

Iowa Dental Board Report

The Iowa Dental Board meeting was held Friday, January 29, 2021 via Zoom. As usual the meeting was well attended with representatives from the Iowa Dental Association (IDA) and their lobbyist; the Iowa Dental Hygiene Association (IDHA) and their lobbyist; Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH); Delta Dental; and a few licensees. The meeting covered multiple issues.

Dr. Bruce Horn, Director of Dental Exams for the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB), gave a very interesting presentation about the nonpatient examination using a typodont on a simulated patient model. There were multiple models representing and testing, Class II and III decay, 3 unit bridge preparation, and periodontal scaling to remove deposits. There was a written portion requiring written answers to various posed dental situations. Dental situations were presented that required treatment plans from students to evaluate the student's thought process. The test examiners were well prepared to carefully evaluate student responses.

Rulemaking involving public health supervision of dental hygienists was discussed. The board received numerous comments from licensees about public health supervision. The board recommended allowing more time for the board members to carefully review the many comments from licensees. Both the Iowa Dental Association (IDA) and the Iowa Academy of General Dentistry (IAGD) spoke to the board and recommended retaining the current list of permissible locations for public health supervision as per the recent "Board Statement on Public Health Supervision". Public treatment is intended for the dental patient population with limited or no finances and no dental insurance. Both the IDA and the IAGD were concerned about recent recommendations to expand the list of permissible locations to include nonprofit entities with the intent and ability to file insurance claims for reimbursement and to collect payment from patients. Patients with insurance and financial ability should be referred to a "dental home" meaning a dental practice. No decision was made. The board will have more discussion at the next board meeting.

Rulemaking involving the supervision level for hygienists when administering local anesthesia and nitrous oxide was discussed. Currently direct supervision, meaning the dentist must be in the office, during hygiene administration of local anesthesia and nitrous oxide is required. General supervision, meaning the supervising dentist

is not in the office during the administration of local anesthesia and nitrous, is being considered. No decision was made. The issue will be discussed again at the next board meeting.

A Notice of Intended Action allowing expanded function level 1 dental assistants to bond orthodontic brackets to teeth will be drafted.

Multiple requests by recent graduate dentists for waivers to dental licensure by allowing acceptance of WREB mannequin exam were approved.

A bill, HSB 71, allowing vaccine administration by dentists has been filed in the House of Representatives. At the time of this meeting, HSB 71 was still in Human Resources subcommittee. Research by the IDB found 14 states allowing or considering dentist administered vaccination.

Expanded function level 2 sealant placement by dental assistants was not discussed. A Notice of Intended Action was filed January 13 and responses will be accepted from licensees until February 5, 2021 at 4:30. The issue will be discussed at the next dental board meeting April 2, 2021. Please consider commenting in support of expanded function level 1 placement by dental assistants.

Comments for all Notices of Intended Actions should be directed to:

Iowa Dental Board

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The role of dentists in managing sleep related breathing disorders was briefly discussed. The dental profession has an important part in identifying and managing sleep and airway disorders. Sleep disorders affect a substantial portion of the population resulting in multiple health disorders. The role of the dentist in treating sleep and airway disorders will become a regulatory issue for the board in the future. More information and discussion is needed before the board can make rules regarding sleep disorder and airway treatment by dentists.

The hands on component of CPR for initial enrollment and for renewal will not be required during the Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency.

The next dental board meeting is scheduled in April 2, 2021. Please consider attending the meeting. The meetings are now via Zoom. Zoom makes the meeting very accessible to all dentists in the state. The dental board respects and appreciates the attendance and involvement of dental licensees. Our presence and voices make a difference. Please consider attending.

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