

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY
LICENSING WORKGROUP MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2023**

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the Virginia Board of Dentistry was called to order at 9:07 a.m., on July 21, 2023, at the Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, in Board Room 4, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

PRESIDING: Margaret F. Lemaster, R.D.H.

MEMBERS PRESENT: William C. Bigelow, D.D.S.

STAFF PRESENT: Jamie C. Sacksteder, Executive Director
Sarah Moore, Executive Assistant
Yetty Shobo, Director of Healthcare Workforce Data Center
Erin Barrett, Director of legislative and Regulatory Affairs

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Ward, ADSO Vice President, Communications
Heather Tuthill, President of Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association
Benjamin Traynham, Virginia Dental Association

Ms. Sacksteder read the emergency evacuation procedures.

It was noted at the beginning of the meeting that Ms. Tuthill would be arriving late. However, since there was a quorum, the workgroup proceeded without Ms. Tuthill.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Lemaster explained the parameters for public comment and opened the public comment period.

No one signed up for Public Comment prior to the start of the meeting.

Ms. Lemaster closed the Public Comment Period.

Ms. Tuthill arrived at 9:24 a.m.

LEGISLATION, REGULATION AND GUIDANCE: **House Bill 2251** - Ms. Barrett distributed the language of HB2251, Regulation 18VAC60-25-150 language on Licensure by Credentials for Dental Hygienists, and Regulation 18VAC60-21-210 language on Qualifications for an Unrestricted Licensure for Dentists.

She reviewed the parameters of the bill and advised that it does not change the Code of Virginia. The bill directs the Board of Dentistry to hold a workgroup, the specifics of the workgroup, and what the workgroup should review.

She clarified that Virginia does issue licensure by Endorsement called 'Credentialing' in the regulations.

PRESENTATION:

Review of workforce data for Dentists and Dental Hygienists - Dr. Shobo presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the workforce of dentist and dental hygienists workforce demographic and economic indicators, and geographical distribution. The overall presentation revealed a healthy workforce of licensed dentists and dental hygienists and did not show a shortage of licensed dentists or dental hygienists. The information showed a concentration in specific areas such as Northern Virginia, Central Virginia, and Tidewater region.

Public Comment re-addressed:

Re-addressed Public Comment - Ms. Lemaster recognized Caleb Taylor, Director of the Virginia Institute for Public Policy, who requested, after the start of the meeting, to address the panel with public comment.

He discussed that a number of dentists have approached him regarding licensure in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He addressed the shortage of oral workforce in the areas west of Interstate 95 corridor, specifically in Southwest Virginia. He spoke of the current workforce being concentrated in the Tidewater and Northern Virginia areas due to higher cash flow and margin of population. He petitioned a look at solutions for incentives to draw more members of the oral workforce to these localities.

Note: The Board has no control over the location of where licensees work and the Board cannot control economic factors that were discussed.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Dental License and Dental Hygienist License: Comparison of Virginia to other states – Ms. Sacksteder.

Ms. Sacksteder presented a thorough listing of the requirements for all states for Dental and Dental Hygienists licensure, fees, education, and endorsement. She presented charts comparing Virginia to all other states with regard to clinical exam requirements, licensing fees, fees for credentialing (endorsement and reciprocity), educational requirements, endorsement/credentialing/and reciprocity requirements, clinical experience practice requirement, requirements for foreign trained applicants, background check requirements, and the jurisprudence exam requirements. Virginia was shown to be comparable to other states in their requirements with the exception of jurisprudence exam. Virginia does not require a jurisprudence exam the vast majority of other states require one for licensure.

Ms. Sacksteder asked for discussion among the workgroup members, specifically regarding the Board's current endorsement process. Mr. Traynham reported that the VDA is in support of the Board's current endorsement process. There were no other comments from the other workgroup members.

Ms. Sacksteder read the Board Meeting minutes of June 16, 2023, with regard to the Board's discussion of the Department of Defense funded Dentist and

Dental Hygienist Compact, and their unanimous decision as 'not in favor' of joining the Compact due to its current standards, which are lesser requirements than what Virginia currently requires for licensure. The Board also follows Va. Code 54.1-118 which allows the Board to make exceptions to licensure requirements for military. Also, the Board expedites all applications that are identified as military or military spouses.

Ms. Ward asked some clarifying comments about the reason the Board had concern regarding having applicants do background checks.

Ms. Barrett discussed that the Compact's requirement of Background checks would have a significant fiscal impact on the Board of Dentistry and the State Police if passed and would be a barrier to applicants.

Ms. Tuthill distributed information about the dental and dental hygiene licensure compact. The information was about facts vs. myths of the licensure compact. No further discussion was had regarding the handouts.

Ms. Tuthill reported that she thought that the compact only accept CODA accredited graduates. She stated she saw this at a recent conference.

Ms. Sacksteder reported that this would be change from the final compact that the Board reviewed at its June Board Meeting.

Mr. Traynham reported that it would be a concern to accept non-CODA accredited applicants, since CODA is the standard.

Note: It was later determined that the compact does allow for non-CODA accredited graduates, therefore this would a concern of the Board as it is a lesser requirement. The Finalized Compact can be found at:
https://compacts.csg.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Spr23_Dentist_Dental-Hygienist-Compact-Draft_Final.pdf

There was discussion regarding foreign trained dentist and concerns regarding comparability of educational programs. Minnesota's requirements for foreign trained dentists was discussed as a possible model.

Ms. Sacksteder advised that the Board of Dentistry processed 398 applications during the period of January 1, 2022, to July 1, 2022. 588 applications were processed during the period of January 1, 2023, to July 1, 2023. This significant application processing increase was due to a significant streamlining of the application requirement processes

Ms. Sacksteder asked if there was any further discussion or comments concluded its meeting. nbers would like to have, hearing none, the Workgroup

ACTION: Ms. Lemaster advised that Ms. Sacksteder will report the findings of the Workgroup to the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by October 1, 2023, as required.

ADJOURNMENT: With all business concluded, the panel adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Margaret F. Lemaster, Committee Chair

Jamie C. Sacksteder, Executive Director

Date

Date