

GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY

2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE, 11th Floor, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

November 1, 2024 – OPEN SESSION - Board Meeting Minutes

The following Board members were present:

Dr. Michael Knight, President
Dr. Greg Goggans
Dr. Lacey Green
Dr. Glenn Maron
Ms. Misty Mattingly
Dr. Larry Miles
Dr. Ami Patel
Dr. David Reznik
Ms. Lisa Selfe
Dr. Lisa Shilman
Dr. Brent Stiehl
Dr. Debra Wilson

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
Kimberly Holland, RDH BSDH – Complaint Investigator

Visitors:

Randy Kluender, GSO
Dr. Lester G. Jackson III, Senator/ GSO
Pam Cushenan, GDHA
Patrick Guthrie, ADSO
Sheriese Ferguson, GDHA
Jon Hoin, GDA
Luke Ray, AU/ DCG

John Watson, ADSO
Ashton Blackwood, AU/ DCG
Dr. Jim Lopez, GSO
Dr. Rick Callan, PDS
Janelle Adams, GDA
Keonka Williams, GDHA

Open Session

Dr. Knight established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Introduction of Visitors

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

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Maron made a motion to approve the Public and Executive Session minutes from the October 4, 2024, meeting. Dr. Reznik seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Report of Licenses Issued

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

Petitions for Rule Waiver or Variance

Rule Waiver Request from Kelsey Korb: The Board discussed this request for waiver of Rule 150-3-.01. Dr. Reznik made a motion to grant the petition based on the special circumstances noted in Dr. Korb's petition. Additionally, the Board also finds that Dr. Korb provided adequate justification for the variance since she passed the ADEX manikin-based exam in 2020 and has completed her residency requirements. Ms. Mattingly seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Rule Waiver Request from Syed Abdul-Rahman: The Board discussed this request for waiver of Rule 150-3-.01. Ms. Mattingly made a motion to grant the petition based on the special circumstances noted in Dr. Abdul-Rahman's petition. Dr. Reznik seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Additionally, the Board also finds that Dr. Abdul-Rahman provided adequate justification for the variance since he passed the ADEX manikin-based exam in 2020 and has been in a surgical residency since July 2021.

Correspondence

Email from Dr. Stan Prince, DMD: The Board discussed this correspondence seeking guidance with regard to code D4249 and the use of Waterlase laser. The Board determined that Dr. Prince's question is outside of the Board's authority to answer. The Board suggested that Dr. Prince contact the insurance commissioner's office.

General – Dr. Michael Knight

Dr. Knight had no report.

Dr. Maron asked for an update on how the Dental College of Georgia is doing since Hurricane Helene. Dr. Knight acknowledged Ms. Blackwood for comment.

Ms. Blackwood advised that the college is mostly back online and that everyone is back in clinic. She added that the area took a lot of damage, but that there was not a significant amount to the dental school. Several faculty members, staff members and students had significant damage, and some suffered a total loss of their home. The students are still recovering with the loss of personal items but are slowly getting back on track. Dr. Knight thanked Ms. Blackwood for the update.

Dr. Knight acknowledged Dr. Stiehl for comment. Dr. Stiehl advised the Board that the recent case of unlicensed practice was successful and that our investigations team along with the police were able to bring down a network of violators. He added that since then there has been an increase of cases of unlicensed practice. Dr. Stiehl stated that he would like to see GDA provide some kind of ad campaign or program to increase awareness on the issue and that it should include Spanish communications. Ms. Mattingly commented that she would like to see GDHA make a similar move to spread awareness.

Internal Committee Reports

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

Dr. Reznik advised that the discussion on the new dental unit water quality rule will be discussed during the miscellaneous section of the meeting's agenda.

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 reminded the Board that the December Board meeting will take place at the college on December 6, 2024. Ms. Blackwood invited the Board members to dinner December 5, 2024.

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

Ms. Misty Mattingly advised the Board that she was appointed the local anesthesia examination committee.

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

No Report

Legal Services – Director J. Clinton Joiner, II

No report.

Discussion

FY2025 Full Board Meeting Dates – Approved.

Miscellaneous

ADA New Licensure Questions

This topic was tabled until next month due to Dr. Shirley’s absence.

Request for Approval Coronal Polishing Certificate Program -West Georgia Technical College Coronal Polishing Certificate

The Board had discussion about the request for approval of coronal polishing certificate program offered by West Georgia Technical College. Dr. Knight asked the Board if they had any questions, comments or concerns. Ms. Mattingly made a motion to approve the program. Ms. Selfe seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the certificate program.

Request for Approval GDHA Diode Laser Certification Course

The Board had discussion about GDHA’s proposed dental diode laser course for dentists and dental hygienists. Dr. Knight asked the Board if they had any questions, comments or concerns. Ms. Mattingly made a motion to approve the course syllabus. Dr. Reznik seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the course.

Dr. Maron commented that he would like to emphasize in this public session that just because hygienists might obtain a diode laser certification that it does not mean that they are Board certified in laser treatment. Dr. Maron added that there has been a misunderstanding regarding this issue and that some are inappropriately claiming to be certified by the state. He requests that GDHA stress this issue to the students taking the course.

GPR and training course – Dr. Pruitt

Dr. Pruitt was unable to attend the meeting and asked that this topic be discussed at December's meeting so he could be present.

Dr. Reznik read the following proposed Addendum to the rule regarding waterline quality:

Rule 150-8-.05. Dental Unit Water Quality

“(1) A licensed dentist shall use water for nonsurgical procedures that meets United States Environmental Protection Agency regulatory standards for drinking water of five hundred or less colony-forming units or CFUs/mL.

(2) A licensed dentist shall be responsible that staff are following dental equipment manufacturer's instructions for use when testing the water delivery system for acceptable water quality. If manufacturer's instructions for use are unavailable, a licensed dentist shall be responsible to ensure that the water delivery system is at acceptable water quality quarterly. A licensed dentist shall be responsible for testing the water delivery system within 30 days of repair or changes to plumbing.

(a) Effective January 1, 2025, all dental unit water lines must be tested quarterly.

1. All water lines for each operatory or dental unit can be pooled as one single sample.

i. A pooled sample must use an equal amount of water from each water line.

ii. A pooled sample can have up to ten water lines included.

iii. The number of water lines pooled into one sample must be documented.

2. All water lines for each operatory or dental unit can be tested individually.

(b) In the event of an unacceptable level of colony-forming units or CFUs, a licensed dentist shall take immediate remedial action. For the purposes of this section, remedial action means any action necessary to reduce the CFUs to five hundred or a lesser number currently recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as acceptable for drinking water.

(c) A licensed dentist shall be responsible for recording the water delivery system testing and maintenance in the form of a log reflecting dates and person or persons conducting the test and reports from an independent testing entity. A licensed dentist shall maintain this documentation for a period of five years.”

Dr. Goggans asked Dr. Reznik if this language has been vetted before in another state. Dr. Reznik answered that the language, with the exception of what licensed dentists “must do” with regard to water testing was changed to “be responsible for”, came from Washington state. Dr. Reznik stated that the language was approved by their Board and are outside of the CDC rules to be very specific and have been tested in action.

Ms. Mattingly stated that this rule follows the CDC's guidelines. Dr. Reznik agreed but stated that the problem with the guidelines is that since they are not rules, they cannot be enforced. Dr. Reznik emphasized that this rule is necessary and that the issue needs to be addressed.

Dr. Knight recognized Dr. Jim Lopez for comments.

Dr. Lopez introduced himself as a former practicing pediatric dentist and orthodontist in Columbus, GA. Dr. Lopez stated that he agrees with Dr. Reznik that this is an important topic that needs to be addressed. Dr. Lopez advised that he has had numerous conversations regarding Dental waterline safety and mycobacterium abscesses infections in young children undergoing pulpotomy procedures. Dr. Lopez stated that Dr. Reznik should be applauded for his recommendations. Dr. Lopez commented that the only shortcoming of the recommendation is that historically there have always been failures and breakdowns in safety protocols. Dr. Lopez asked the Board if they would be interested in a way to further reduce or eliminate mycobacterium abscessus infections in young children undergoing pulpotomy procedures. Dr. Lopez asked the Board if they have read the book Black Box Thinking by Matthew Syed. Dr. Lopez stated that the thesis of the book is why most

people never learn from their mistakes, but some do. Dr. Lopez believes that this book should be required reading for anyone dealing with safety issues.

Dr. Lopez then proposed the questions why is it that *Mycobacterium abscessus* is fairly new in pediatric dentistry pulpotomy cases when tap water was regularly used as standard practice and why does Georgia lead the nation infections? Dr. Lopez explained he believes that he has an answer to both questions. Dr. Lopez advised that it is his opinion along with several others that the problem is due to the water source is contaminated with the introduction of ferric sulfate or ferrous sulfate is a substitute for formocresol.

Dr. Lopez advised that Dr. Martha Ann Keels, who is a pediatric dentist and epidemiologist agrees with his assessment. He feels that all pediatric dentists should know of Dr. Keels. Dr. Lopez paraphrased Dr. Keels' October 2016 writing, as to her thoughts as an epidemiologist on the issue, stating that a microbiologist will say that iron to ferritin is a super nutrient for mycobacteria. He advised that all the infected children in both clusters, Georgia and California, at that time received ferric sulfate pulpotomies, irons and nutrient for *Mycobacterium abscessus*. Dr. Lopez stated that Dr. Keels advises to consider not using ferric sulfates, since the science clearly shows mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) is far superior to formocresol or ferric sulfate.

Dr. Lopez stated he and others have reason to believe that first *Mycobacterium* outbreak in Georgia had ferrous sulfate pulpotomies in common.

Dr. Lopez quoted Dr. Jacob Lee, who wrote an article back in May 2023 published by Pediatric Dentistry Today, referring to the California outbreak, "... anecdotal reports theorize that because certain types of *Mycobacteria* are iron-loving, ferric-sulfate may contribute to the severity of *Mycobacteria* infections associated with pulpotomy procedures..."

He stated that he is upset because everyone knew what the problem was back in 2016 and that another outbreak should not have occurred. He closed with asking Dr. Reznik if he could get back with him about the number of children infected.

Dr. Stiehl asked if other states are using ferric sulfate and why is it just Georgia having the issue. Dr. Lopez advised that he has been fighting this issue for years being on the Board of Public Health and has met with the CDC.

Dr. Shilman commented that these are anecdotal reports that *Mycobacteria* are iron-loving and that if you use a product that contains iron you are more likely to infect. Ferric sulfate is widely used by pediatric dentists, is taught in most pediatric residencies still and is an accepted product by AAPD. She added that she agrees with Dr. Reznik that as long as the waterlines are clean and no mycobacteria are present in the waterline that pediatric dentists can use whatever medicaments that they are comfortable using and have been trained to use without infecting children and that it doesn't have anything to do with ferrous sulfate.

Dr. Knight asked if there was a motion to post. Dr. Reznik made a motion to post. Dr. Goggans seconded, and the Board voted in favor of the motion.

Sedation Site Evaluator Review – Dr. Cara DeLeon Graham

The Board had discussion about approving Dr. Cara DeLeon Graham to serve as a sedation site evaluator. Dr. Maron made a motion to approve. Dr. Goggans seconded, the Board voted in favor of the motion to approve.

Dr. Reznik wanted to remind everyone that Georgia Medicaid is now covering adults.

Ms. Mattingly asked that the Board staff post the meeting minutes.

Dr. Maron made a motion and Dr. Reznik 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, Ms. Misty Mattingly, Dr. Larry Miles, Dr. David Reznik, Ms. Lisa Selfe, Dr. Lisa Shilman, Dr. Brent Stiehl and Dr. Debra Wilson.

Executive Session

Appearances

- None

LOC Recommendations

C.G.S.	B.W.K.	J.E.T.
--------	--------	--------

Applications

S.A.R.	A.R.	A.P.	B.P.	B.P
G.J.	S.J.	D.E.	C.S.	S.F.
G.W.	J.Q.	K.S.	P.B.	R.E.D.
J.W.	P.D.	P.Y.	T.H.	

Correspondence

- A.S.
- F.A.

Investigative Committee's Referral Case List:

DENT250049	DENT250011	DENT250042	DENT230495
DENT250115	DENT250140	DENT180235	DENT220139
DENT230285	DENT250142	DENT220384	DENT240008
DENT240013	DENT240021	DENT240051	DENT250055
DENT250065	DENT250069	DENT250070	DENT250071
DENT250072	DENT250099	DENT250106	DENT240043
DENT250104			

Attorney General's Report – Mr. Tommy McNulty

- J.C.L.K. – AG referred back to Sedation committee to be reviewed.
- P.T. – OSAH Hearing December 16, 2024
- K.G.P. (Violation of Consent Order) – OSAH Hearing December 16, 2024
- P.B.K. (Revocation)
- S.S. (Suspension, failure to comply with Investigation)

Legal Services – Mr. Clint Joiner

OnMed Care Station Demonstration

Open Session

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

Applications

S.A.R.	Dental Exam Applicant	Approved
A.R.	Credentials	Approved
A.P.	Parenteral Conscious Sedation	Board needs additional information
B.P.	Parenteral Conscious Sedation	Board needs additional information
B.P.	Sedation - Change of Location	Approved
G.J.	Sedation permit	Referred to Sedation & Investigative Committees
S.J.	Request for Extension of provisional Moderate Parenteral CS Permit	Approved
D.E.	Dental Hygienist Reinstatement	Approved
C.S.	Dentist Reinstatement	Approved with \$500 Fine
S.F.	Dental Hygienist Reinstatement	Approved
G.W.	Dentist Reinstatement	Approved
J.Q.	Dental Hygienist Reinstatement	Approved
K.S.	Dental Hygienist Reinstatement	Approved with \$500 fine
P.B.	Dentist Reinstatement	Approved
R.E.D.	Dental Hygienist Reinstatement	Approved with \$500 fine
J.W.	Volunteer Dentist	Approved
P.D.	Volunteer Dentist	Approved
P.Y.	Volunteer Dentist	Approved
T.H.	Volunteer Dentist	Approved

Investigative Committee's Referral Case List:

Case #	Description	Recommendation
DENT250049	Unprofessional Conduct	Substantiated: Standard Consent order 5 years' probation/ \$500 Fine / Quarterly reporting.
DENT250011	Unprofessional Conduct	Substantiated: Referral to AG for Indefinite suspension until compliance
DENT250042	Unprofessional Conduct	Substantiated: Referral to AG for Revocation
DENT230495	Unprofessional Conduct	Substantiated: Referral to AG for Summary Suspension
DENT250115	Discussion: P.D.S.	
DENT250140	Quality of Care	Referral to AG
DENT180235 / DENT220139 / DENT230285	Discussion on documents in SharePoint	
DENT250142	Discussion: Action by other Board/ open complaints filed FY2025	Substantiated: Referral for Indefinite suspension (until such time as NY license is Unincumbered)
DENT220384	Peer Review – Below Standard of Care	Substantiated: Referral to AG for Revocation
DENT240008		Close Outside Board Authority
DENT240012	Unprofessional Conduct	Close Outside Board Authority
DENT240013	Quality of Care/ Service & Unprofessional Conduct	Close Outside Board Authority
DENT240021	Unprofessional Conduct	Close Outside Board Authority
DENT240051	Quality of Care/ Service & Unprofessional Conduct	Close Outside Board Authority
DENT250055		Close No Action
DENT250065	Quality of Care/ Service & Unprofessional Conduct	Close No Action
DENT250069	Unprofessional Conduct	Close No Action

DENT250070	Unprofessional Conduct	Close Outside Board Authority
DENT250071	Quality of Care/ Service & Unprofessional Conduct	Close Outside Board Authority
DENT250072	Quality of Care/ Service & Unprofessional Conduct	Close Outside Board Authority
DENT250099	Quality of Care/ Service & Unprofessional Conduct	Close No Action
DENT250106	Quality of Care/ Service & Unprofessional Conduct	Close Outside Board Authority
DENT240043	Quality of Care	Unsubstantiated: Close with letter of concern
DENT250104	Quality of Care	Unsubstantiated: Close with letter of concern

Dr. Shilman 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 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Georgia Board of Dentistry will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University, 1430 John Wesley Gilbert Drive, Augusta, GA 30912

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