

Iowa Dental Board

The Iowa Dental Board meeting was held Friday, April 2, 2021 via Zoom. There were over 30 attendees. The attendees included multiple representatives from the Iowa Dental Association (IDA) and their lobbyist; the Iowa Dental Hygiene Association (IDHA) and their lobbyist; multiple members of the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH); multiple members of Delta Dental; and a few licensees. The meeting was involved and covered many issues.

Board member transitions occurred. Lori Elmitt, Public Member, and Nancy Slach, R.D.H. have served full terms. This was their last meeting. Jill Stuecker, formerly the Executive Director, has resigned and taken a position with Delta Dental of Iowa. Tiffany Allison will serve as interim director until a full time executive director is hired. A search committee was formed to seek and review applicants for the executive director's position.

There was continued intense discussion involving Public Health Supervision and settings. The board decided not to change the rule for public health settings. The board clarification as published November 13, 2020 expresses the board decision regarding public health supervision.

A proposal to allow expanded functions dental assistants to place brackets on teeth in an orthodontic practice was discussed. An expanded function committee was formed to study the proposed expanded function. A report will be made at the next board meeting.

The bill in the house involving sealant placement by expanded function dental assistants is on hold due to legislative activity. The senate subcommittee considered this a scope of practice issue and recommended that the stakeholders seek a compromise.

A Sleep Study Work Group headed by Dr. Greg Ceraso has been formed and met twice. The goal is to develop guidelines for dentists treating Oral Sleep Apnea.

A continuing education course Impact Immunization Training involving immunization vaccinations by dentists was approved. The course will meet the requirements for vaccinations by dentists when the legislature approves dentist administered vaccinations.

Interestingly, a proposal to allow "Post-Graduate Residency (PGY1)" as a pathway to licensure for dental school graduates was briefly discussed. California and New York offer post graduate residency as optional part of the licensure process.

The next dental board meeting is scheduled in June 11, 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. Again please consider attending and making your voice heard.

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