

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR DENTAL BOARD
Office of the Registrar
Suite 204, 55 Elizabeth Avenue
St. John's, Newfoundland AIA 1W9

STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
Minutes of the Newfoundland & Labrador Dental Board Meeting

A meeting of the Newfoundland & Labrador Dental Board was held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at the Board office.

In Attendance: Dr. Paul O'Brien, Dr. Linda Blakey, Dr. Sheldon Best, Dr. Sneha Abhyankar, Dr. Paul Hurley, Dr. Patrick Snow, Mrs. Joan Lamswood, Mrs. Paula Parsons, and Mr. Craig Finch.

Approval of Agenda:

Ms. Parsons requested an additional item to the Agenda - Item # 5(3) – National Dental Assisting Examining Board. - **Motion** to approve the Agenda as amended. Moved and Seconded by Ms. Paula Parsons and Mr. Craig Finch. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of February 23 Minutes

Motion to approve as presented. Moved and Seconded by Ms. Paula Parsons and Dr. Patrick Snow. **Motion Carried.**

Business Arising

While there were a couple of items for discussion, other business arising is incorporated into the Agenda.

Mrs. Lamswood advised representatives from the NLDA have reached out to the College to have a training course delivered for the use of Intra Oral Scanners. This will be in addition to the training provided by suppliers. The College will be looking into it.

The Registrar advised that he is currently researching information for the development of a Standard of Practice for Endodontics. Also, there are plans to develop a Standard of Practice for Oral Radiology and the Transfer of Radiographs.

Dental Anesthesia Recognition as a Specialty

The Registrar provided information as to the direction taken by other jurisdictions regarding the recognition of Dental Anesthesia's recognition as a Specialty.

Dental Assisting - Direct and General Supervision

As discussed at the February Board meeting, the Board receives questions concerning the scope of practice as it relates to supervision for dental assistants. This is a discussion that will continue under the upcoming proposed legislation framework. Paula Parsons will respond accordingly to the Orthodontist's request for an amendment to the Auxiliary Regulations to include remote assisting in Orthodontics.

Amendments to the Dental Act

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning suggested amendments to the Dental Act, if in fact it was determined to open the Dental Act. Amendments should be considered in consultation with the Position Paper distributed at the February meeting. Consideration could be given to removing sections from the Act/Regulations into By Laws, Standards of Practice, Guidelines, etc. so that the Board will have the ability to modify scopes of practice, categories of licensures, etc. Following this review, the document will be brought back to the Board for their consideration.

It was agreed to strike a Committee to review the Dental Act. The Committee will consist of Dr. Blakey, Dr. Sheldon Best, and Mrs. Paula Parsons and Dr. Paul O'Brien will assist as Registrar.

Use of Sedation and General Anesthesia in the Dental Practice

We have commenced working on developing a Standard of Practice (SOP) for the Use of Sedation & GA in the dental office. The Registrar has referenced, in particular, the SOP from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario for initial discussions.

It was agreed to strike a Committee to develop this Standard of Practice. The Committee will consist of Dr. Sheldon Best, Dr. Sneha Abhyankar and Dr. Rebecca Woodford and Dr. Paul O'Brien will assist as Registrar. Working document will be brought back to the Board for review.

National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB)

At a recent meeting of the NDAEB Paula Parsons was tasked with presenting a plaque in celebration of the NDAEB's 25 years to recognize Dr. Paul O'Brien, as Registrar and the Newfoundland & Labrador Dental Board for its support and continued contribution as their Board strives for excellence in the provision of valid and reliable national dental assisting examinations.

Meeting Dates for 2024

March 8, Friday – 1 PM Board Office

June 12, Wednesday – 6 PM – Zoom

October 5, Saturday – AM - Board Meeting PM - AGM

The next meeting has been rescheduled to Saturday, November 18th in addition to the AGM in the afternoon.

Adjournment

There being no further business there was a Motion to adjourn – Moved and Seconded – Dr. Sneha Abhyankar and Mr. Craig Finch. **Motion Carried.**