

**Oregon Health Licensing Agency  
Board of Denture Technology  
Minutes for February 26, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joe Coss, Denturist  
Tad Burzynski, Vice-Chairperson  
Joe Hammar, Denturist  
Todd Young, Chairperson  
Genie Uebelacker, Public Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Betty Taylor, Denturist

**STAFF PRESENT**

Susan Wilson, Director  
Larry Peck, Regulatory Operations Division Manager  
Samantha Patnode, Board Liaison

**AUDIENCE MEMBERS**

Jim Davis, OSDA

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Todd Young, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Denture Technology to order at 9:08 a.m. on Monday, February 26, 2007, at the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) in the Rhoades Conference Room, 700 Summer St NE, Suite 320, Salem, Oregon.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION**

Mr. Hammar made a motion and Ms. Taylor seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed with Mr. Hammar, Mr. Burzynski, Mr. Hammar, Mr. Young, and Ms. Uebelacker voting aye.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION**

Mr. Hammar made a motion and Mr. Burzynski seconded to approve the September 25, 2006 meeting minutes. The motion passed with Mr. Hammar, Mr. Burzynski, Mr. Young, Ms. Taylor, and Ms. Uebelacker voting aye.

Mr. Coss arrived at the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Revenues and Expenditures (tape 1, counter number 27)

Ronald Riggs, OHLA Fiscal Services Division Manager, reported July 1, 2005 through December 31, 2006, biennium revenue showing a beginning balance of \$11,347 as of July 1, 2005. He stated that the estimated end of the biennium balance is \$9,447.

There was discussion regarding the status of fees. Mr. Burzynski inquired if the \$21 uniform fee package was going to pass. Ms. Wilson replied that the uniform fee proposal as of today is not going to pass and that the \$695 fee for denture technologists would remain in effect until the deficit is paid off. Mr. Young asked why the \$21 uniform is not passing. Ms. Wilson replied that

the committee questioned the merits of a uniform fee since it is a departure from the traditional methodology for funding boards. Ms. Wilson presented an overview of how issues debated the request for the agency's Personnel Pack 101. Both packages were denied and not recommended to the full Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Jim Davis, Oregon State Dental Association lobbyist, stated that this seemed to be an irrational legislative decision to oppose an efficiency and reduction in a fee. He stated that he contacted all the committee members and senior groups. Mr. Davis recommended that there be continued explanation offered to the legislation on the uniform fee proposal.

Online Renewal (tape 1, counter number 126)

Mr. Riggs stated there were a total of nine online renewals from June 2006 through January 2007 for denture technology. Mr. Burzynski inquired if online renewals are being encouraged. Mr. Riggs replied that online renewals are being encouraged, because it's faster and down the road there maybe an online discount offered. Mr. Coss stated that OHLA will be attending the OSDA in March and one of topics that will be discussed is online renewals.

Enforcement (tape 1, counter number 155)

Mike Tryon, Chief Enforcement Officer, reported the Board of Denture Technology percentage of overall OHLA complaints received for 2006.

January 1 through December 31, 2006:

- Total Number of Licenses – 100
- Total Number of Complaints – 11
- Overall Percent of OHLA Complaints – 4%

He presented statistical complaint information for January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006;

**January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006**

Complaints Received – 11

Proposed Orders – 0

Final Orders – 0

Mr. Tryon presented a four year comparison report detailing the increase and decrease in complaints received, the ratio of complaints per licensee base, and orders written for 2003 to 2006.

He drew the Board's attention to a summary of the five complaints closed since the October 6, 2006, council meeting and the three open cases waiting for further action.

Mr. Young brought to the Board's attention that a dentist in Canada that is providing dentures via mail. He stated that the dentist sends an impression kit for the individual to take their own impression of their teeth and send it back, then he sends a bite rim and the individual takes the bite and returns it by mail. Mr. Coss stated that the Board has never addressed fitting of dentures by mail.

Mr. Young pointed out there is still a problem with getting a large enough pool of licensed investigators who can meet the current criteria established by the board. He stated that part of the problem is that some individuals do not meet the partials requirement and are being

excluded from being contract investigators. There was discussion around the need to consider two categories of contract investigators. Ms. Tamamoto, Enforcement Service Specialist stated that the current criteria, includes passing the partial test to qualify. Mr. Coss suggested that the investigator who is qualified to do partial investigations be available for those special cases. Mr. Hammar inquired when OHLA enforcement receives a complaint, are they aware if whether it is a full or partial denture complaint. Mr. Peck stated the type of procedure is obvious and easy for OHLA staff to determine.

#### MOTION

Mr. Coss made a motion and Mr. Burzynski seconded that contract investigators without partial certification are allowed to investigate complaints involving full dentures only; and individuals with a valid partial certification are allowed to investigate both full and partial denture complaints. The motion passed with Ms. Uebelacker, Mr. Young, Mr. Hammer, Mr. Coss, Mr. Burzynski voting aye.

#### Licensing (tape 1, counter number 257)

Cerynthia Murphy, Licensing Supervisor, provided the Board with statistics from February 15, 2007 which included a breakdown for each field of practice;

- Total number of **active** – 102
- Total number of **inactive** – 25
- Total number of **expired** – 101
- Denturist with Oral Pathology endorsement – 96

Ms. Murphy reported on statistics for January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006 which reflects the licensing total for the following areas.

#### January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

- Original Licenses Issued – 8
- Licenses Renewed – 96
- Late renewals – 8
- Total – 104

She presented a four year comparison report detailing the increase and decrease in licensing transactions from 2003 to 2006.

#### Continuing Education Audit (tape 1, counter number 271)

Ms. Murphy explained that during the September 25, 2006, Denture Technology Board meeting, the board was provided with a status report of the 2005 continuing education audit. She stated at the time the status report was given, one licensee had been sent an audit notification letter requiring them to provide verification of having completed 30 hours of continuing education. The one licensee submitted enough continuing education hours to meet the audit requirements.

#### Examinations

Ms. Murphy presented a four year comparison report detailing the increase and decrease in pass/fail rates including the number of examinations administered and the percent passing from

2004 to 2006.

She reported the examination results for January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006:

- Written Examination  
    Number Conducted – 13  
    Percent Passing – 54%
- Practical Examination  
    Number Conducted – 4  
    Percent Passing – 100%

Ms. Murphy provided an overview of the examination results for January 1, 2007 to date:

- Written Examination  
    Number Conducted – 2  
    Percent Passing – 0%
- Practical Examination  
    Number Conducted – 0  
    Percent Passing – 0%

Out of State Training Qualifications and Examination (tape 1, counter number 275)

Ms. Murphy stated that Examination Sub-committee met on December 4, 2006 and reviewed and approved the following educational institutions:

- George Brown's written and practical examinations are equivalent to Oregon's.
- NAIT's practical examination is equivalent to Oregon's.
- Vancouver B.C. Community College's practical examination is equivalent to Oregon's.
- Bates Technical College written and practical were not equivalent to Oregon's.

The education committee reviewed and approved the following state denturist licensing programs:

- Montana's Department Labor & Industry Denturist Program,
- Maine's Denture Technology Program and
- Washington's Denture Technology Program.

Applicants coming from these states must present a current affidavit of licensure, with no disciplinary actions and 30 contact hours of continuing education, six hours of the required 30 must be directly related to partial denture services.

This is in lieu of taking the written or practical examinations and completion of the 1000 hours in the practice of denture technology.

Mr. Coss asked if the out-of-state licensing program applies to the second pathway. Ms. Murphy replied that the out-of-state licensing program does apply to the second pathway.

Examinations (tape 1, counter number 313)

Ms. Murphy provided the Board with two reports, which show yearly and monthly comparisons of the written, practical and oral pathology examinations from 2003 to date. She stated that

the reports include pass / fail numbers, number of examinations conducted and percent of passing scores.

Mr. Young explained that there are two portions to the written examination, 345 written questions and 25 oral pathology slides. The oral pathology slides are the same for every exam. He stated that candidates may fail the written examination and receive a high score on the oral pathology exam, which when factored together result in a passing score overall. Mr. Young suggested that the oral pathology percentage factor be changed. Ms. Murphy also suggested eliminating the photo portion of the oral pathology section entirely. Mr. Young agreed that deleting the visual identification of oral path disorders on descriptions on the written examination would be good. Mr. Coss pointed out the advantage of photographs in the exam. Stating that this requires the denturist to properly identify oral pathology. Mr. Burzynski stated that part of the criteria of oral pathology is to have the depth of understanding to be able to refer. Mr. Young explained that the Board's role is to protect the public, and reiterated that it is not protecting the public when an individual is failing the entire written examination, but still passes with the combined oral pathology score because they score high on only 25 questions. The Board deferred the issue to the Exam Committee to review the questions to see what questions individuals are failing, and requested a report at the next board meeting. Mr. Burzynski suggested deleting the entire oral pathology picture section, because it is already included in the written examination. Ms. Uebelacker stated that the oral pathology is very important, but felt that it doesn't have to be included twice in the exam. Mr. Young inquired if there still needed to be tiered questions in the oral pathology examination. Ms. McCallister replied that the oral pathology test does not have to be a tiered exam, but it would need to be rewritten.

#### MOTION

Mr. Coss made a motion and Ms. Uebelacker seconded that the picture portion of the oral pathology examination be eliminated from the examination and rely on the written oral pathology segment to evaluate and test the competency of the candidate.

#### DISCUSSION

Mr. Hammar stated, the picture portion of the oral pathology examination should not be eliminated, because it is important for patient safety. Mr. Burzynski explained that it is easier for individuals to pass the test right now with the combined scores. He questioned how that may protect the public. Mr. Young emphasized oral pathology can be tested without the pictures.

The motion passed with Mr. Coss, Mr. Hammar, Mr. Burzynski, Mr. Young, and Ms. Uebelacker voting aye.

Mr. Young reiterated that if the Oral Pathology portion of the exam is not eliminated, then the Sub-Committee will need to review the oral pathology questions and evaluate where individuals are failing and why.

#### MOTION

Mr. Burzynski made a motion and Mr. Coss seconded to refer the oral pathology questions to the examination committee for review. The motion passed with Mr. Coss, Mr. Hammar, Mr. Burzynski, Mr. Young, and Ms. Uebelacker voting aye.

There was further discussion regarding adding a requirement of four hours of oral pathology for continuing education in a three-year period.

MOTION

Mr. Hammar made a motion and Mr. Coss seconded that a requirement of four hours every three year period for oral pathology be added. The motion passed with Mr. Coss, Mr. Hammar, Mr. Burzynski, Mr. Young, and Ms. Uebelacker voting aye.

Arizona Certification (tape 1, counter number 580)

Ms. Murphy stated that Arizona is seeking certification of the practice of denture technology and requested Oregon's written and practical examination. Mr. Young asked if there a potential for this testing company to take over Oregon's testing. Ms. Wilson replied possibly in the future. Mr. Burzynski stated that if the scope of practice may be different in other states and applicants may have to take additional training and testing. Ms. McCallister stated that Arizona has just accepted Bates College. Mr. Coss explained that Arizona has not provided any way for new denturists to practice and the profession is dying, because there is no accepted source of credible education they will accept.

MOTION

Mr. Burzynski made a motion and Mr. Coss seconded to release the examination information to be evaluated by Western Regional Examining Board and Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners, and in addition WREB administering an examination for Oregon. The motion passed with Mr. Coss, Mr. Hammar, Mr. Burzynski, Mr. Young, and Ms. Uebelacker voting aye.

Outreach and Communication (tape 2, counter number 89)

Samantha Patnode, Board Liaison, presented the OHLA board and council orientation video to board members and handed out the Council and Board Member Handbook. Ms. Patnode thanked Mr. Coss for participating in the video and the Customer Connection Committee for reviewing the handbook.

Mr. Burzynski stated that the orientation video would be an excellent tool for other states to view. Mr. Coss agreed with use for different professions being regulated, for other states, and for legislators.

Mr. Coss noted Jane Myers no longer represents Oregon Dental Association, because she has retired. He explained that the Tressider Company, Margie Hoffman, represents the Oregon Dental Association. Mr. Coss stated he met with Ms. Hoffman and expressed interest in developing a mutually beneficial communication network. Ms. Wilson stated that OHLA works well with the Tressider group.

Legislation (tape 2, counter number 131)

Mr. Coss reported on the following Bills:

- LC 2295 – Adds dental services to list of services subject to certain provisions in ORS chapter 743, including that provider must be paid promptly.
- LC 2298 – Removes the 3,500 hour requirement for persons coming from another state

and requires a minimum of two years and Canada will be included as one of the countries recognized.

- SB 33 – Require that water suppliers serving more than 10,000 persons add fluoride to water. Delays implementations until water suppliers have sufficient capital to purchase fluoridation equipment.
- LC - Dental Clinic Bill (**I called Joe C. waiting to hear from him on this one**)

Mr. Young asked if there was any resistance from the cosmetologists on the uniform fee bill.  
Ms. Wilson stated cosmetologists representatives are in support of the uniform fee.

Ms. Patnode pointed out to the following OHLA Bills:

- HB 5027 – OHLA Budget appropriation which limits biennial expenditures from fees, moneys or other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts, but excluding lottery funds and federal funds, collected or received by Oregon Health Licensing Agency.
  - HB 5028 – Approves certain new or increased fees adopted by Oregon Health Licensing Agency. Those fees include:
    - Denture Technology Practitioner Fee Original - \$695
    - Denture Technology Practitioner Fee Renewal - \$695
- Cosmetology fees were also included within HB 5028

## **ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION**

### Public Comment

No Public Comment

### Board Interest File

Mr. Young addressed the Board interest file.

Mr. Young inquired if it would be of any value for the Chair of the Board of Denture Technology and OHLA to contact Western Regional Examinations Board with background information on the Oregon Written and practical examination and let them know who to contact with questions.  
Ms. Wilson agreed OHLA will send the correspondence.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Samantha Patnode, Board Liaison

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