

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners**  
**April 3, 2020, 8:00 AM CDT**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM CDT. Dr. Evanoff opened the meeting with a summary of the credentials of the members of the Board; purpose of the Board attorney, and the Board's executive director and the mission of the Board of Dental Examiners. Efforts of the Board are aimed at protecting the citizens of North Dakota.

Board Members and Administrative Staff Attendance

Greg Evanoff, DDS, President	Otto Dohm, DDS
Alison Fallgatter, DDS, President-Elect	Mike Goebel, DDS
Michael Keim, DDS, Immediate Past President	Rita Sommers, Executive Director
Tim Mehlhoff, CPA, Secretary-Treasurer	Tara Brandner, Assistant Attorney General
Bev Marsh, RDH	

Others known to the Board in Attendance

Brad Anderson, DDS, NDDA President	William Sherwin, Esq., NDDA Executive Director
Cheri Kiefer, Oral Health Program Director	Ken McDougall, DDS, ADA District X Trustee
Kim Mertz, Section Chief, Health & Safe Communities	

2. COVID-19:  
Dr. Evanoff shared comments regarding issues faced by dentists to provide awareness regarding the authority of the Board. The Board's attorney reiterated that the Board doesn't have authority to close offices, however the Governor could mandate closure. Dr. Dohm recommended practitioners follow ADA guidelines regarding what is emergent care and what is not emergent care so that a mandate would not be necessary. Will Sherwin commented that the NDDA sent a press release in support of the Board's recommendation. Dr. Evanoff's concern is that dentists who choose to remain open are putting patients at risk. Although some practitioners have emailed the Board to bring situations to the Board's attention, the Board has yet to receive any written complaints regarding offices that have remained open. Dr. Evanoff offered to informally address complaints received by the Board involving dentists who might be providing non emergent care by telephoning to advise those dentists of the Board's recommendations. Dr. Evanoff recommended that should the NDDA receive any complaint regarding dentists providing non emergent care that they address the issue as well. Dr. Evanoff moved that the Board authorize the Board president to respond to complaints of offices being open with a phone call, informing the provider of current guidelines established by the Board. Dr. Keim seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, roll call vote: Roll call vote: Dr. Evanoff, yes; Dr. Keim, yes; Mr. Mehlhoff, yes; Dr. Goebel, yes; Dr. Dohm, no; Ms. Marsh, no; Dr. Fallgatter, yes. Motion carried 5-2.

The Board has also been contacted with concerns related to North Dakota licensure process and new graduates. The Board cannot waive statutory requirements for licensure.

Dr. McDougall recommended practitioners use the ADA's website to find resources for opportunities for loans, emergency procedures, and other COVID-19 information/recommendations. Dr. McDougall recommended ND dentists continue to monitor the ADA website and give consideration for the safety of the employees; offices must have correct PPE before going back to work and perhaps offices will need to remain closed longer. Dr. McDougall also addressed teledentistry stating that "teledentistry," in and of itself, is not a procedural insurance billing code with an associated fee. Rather, if a procedure such as a limited exam was provided, the dentist should say it was provided via teledentistry. The Board is unaware at this time of laws that prohibit teledentistry.

A March 30, 2020 letter from the ADA was received by the Board. Dr. Evanoff disagrees with the statement in the letter that clinical boards were cancelled. More correctly, competency board examinations have been postponed – not cancelled. Although some states may consider the OSCE exam as a viable alternative, licensure laws for ND require patient-based exams. Therefore, the OSCE exam is not accepted for licensure in ND. The Council on Dental Accreditation (CODA) expects to have a recommendation for educational requirements/competencies in May 2020.

Board recommendations going forward: Dr. Dohm moved that the Board recognize the April 20, 2020 date noted in Governor Burgum’s address for continuation of measures in place to address COVID-19 exposure and amend the Board’s guidelines to extend its recommendations accordingly. Dr. Fallgatter seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Dr. Evanoff, yes; Dr. Keim, yes; Mr. Mehlhoff, yes; Dr. Goebel, yes; Dr. Dohm, yes; Ms. Marsh, yes; Dr. Fallgatter, yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Kiefer, Director of the Oral Health Department, thanked the Board on behalf of the Department of Health, the State Health Officer and Governor Burgum for their actions to safeguard the public and commented that the Governor via public statement expressed gratitude for the Board’s efforts. Ms. Kiefer also commented that the Board is being heard by the Department of Health and will continue to support the Board in any way possible. Ms. Kiefer also provided an update on the N95 masks; working with Emergency Command Center to get masks out to those in need and acknowledged the OMFS’s. Ms. Kiefer also stated that Field Medical Officer, Joan Connell, MD commented “no testing has been done yet, still working on a way to test for seroconversion.”

Dr. Evanoff commented on the ADEX presentation demonstrating testing on a synthetic tooth and requested the Executive Director attempt to locate the presentation and make available to all members of the Board.

3. Adjournment: Moved by Dr. Dohm to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Fallgatter. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 AM. The next meeting of the NDBDE will be held via conference call, April 15, 2020, 8:00 AM CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rita Sommers, Executive Director

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Tim Mehlhoff, CPA, Secretary-Treasurer