

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN DENTISTRY
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
18 APRIL 2012**

A meeting of the Board of Examiners in Dentistry was held on the above date at the RI Department of Health, Beck Conference Room, Providence, Rhode Island. A quorum was established and the Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Board members in attendance were: Board members not in attendance were:

Christine Benoit, DMD, Acting-Chairwoman Louis Marciano

Carleton Cappuccino, DMD

Henry Levin, DMD

Joseph G. Samartano, Jr., DDS

Thomas Bertrand, MPH

Susan Perlini, RDH, BS, Secretary

Maureen Ross, RDH, BS

Robert Bartro, DMD

Robert Ricci, Ed D

Staff members in attendance were: Others in attendance were:

Linda Phillips, Board Administrator Kerri Friel, RI Dental Assistants

Association

Patrick Kelly, PharmD, RPH Valerie G. Celentano, RI Dental Association

Catherine A. Cordy, RPH

Linda Esposito

Linda Julian

The Acting-Chairwoman, Dr Benoit called for a motion to approve the OPEN Minutes of 14 March 2012. Upon motion of Dr. Levin, seconded by Dr. Cappuccino, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

Dental Licensure

None issued

Dental Hygiene Licensure

None issued

At this time, Ms. Cordy discussed the process of writing letters of support to the chair people of a legislative committee from the Board, as in the case of supporting the addition of a certified dental assistant to the Board. Ms. Cordy explained that the Board passed a vote to add a certified dental assistant to the Board. We, the Board then asked the DOH to put forward support of this legislation in the form of a letter and verbal testimony to the legislators. The letter of support

written by the Board goes to the DOH lobbyist, David Heckman. The letter is also drafted into a format which is consistent with all the letters of support for legislators written by the Department and is signed by the Director of Health, Dr. Fine.

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The letter will be sent to the legislators and viewed by the Board at the next meeting. Members of the Board can not testify on behalf of the Board. The members may however provide verbal or written testimony as an oral health professionals in the community at large. After much discussion, the Board continues to maintain their position to add a certified dental assistant to the Board. Although we do not regulate dental assistants, the Board finds it is important to include them in committee.

Regulatory issues discussed involved the need to clarify the Rules and Regulations for a Volunteer Dentist License. The language in the rules and regulation is in conflict with the statute. It was decided that it is the Board's intention to maintain the highest standard of care and to ensure that licensed dental providers are up to date with the

current practice standards. To correct the disparity in the language it will be necessary to amend the practice act to reflect those intentions. With the Board's approval, the DOH will work on legislative language to amend the statute, since statutory changes need to be done by October. The Department will review the entire dental practice act and if necessary may recommend changes to meet the national standards. The regulatory changes will then follow the proposed statutory changes if passed into legislation.

Dental licensing will continue to be congruent with the current licensure process in the Department of Health. There was a discussion about a regulatory change in student licensure to match their period of training.

A survey from the AADA boards was sent asking whether or not dentists in RI were allowed to perform a list of cosmetic procedures. The response is we currently do not have any laws prohibiting a dentist from performing any of the procedures listed. The Board discussed making regulatory changes that would state "with the specific training and coursework outlined" a dentist would then be allowed to perform the listed procedures.

At this time we had the honor of a presentation from the Director of Health, Dr. Michael Fine, MD.

Dr. Fine thanked everyone for their time and commitment. He stated that the work of all Board is important. Their main focus is that of the

DOH, which is to help protect the health and safety of the public of RI. Dr. Fine is working on a collaborative approach with the various professional disciplines to achieve this goal. He said Boards reinforce the meaning of professionalism. The new emphasis going forward is on professionalism as un-self-interested advocacy. The various Boards and Commissions new public members will be recruited from all communities. Dr. Fine discussed the new PMP monitoring program to help decrease the number of deaths from drug prescription overdose. It was an honor to have Dr. Fine meet with our Board and we gratefully appreciate that he took the time to do so.

Dr. Benoit will represent the RI Dental Board at the AADA mid-year meeting in Chicago, IL on April 21-23, 2012.

At this time, the chairwoman, called for a motion to adjourn the “OPEN Session” and enter into the “CLOSED Executive Session” for the purpose of discussing disciplinary matters pursuant to the applicable exceptions of the “Open Meeting Law”, so called Chapter 42-46-5 sub-division (1) and (4) of the General Laws. Upon motion by Dr.Samartano, seconded by Dr. Levin, the Board entered into CLOSED session at 9:45 a.m.

At this time Ms. Celentano and Ms. Friel excused themselves from the meeting.

The Board returned to OPEN Session at 11:35 am.

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Sealing of the CLOSED Executive Minutes

The Chairman called for a motion to seal the minutes of the “CLOSED Executive Session” of 14 March 2012 meeting pursuant to Section 42-46 (1) and (2). Upon motion of Dr. Samartano, seconded by Dr. Levin, the Board voted unanimously to seal the CLOSED minutes of that meeting as presented.

The next meeting of the Board will be held 16 May 2012 at 8:45 am in the Beck Conference Room.

Upon motion of Dr. Levin, seconded by Ms, Perlini, it was unanimously VOTED by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Perlini

**Susan Perlini, RDH, BS, Secretary
RI Board of Examiners in Dentistry**