

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR DENTAL BOARD

Office of the Registrar

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Minutes of the Newfoundland & Labrador Dental Board Meeting

A meeting of the Newfoundland & Labrador Dental Board was held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, via Zoom.

In Attendance: Dr. P. O'Brien, Dr. J. Johnson, Dr. M. Sexton, Dr. S. Abhyankar, Dr. P. Hurley, Dr. L. Blakey, Ms. J. Lamswood, Ms. P. Parsons, Mr. M. Harty and Mr. C. Finch.

Approval of Agenda

Moved and Seconded by Dr. Marina Sexton and Dr. Linda Blakey. Motion Carried

Approval of January 12, 2022, Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Dr. Sneha Abhyankar and Ms. Joan Lamswood. Motion Carried.

Business Arising:

Provincial Dental Program/Gathering Place

The Registrar referred to the new Provincial Adult Dental Program and if there would be any impact on patients who receive dental treatment at the Gathering Place. The Adult Dental Program covers all beneficiaries aged 18 years and older who are enrolled in the plan of the NLPDP. These same services are covered as well for patients who present at regular dental offices. Dr. Blakey, who is very involved with the Clinic, advised that she feels quite strongly that patients who visit the Gathering Place will continue, as the guests are very comfortable visiting this unit, compared to visiting at a regular dental office.

New Business:

Date for AGM - The Board will hold its AGM on Saturday July 9, 2022. In the morning the Board will hold its regular meeting. Location and time will be determined.

Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation (CDRAF)

Dr. O'Brien reported on a recent meeting of the CDRAF where there was discussion of a Draft for Consultation regarding the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) for a Beginning Dental Practitioner in Canada. This document has been developed by CDRAF in cooperation with the Faculties of Dentistry, CDAC, and NDEB. DRAs are asked to review and submit any comments

by July 15. Document will be circulated to members. It is anticipated that a final document can be considered for approval at their Fall meeting.

The Registrar reported on the progression of CDAC and its process of independence. Dr. Deborah Matthews has been appointed as the newly elected Chair of CDAC.

National Dental Examining Board (NDEB)

Dr. Abhyankar, Board representative on the NDEB provided an update on the changes to the Equivalency Program and its new test center in Ottawa. A pilot project for the NDEB will see 20 Canadian students participating in a sample exam in May at this new facility. Disruptions with covid delayed the first administration date from June to a targeted date of September 7, 2022.

Botox – Neuromodulators and Dermal Filler Training

The Board received an inquiry from a General Dentist as to whether a particular course for Neuromodulators and Dermal Filler would meet the Board's guidelines. The Dentist was advised by the Registrar that the Board does not have a set of guidelines for dermal fillers and only specific for Botox but that he would bring the issue forward for Board consideration.

There was a robust discussion. The Registrar advised that Nova Scotia has recently developed a Standard of Practice for the use of Botulinum Toxin (Type A) and Esthetic Therapies developed by the Alberta Association & College and modified by Nova Scotia

As the Board's guidelines are very limited and to address any amendments it was recommended that a working group (WG) be established to review and develop a new guideline. Because Nova Scotia has documented this as a Standard of Practice, it was suggested that the WG review their guideline in addition to other jurisdictions and while doing so investigate if there have been any issues.

Dr. Paul Hurley agreed to represent the Board on this WG and the Registrar will reach out to Dr. Rebecca Woodford, Oral Surgeon and Dr. Allison Chaytor, a General Dentist who is interested in offering Botox to patients. This WG will prepare a draft for the Board for its review and consideration.

While it was the consensus that the Board does not have the authority to approve specific courses, it was suggested that the WG consider whether courses could be pre-approved.

Mandatory Continuing Education

The Board reviewed final draft of CE Guidelines as prepared by the CE Committee.

The Registrar questioned if it was the intention to proceed with full audit of all Registrants. While members of the Committee advised it is the intention at present, amendments can be made to the Guidelines as required.

There was discussion of an electronic monitoring process, and the Board supports any costs that may be associated with it. The Committee will review and identify how this process could work.

Motion: To seek a proposal from the Board's IT Consultant on the cost of developing a C. Ed Electronic Program. Moved and Seconded by Ms. Joan Lamswood and Dr. Jerome Johnson. Carried.

Paula Parsons, CE Committee, who has audited many of the CE submissions, reported that most registrants do not categorize their credits properly. Registrants are required to show proof and verification of the courses submitted. It is her opinion CE will still need a human auditing process unless IT can advise of a different method. Documents to verify their courses will need to be scanned into the system, etc. and unsure how this would work with electronic submissions. The Committee will investigate.

Malpractice Insurance

We have been advised that the Alberta Dental Association & College are offering mandatory Professional Liability Insurance to their registrants. All the available information has been circulated to the Board Members. The primary coverage which is included in the registrant's practice permit covers the members for \$2 million, with a \$4 million aggregate. The Policy Aggregate is \$25 million shared annual aggregate limit for all insured membership. If a registrant is licensed in another jurisdiction and it requires more than the \$2 million, the registrant can purchase the extra amount. They advise coverage is in effect anywhere in Canada where the coverage is not prescribed by the provincial dental regulator.

There was discussion regarding those registrants or applicants who are licensed in this jurisdiction and in Alberta as to whether we would accept the ADA& C malpractice insurance.

Dr. Sexton, NLDA's representative with CDSPI gave a brief overview of her knowledge of this process.

The Dental Regulations asks only for proof satisfactory to the Board that he or she is covered by a valid malpractice insurance with a level of coverage accepted to the amount set by the Board. It does not specially ask for a certain policy. Therefore, the Board will accept the ADA&C malpractice insurance with verification of coverage. This could be amended if concerns arise.

Increase in Malpractice Insurance Coverage

Currently dentists practicing in NL are required to carry a minimum of \$1 million coverage. It was agreed that this amount should be increased. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Effective January 1, 2023, the Board will require all dentists licensed in Newfoundland and Labrador to carry a minimum of \$3 million malpractice insurance. Moved and Seconded by Dr. Marina Sexton and Dr. Sneha Abhyankar. Motion Carried. Dentists will be notified.

Inquiries from Ukrainian Dentists on Licensure

We have received requests from Immigration and dentists arriving from the Ukraine on licensure requirements to practice in NL. Following discussion, it was agreed unless individuals can meet the requirements it would not be possible to provide licensure. Guidance has been given to them

relating to the primary requirement of the holding of the National Dental Examining Board (NDEB) certificate. They have been directed to the NDEB website where all the information is available.

Minutes & Annual Report

Moving forward the Minutes of Meetings and Annual Report will be placed on the Board's website.

Adjournment: Motion: to Adjourn - Moved and Seconded by Dr. Marina Sexton and Ms. Joan Lamswood. Carried