



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
PO Box 47852 · Olympia Washington 98504-7852

## **BOARD OF DENTURISTS MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, June 6, 2024

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Board Members Present: Josh Brooks, Chair  
Cody Carson, Vice-Chair  
Melissa Brulotte  
Keith Gressell, DMD  
Shirlynn Walter, Public Member  
James Anderson  
Vallan Charron, Pro-Tem Member  
Szilard Zombor, Pro-Tem Member

Staff Present: Adriana Barcena, Program Manager  
Trina Crawford, Executive Director  
Cassandra Gerard, Administrative Support  
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)  
Catharine Roner-Reiter, Supervising Staff Attorney

Guest Speakers: Ratna Craig  
Elizabeth Geisler

**Thursday, June 6, 2024**

### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The open session of the business meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Josh Brooks, Chair.

1.1 Introduction of board members, staff, and audience

The board members, staff, and audience were introduced.

1.2 Public Comment – The public will have an opportunity to provide comments. If you would like to comment during this time, please limit your comments to two minutes.

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HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

Please identify yourself and who you represent, if applicable, when the Chair opens the floor for public comment.

No public comments were directed to the board at this time.

1.3 Approval of agenda

A motion was made to approve the June 6, 2024 agenda as presented. The motion was seconded, and the board unanimously approved the June 6, 2024 agenda as presented.

1.4 Approval of January 26, 2024, business meeting minutes

A motion was made to approve the January 26, 2024 business meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded, and the board unanimously approved the January 26, 2024 business meeting minutes as presented.

1.5 Approval of April 30, 2024 special meeting minutes.

A motion was made to approve the April 30, 2024 special meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded, and the board unanimously approved the April 30, 2024 special meeting minutes as presented.

**2. HEALTH CARE ENFORCEMENT LICENSING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (HELMS) –** the board received an update on HELMS from Ratna Craig.

Ms. Craig and Ms. Geisler provided an overview of the HELMS project, organizational structure, and release timelines.

**3. 2024 BOARD MEETING DATES –** The board reviewed the current meeting schedule as there may be conflicts with the Digital Denture Study Club in November.

Mr. Brooks shared there is a schedule conflict between the board meeting and the Digital Denture Study Club on November 15, 2024.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to move the board meeting from November 15, 2024, to November 8, 2024 at 12pm.

**4. 2024 LEGISLATION**

4.1 Information was provided to the board on any legislation introduced that may have an impact on them.

Ms. Barcena explained no legislation affected the denturist profession during the 2024 session.

**5. SPRING 2024 EXAMINATIONS**

- 5.1 The board received statistics for the clinical examinations that were held on March 15 and March 16, 2024.

Ms. Barcena shared the board administered the clinical (practical) examination in March 2024. Of the eleven students, six students passed with three who failed and two who requested to reschedule. As of May 20, 2024, five of these students have passed the written examination.

- 5.2 The board determined who will be in attendance for the August 23-24 practical examination.

Mr. Brooks, Mr. Carson, Mr. Charron, and Ms. Brulotte will attend the August 23-24 practical examination.

- 5.3 Guidelines for examinations – The board reviewed the newly effective policy for applicants to have completed the written examination before participating in the practical examination.

Ms. Barcena shared effective June 2024, candidates will now be required to successfully pass the written examination prior to completing their clinical examination. The board voted on this decision in August 2023. She will distribute the information to instructors, post to The Department of Health website, and send notice through GovDelivery.

**6. JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE** – Committee meeting held on May 14, 2024 – Val Charron, James Anderson and Szilard Zombor.

Mr. Charron shared the committee reviewed the current test questions, made corrections, and added sections covering recent rule changes. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to accept the jurisprudence exam as edited.

**7. DENTAL EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE** – Committee meetings held on March 21, and April 9, 2024 – Josh Brooks and Dr. Gressell.

Mr. Brooks and Dr. Gressell updated the board on the recent education outreach committee meetings. Mr. Brooks mentioned the committee is looking for any dental related articles for future newsletters.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA - CORRESPONDENCE**

The following item(s) and any additional correspondence received or sent is for the board's information. If separate discussion is desired on an item, a single motion by a board member will place the specific item(s) on the regular business agenda. If there is no motion, there will be no discussion.

- 8.1 Denturist Licensing – Mobile Services

Ms. Barcena shared a question posed by a denturist license applicant concerning which location address to use on their application when providing mobile services. The board discussed and suggested the address of the company that has contracted the service, or the applicants home address could be used and does not require a denturist alternative location license for each travel location.

8.2 Infection Control Guidelines – Mobile Services

Ms. Barcena shared a question she received regarding infection control guidelines for mobile denturists in a senior center environment. Ms. Carter suggested referencing the recently adopted rules requiring licensed denturists to develop and maintain written infection control policies, procedures and requirements for infection prevention and control that are appropriate for services provided. The infection control rules are outlined in WAC 246-812-501 and WAC 246-812-520.

9. **PROGRAM MANAGEMENT REPORT** – Information provided to the board by the Executive Director and Program Manager.

9.1 Discipline Decision Making Criteria

Ms. Barcena shared a list of updated decision-making criteria for exception applications received by the board. The board discussed and a motion was made to approve. The motion was seconded, and the board unanimously approved the updated exception application decision making criteria.

9.2 Interim Operating Budget Report

Ms. Crawford shared the budget report with the board. She commented that the balance has been trending upwards and evenly. No concerns about program spending currently.

9.3 Licensing and disciplinary statistics

Ms. Barcena provided licensure and disciplinary statistics to the board. Statistics are as follows:

<b>CREDENTIAL STATUS</b>	<b>DENTURIST LICENSURE</b>	<b>DENTURIST ALTERNATE LOCATIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Active	149	15	163
Revoked	5	---	5
Suspended	8	2	10
Active with Conditions	2	---	2
Inactive	2	---	2
Active on Probation	---	---	0

Retired Active	5	---	5
Voluntary Surrender	1	---	1

9.4 Board recruitment update

Ms. Barcena shared the second public member position remains vacant and recruitment will continue. Ms. Crawford clarified the requirements of the public member position to the board.

9.5 Other

There was no other business presented to the board at this time.

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An executive session was held under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation with legal counsel.

**11. RULES WORKSHOP – 1PM**

The department reviewed WAC 246-812-120 Eligibility and application requirements, WAC 246-812-125 Endorsement, and 246-812-159 Continuing competency to begin the rules drafting process.

Ms. Barcena shared the preproposal statement of inquiry was filed on April 26, 2024 to comply with House Bill 1724 Section 8 – Substantially Equivalent Licensing Standards. The proposed language reflects removing all examinations from initial licensure and endorsement requirements and to include the jurisprudence examination in continuing education requirements. The board discussed the importance of the jurisprudence examination prior to licensure. Carolyn Logue commented that making the jurisprudence examination part of the continuing education requirements would be beneficial. Trish Flaig representing Washington State Dental Association (WSDA) commented that the jurisprudence exam seems necessary to prove the understanding of Washington state law specific to the dentist practice. Ms. Flaig agrees it is important to maintain the jurisprudence examination as an ongoing continuing education requirement. Melissa Johnson representing WSDA commented that the jurisprudence examination is not a substantial barrier to licensure and agrees providers should be aware of Washington State law. Ms. Carter confirmed current dentist rule does not require the jurisprudence examination at renewal, but does allow a maximum of two hours of continuing education every three years for those who choose to complete the examination. A motion was made to withdraw the rulemaking package regarding substantially equivalent licensing standards. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The board would like to discuss the possibility of making the jurisprudence examination an annual renewal requirement. The board will have further discussion in a future meeting.

## 12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Jurisprudence examination requirement for license renewal
- Budget report
- Licensing and disciplinary statistics
- Update on the Dental Educational Outreach Committee

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the business meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m. on Thursday June 6, 2024. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 2024, and will be held in-person with a virtual component.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Approved By:

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Adriana Barcena, Program Manager

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Josh Brooks, Chair  
Board of Denturists