licensees to report teledentistry activity to the Board. He explained that the absence of a reporting and tracking mechanism creates challenges from an investigative and enforcement standpoint. Mr. Altman advised that he has developed a proposed form for Board review that captures statutory reporting requirements, audiovisual system standards, cybersecurity considerations, and physical location information to ensure accountability and prevent improper practice settings.

Dr. Maron requested that the Board establish a working group to implement the law, align Board rules with statutory requirements, and develop guidance for dentists and hygienists within approximately 90 days. He further requested that GDA and GDHA notify their members of the new law and the requirement to notify the Board prior to engaging in teledentistry.

Board members discussed appropriate limits, scope, and parameters for teledentistry to ensure patient protection and avoid unintended expansion of practice. Mr. Altman referenced the statutory provisions outlining permissible teledentistry services.

Additional discussion addressed existing teledentistry models used by public health entities, coordination of care under dentist supervision, and access-to-care considerations. Board members agreed that a working group should evaluate whether the program should be administered similarly to the injectable pharmacologic registry rather than as a separate license or permit.

Director Joiner advised that, administratively, he anticipates structuring the teledentistry process in a manner consistent with the injectable pharmacologic registry.

The Board approved the establishment of a teledentistry committee. As a result of an abundance of enthusiastic desire to serve on the committee, during the meeting multiple staff members took note of multiple, inconsistent assignments to this committee among Dr. Spillers, Ms. Selfe, Dr. Knight, Dr. Goggans, Dr. Reznik and Dr. Miles. During subsequent post-meeting discussions, Dr. Goggans volunteered to step-down given the presence of another orthodontic specialist on the committee. Accordingly, the appointed members of this committee are Dr. Spillers, Ms. Selfe, Dr. Knight, Dr. Reznik, and Dr. Miles.

Dr. Knight thanked everyone in attendance for coming to the meeting.

Dr. Maron made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Dr. Patel 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. Goggans, Dr. Green, Dr. Knight, Dr. Maron, Ms. Mattingly, Dr. Miles, Dr. Patel, Dr. Reznik, Mr. Scheinfeld, Ms. Selfe, Dr. Spillers, Dr. Schultz, Dr. Shirley, Dr. Stiehl, Dr. Wilson and Dr. Young.

Executive Session

Appearances: JJ, KH, JT

LOC Recommendations: AP, LT, BMM, RH, TS

Applications: CG, FL, HP, HB, EB, BS, AD, RS, SH, MR, CH, JM, JG, KS, TB, JD, MR, LV

Correspondence: CC

Investigative Committee's Referral Case List:

Attorney General's Report – Mr. Tommy McNulty

Orders: TJ, MK

Open Cases: SM, DM KB, JH, LA, MD, DC, JJ, AS, JL

Executive Director Report – Mr. Clint Joiner

No Report.

Legal Services – Mr. Clint Joiner

No Report.

Investigations & Compliance Report – Mr. Stacy Altman

Deputy Director Altman updated the Board on ongoing cases.

No votes were taken in Executive Session. Dr. Knight declared the meeting back in Open Session.

Open Session

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

Appearances

Name	Request	Recommendation
JJ	Request to Remove Summary Suspension of License	Approved with Conditions
KH	Sedation Permit Denial	Reapply after completion of 20 CE in-person hours in Sedation
JT	Additional Anesthesia Permit Denial	No show

LOC Recommendations

Name	Type of License/Permit	Recommendation
AP	Dentist Credentials	Approved
LT	Dentist Renewal	Approved
BMM	Dental Hygiene Renewal	Tabled for additional information
RH	Dentist Renewal	Approved

Investigative Committee's Referral Case List: No Report.

Applications

Name	Type of License/Permit	Recommendation
CG	Credentials	Tabled
FL	Complication Reported at Renewal	Approved
HP	Parenteral Conscious	Interview Scheduled with Sedation Committee
HB	Complication Reported at Renewal	Referred to IC for investigation
EB	Additional Conscious Permits	Interview Scheduled with Sedation Committee
BS	Complication Reported at Renewal	Approved
AD	Sedation Evaluation	Approved
RS	Dental Reinstatement	Approved
SH	Hygiene Reinstatement	Approved
MR	IP Registry	Approved
CH	Volunteer	Approved
JM	Volunteer	Approved
JG	Volunteer	Approved
KS	Volunteer	Approved
TB	Volunteer	Approved
JD	Dental - Inactive	Approved
MR	Dental - Inactive	Approved
LV	Dental - Inactive	Approved

Correspondence

Name	Request	Recommendation
CC	Request to extend her application deadline	Approved

Dr. Green 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 1:34 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Georgia Board of Dentistry will be held on Friday, February 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Georgia Board of Dentistry Office, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334.

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