

# Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners

600 East Amite Street, Suite 100

Jackson, MS. 39201

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD**

### **Teleconference Board Meeting**

3/30/2020; 12:00 Noon

Conference Call-In: 1-605-562-0400; Participant Access Code: 294 3566

Roll Call by Conference Call-In:

Irons\_ Conaway\_ Harkins\_ Williams\_ Smith\_ Richoux\_ Moore\_ Porter\_

All Board members were present. Stan Ingram, Board Counsel, made his participation known and introduced the assignment from the Attorney General's office, AG Walley. Also on the call from Staff was Chris Hutchinson, Executive Director, Nick Hardwick and James Grimes from the investigative staff. Many public participants were on the call, but only a few made their identities known.

At 12:05 PM, Dr. Moore (Vice-President) called the meeting to order.

The first item on the agenda was the Discussion and Recommendation on the possible extension of the MDH Mandate on Emergency-Only Procedures. Dr. Moore asked Mr. Hutchinson to give a short presentation on the happenings and comparisons of other state dental boards. Mr. Hutchinson gave a synopsis on his call with Dr. Thomas Dobbs, the Executive Director and State Agent with the Mississippi Department of Health. (Report attached to these minutes.) Mr. Hutchinson then gave a detailed comparison of plans, orders, and mandates from other states. (Also attached to these minutes.) In conclusion, Mr. Hutchinson made his recommendation to the Board to extend the current emergency/urgent only procedures mandate through April 17<sup>th</sup>. Following this presentation, Dr. Irons made a Motion to extend the mandate until April 30, 2020, Seconded by Richoux. Dr. Moore then asked for discussion on this Motion. Discussion was had on the pros and cons of this extension weighed against a shorter extension. Following discussion, Conaway made a Motion to Amend the current Motion and Modify the extension through 4/17/2020; Seconded by Porter. Moore called for a Vote to this Modification and All were in Favor to extend the current emergency/urgent procedures only

through 4/17/2020; None opposed. The Amendment to the Motion Passed. Therefore, the Original Motion Failed.

As part of this agenda item, Conaway made Motion to cancel the April 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting, Seconded by Porter; All were in Favor; None Opposed. Therefore, the April 17<sup>th</sup> Regularly scheduled Board Meeting was cancelled. At this vote, discussion was turned toward each Board Member's schedules to choose an alternate date for the Board Meeting. Irons Made Motion to schedule 5/1/2020 for this Board Meeting; Conaway Seconded; All were in Favor, None Opposed. Therefore, the Motion to have the regularly scheduled Board Meeting on 5/1/2020 beginning at 8:30 AM at its Board Meeting facilities was Passed.

At this point, still within the first agenda item, Dr. Conaway made Motion to schedule a Telephonic Board Meeting on 4/15/2020 to discuss the possibility of either extending the agreed upon mandate extension or releasing the mandate, dependent on the progression of the COVID-19 virus in the State. Irons Seconded that Motion and discussion was had. Following discussion, the Board agreed that 12:00 Noon on April 15<sup>th</sup> would be the most reasonable timeframe for the Telephonic meeting and a Vote was taken. All agreed unanimously; None Opposed. Therefore, the Motion to schedule an additional telephonic Board Meeting to discuss the current mandate of emergency/urgent procedures only was scheduled for 4/15/2020 at 12:00 Noon was Passed.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, Dr. Moore posed a question to the Board to allow "final cementation of crowns and work in progress to be completed on procedures that, if not completed, could result in harm to the patient" be added to procedures-allowable as Urgent Care during this mandate. Discussion was had. Moore made the Motion, Seconded by Conaway; All were in Favor; the Motion Passed.

The Next item on the Agenda was a discussion on Complaints Received on Failure to Adhere to the current Mandate by Mr. Hutchinson. Mr. Hutchinson gave a short presentation on complaints received by the Board that many dentists were still conducting routine examinations and hygiene appointments. Mr. Hutchinson wanted to point to a Miss. Code section that these actions could be enforceable by the Health Department as a felony. Discussion was had and questions by Board members were entertained. The Board agreed to allow disciplinary action to those licensees violating the mandate *only* within the regulatory authority of this Board. The Board agreed that violators could be made aware of such a Health Department Statute, but to not take such action formally. No Board action was taken, only a board determination for the investigative staff.

The final item on the agenda was Discussion of Online CE Courses and what future action the Board could conduct or amend to aid dentists with their CE requirements. Dr. Moore and Dr. Harkins spoke on this subject. Harkins made Motion to allow up to 20-hours of online continuing education credit for 2020, and 10-hours online continuing education credit for Hygienists. It was also discussed that these online credits do not need to be live-action

webinars with live interaction; they could be entirely an online course. Williams Seconded this Motion; All were in Favor, None Opposed. The Motion Passed.

Williams then posed a question to the Board in relation to the ability for the Dental School be allowed a patient-less exam for the graduates of the dental school. He added further questions in discussion of allowable and acceptable exam modifications for Year Four Dental students. The Board agreed collectively to allow Dr. Felton to make a presentation to the Board at the next Regular Board Meeting for the Board to determine the best action to take. This discussion was tabled until May 1, 2020.

Hearing no further business to be conducted by the Board, Dr. Irons Made Motion to Adjourn; Seconded by Conaway; All were in Favor, None Opposed. At 12:59 PM, the telephonic meeting of the Board was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON THIS DATE \_\_\_\_\_ OF 2020.

---

STEVEN MARK PORTER, DDS (SECRETARY)