



# MINUTES

## ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

Date | Time 3/12/2021 at 8:30 AM | Meeting called to order by Dr. Carl Plyler

### In Attendance

---

#### Board Members

Dr. L. Frederick Church, Jr.

Ms. Karrie Jamison

Dr. Carl Plyler

Ms. Marcia Cook

Dr. Cara Jones

Dr. Charles Garrett Taylor

Dr. Dwight Duckworth

Dr. Matthew McDonough

Ms. Erika Thomas

#### Board Staff

Meredith Rogers (Executive Director), Kevin O'Dwyer (Attorney), and Corneshia Harrison (Administrative Analyst)

### Approval of Minutes

---

A Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2021 meeting.

### Conferences

---

Dr. Tina Nichols appeared before the board to address a complaint that was filed against her. In said complaint, it was alleged that Dr. Nichols pulled the wrong tooth. Dr. Nichols admitted to pulling the wrong tooth and apologized to the patient. After some discussion, no action was taken, but the board strongly encouraged Dr. Nichols to make the necessary changes in her practice to avoid making this mistake again.

Dr. Bryan Hiller also appeared before the board to address two complaints that were filed against him. The first complainant alleged that Dr. Hiller's dental assistant(s) "operated a power tool to remove the adhesive from his daughter's teeth, removing a lot of enamel and damaging her teeth". The second complainant alleged that Dr. Hiller "is allowing unlicensed employees to take x-rays and work on patients without any certifications". Dr. Hiller admitted to not knowing if all of his assistants are registered. After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to vote charges against Dr. Hiller for permitting an unlicensed assistant to perform radiography and allowing an assistant to perform a procedure that contributes to or results in the irreversible alteration of the oral anatomy.

### Fictitious Name Requests

---

The following fictitious names were reviewed and approved:

DENTIST	REQUESTED FICTITIOUS NAME
Dr. Stephen C. Fisher	Bite Solutions Dentist, Dr. Stephen C. Fisher

---

## Reports

---

### ***Complaint Committee Report***

The Committee met at 6:00 pm on March 11, 2021 and reviewed three complaints. Two of the complaints were dismissed, and one complaint will be addressed at the March 12, 2021 board meeting. The next Complaint Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6 pm.

### ***Rules and Regulations Committee Report***

The Committee met at 6:00 pm on March 10, 2021. The Committee discussed a request from Dr. Carl Plyler to revise Article XIII to include verbiage that requires a dentist to file a morbidity/mortality report with the board if such an incident occurs because of sedation. After some discussion, the committee decided that dentists should report whether the incident is related to sedation or not. In addition to working on the Rules and Regulations, the Committee will also formulate a reporting form. The next Rules & Regulations Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 6 pm.

### ***Report on Clinical Testing Agencies***

*Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA)*: Dr. Duckworth reported that SRTA conducted an examination at the University of West Virginia with 27 candidates. Examinations will be administered at the University of Tennessee March 19-20, 2021 with 40 candidates. Hygiene examinations will be conducted at University of Tennessee and University of Arkansas at Fort Smith at the end of April.

*Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA)*: Dr. Church reported that CITA examinations will begin in March.

### ***Report from the Office of Oral Health***

Dr. Lindy Bollen of the Arkansas Department of Health's Office of Oral Health submitted a report for review (which is attached to these minutes).

---

## Other Business

---

The board further discussed the inclusion of morbidity/mortality reporting by dentists in the Dental Practice Act. Dr. Church said that it needs to be a separate article and not included in Article XIII. Dr. Jones reported that other states have such verbiage included in their rules and regulations.

---

## Next Meeting

---

The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2021 at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Rogers

Meredith Rogers, Executive Director



# Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000

Governor Asa Hutchinson

José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

Lindy Bollen, Jr., DDS | Director, Office of Oral Health | Slot 18 | 501-280-4111 | [lindy.bollen@arkansas.gov](mailto:lindy.bollen@arkansas.gov)

March 11, 2021

Carl Plyer, DDS  
Chairman, ASBDE

Dear Dr. Plyer,

I would like to share with you and the Board an update for dentistry considering the COVID-19 pandemic. It was twelve months ago when this deadly virus extended into the state of Arkansas. In the early days of the pandemic, dentistry was deemed to be a potential area of concern based on the fact of aerosol productions that happen during many treatment procedures. Guidelines became Directives and lead to a suspension of elective treatment, not only in dentistry but also in the medical field. On May 11, dentistry opened back up once again to offer elective services but on a limited basis. By June 22 all treatment options were once again restored provided guidelines such as proper PPE utilization, limited people in the reception area and allowing extra time for room sanitization were upheld.

Vaccination efforts continue across the state and nation since the beginning of 2021 with three approved products reaching a higher number of individuals. Dentistry is considered an essential service and it is hoped that many dental health care professionals (DHCP) have taken the opportunity to receive their own inoculations. Numbers of COVID cases have decreased and shows a continuing decline. On February 26, Governor Hutchinson announced that all Directives would transform into Guidelines. This basically means that guidelines would be the recommended protocols to follow yet there would not be enforcement under the State of Emergency declaration.

Our nation and this state are not over the impact of the COVID-19 virus. The Department of Health continues to support the efforts to mitigate viral transmission and encourages all DHCP to maintain vigilance and follow the ADH guidelines ([healthy.arkansas.gov/](http://healthy.arkansas.gov/)). This not only protects the dental team and patients but reduces any likelihood of community spread as well. Dentistry has long followed PPE protocols for patient treatment. Continuing to ask patients to wear masks except during treatment is a small request that can have a continued impact to lessen any potential viral spread.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lindy Bollen, Jr., DDS".

FYI on vaccination rates in Arkansas as of March 10, 2021

# COVID-19 Update

## March 10, 2021

CONFIRMED CASES			PROBABLE CASES		
	Total	Change from yesterday		Total	Change from yesterday
CASES:	256,269	+192	CASES:	69,431	+125
ACTIVE CASES:	2,332	-184	ACTIVE CASES:	895	-50
RECOVERED:	249,594	+385	RECOVERED:	67,476	+161
CONFIRMED DEATHS:	4,332	+11	PROBABLE DEATHS:	1,050	+14

  

	Total	Change from yesterday
<b>TOTAL CASES:</b>	<b>325,700</b>	<b>+317</b>
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE CASES:</b>	<b>3,227</b>	<b>-234</b>
<b>TOTAL DEATHS:</b>	<b>5,382</b>	<b>+25</b>

  

TESTING		
	Total	Results yesterday
PCR TESTS THIS MONTH:	50,221	6,599
ANTIGEN TESTS THIS MONTH:	17,423	941

  

• All data are provisional and subject to change. PCR testing data reflects result date. Probable cases and deaths may decrease if they are reclassified. The net change is shown.

### HOSPITAL DATA

Most recent statewide data available.

Hospitalized:	301
-Change from yesterday:	-16
On ventilators:	72
-Change from yesterday:	+1
Ever hospitalized:	14,977
Ever on ventilator:	1,538

  

### TODAY'S NEW CASES

Counties with most new confirmed and probable cases added today.

- 1) Pulaski: 43
- 2) Benton: 33
- 3) Washington: 27
- 4) Union: 18
- 5) Faulkner: 17

Breakdown of new confirmed cases by type.

Correctional: 1  
Community: 191

# healthy.arkansas.gov

\*Last updated 3/10/21, 5:09pm