

Iowa Dental Board Report - November 2019

The Iowa Dental Board meeting was held Friday, November 15, 2019. Attending the meeting were representatives from the Iowa Dental Association including administrative staff, trustees, and elected representatives, from the Iowa Dental Hygiene Association and their lobbyist, and from the Iowa Pharmacy Board. The meeting was brief due to a commitment to attend the Harkin Institute meeting.

There were a few notable issues discussed. Notably, the board discussed proposed legislation for 2020 which included allowing dental assistants to place sealants. Agreement on this legislative proposal required cooperation between the Iowa Dental Association, Iowa Dental Hygiene Association, and the dental board. Currently, there is legislative intent language that prevents the board from adopting rules that delegate to a dental assistant the placement of sealants. The board will present an amendment to the Iowa Code that states "Only dental assistants who have successfully completed expanded function training through the University of Iowa or a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation may be permitted to place sealants." The legislature must pass this legislation before assistants are allowed to place sealants.

A report from the Anesthesia Credentials Committee showed a discussion of a recommendation that dental facilities have Narcan/Naloxone in the office as an emergency drug even when narcotics or opioids are not being administered by the dentist. The opioid crisis was the reason for the recommendation. No decision was made at this time.

An administrative rules revision regarding mandatory reporter training for child abuse and dependent adult abuse was approved. Effective January 22, 2020 a two hour initial training course will be offered by the Department of Human Services within six months of employment or prior to the expiration of a current license. Recertification will require a one hour course every three years thereafter.

The next dental board meeting is scheduled on January 23-24, 2020. Please consider attending the meeting. The dental board respects and appreciates the attendance and involvement of dental licensees.

Dr. Stephen R. Thies
Iowa Academy of General Dentistry Legislative Chair