

**OREGON BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
MINUTES  
APRIL 24, 2026**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Aarati Kalluri, D.D.S., President  
Sheena Kalia, D.D.S., Vice President  
Reza Sharifi, D.M.D.  
Terrence Clark, D.M.D.  
Michelle Aldrich, D.M.D.  
Olesya Salathe, D.M.D. (via Zoom)  
Kristen Simmons, R.D.H., E.P.P.  
Sharity Ludwig, R.D.H., E.P.P.  
Ginny Jorgensen  
Kieshawn Lewis

**STAFF PRESENT:** Haley Robinson, Executive Director  
Angela Smorra, D.M.D., Dental Director/Chief Investigator  
Winthrop “Bernie” Carter, D.D.S., Dental Investigator  
Kathleen McNeal, Licensing Manager  
Gabriel Kubik, Investigator  
Dawn Dreasher, Office Specialist

**ALSO PRESENT:** Joanna Tucker-Davis, Sr. Assistant Attorney General

**VISITORS ALSO PRESENT:** Brett Hamilton, Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs (ODA); Lisa Rowley, Advocacy & Membership Director, Oregon Dental Hygienists’ Association (ODHA); Dana Moody, Director-at-Large, ODHA; Mary Harrison, Vice President, Oregon Dental Assistants Association (ODAA)

**VIA ZOOM\*:** Amberlena Fairlee, D.M.D., President, Oregon Dental Association (ODA); Matthew Johnston, D.M.D.; Karla Brumley; Michelle Lee, V.P. External Relations and Policy, DANB; Karan Bershaw, R.D.H., CAMBRA Coalition; Mary Ellen Murray; Ronald Maple, D.M.D.

\*This list is not exhaustive, as it was not possible to verify all participants on the Zoom.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by the President at 8:02 a.m. President Kalluri then read the Mission Statement as follows:

The mission of the Oregon Board of Dentistry is to promote quality oral health care and protect all communities in the State of Oregon by equitably and ethically regulating dental professionals.

President Kalluri reiterated that the Board's purpose and reason for meeting every other month included addressing regular and important ideas and proposals brought before the Board regarding regulations, scope of practice, education, discipline, operations, and issues that need the Board's attention. President Kalluri welcomed everyone to the meeting and had the Board Members, Joanna Tucker-Davis, Haley Robinson, and OBD staff introduce themselves. President Kalluri announced that the Board had a quorum.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval of February 27, 2026 Minutes**

Dr. Kalluri moved and Dr. Sharifi seconded that the Board approve the minutes from the February 27, 2026, Board Meeting as amended. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

## **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

### **Oregon Dental Association (ODA)**

Dr. Amberena Fairlee, President of ODA, reported that the 2026 Oregon Dental Conference was held April 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> at the Oregon Convention Center in downtown Portland. Dr. Fairlee said the ODA was pleased to welcome about 3,000 dental professionals from across Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Dr. Fairlee reported that the conference featured three full days of continuing education and that a highlight was their keynote, *The Heart of the Matter*, presented by Amber Auger, which focused on the important connection between oral health and cardiovascular health.

Dr. Fairlee thanked the Board of Dentistry for its strong participation this year and highlighted Director Robinson's presentation on the role and functions of the Board which included encouraging dentists to view the Board as a professional resource. Dr. Fairlee thanked Dr. Smorra for her presentation on record keeping and Board protocols. Dr. Fairlee also thanked Dr. Carter for his presentation on esthetic and functional crown lengthening as well as periodontal surgery for the general dentist. Dr. Fairlee shared that she attended Dr. Salathe's course on smile design and aesthetics with digital dentistry and that it was wonderful.

Dr. Fairlee reported that she facilitated a well-attended panel on the dental workforce shortage. Dr. Fairlee said panelists from the ODA, Virginia Garcia, Pacific University,

Oregon AGD, and Glencoe High School shared ideas around mentorship, educational partnerships, and workforce outreach. Dr. Fairlee shared that it was a great discussion and thanked Dr. Salathe and Ms. Jorgensen for attending and participating.

Dr. Fairlee reported that the conference offered 79 CE courses in total, including required topics like medical emergencies, infection control, and cultural competency which were all available daily. Dr. Fairlee added that attendees also had a chance to connect with 100 exhibitors during the exhibit hall on Thursday and Friday.

Dr. Fairlee announced that the 2027 Oregon Dental Conference will take place May 13<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>, 2027 and said she looked forward to seeing everyone there.

Dr. Fairlee stated that the ODA looks forward to the continuation of the strategic planning process and appreciates that the dental workforce shortage has been identified as an emerging challenge to dental practice and is appropriately recognized as a mission-critical priority. Dr. Fairlee concluded by saying that the ODA looks forward to continued collaboration and to the development of more robust, clearly defined action items as that work moves forward.

#### **Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA)**

Lisa Rowley, Advocacy & Membership Director of ODHA, stated her appreciation to the ODA for including ODHA as a partner group again for the 2026 Oregon Dental Conference. Ms. Rowley said ODHA members enjoyed the many great continuing education courses and opportunities for professional networking.

Ms. Rowley congratulated the ODA on their legislative win regarding insurance reform.

Ms. Rowley shared that she had the pleasure of attending the Pinning Ceremony for 30 graduating dental hygiene students at **Concord Career College** in NE Portland the night before. Ms. Rowley noted that this was the second cohort to complete this program and that a third cohort is scheduled to graduate in November 2026.

Ms. Rowley reported that the dental hygiene program at **Rogue Community College** recently completed a successful accreditation site visit conducted by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Ms. Rowley reported that the site visit team commended the dental hygiene program on its strong compliance with accreditation standards, well-organized documentation, and commitment to student success. Ms. Rowley gave special thanks to Dr. Aldrich for representing the Oregon Board of Dentistry during this accreditation site visit. Ms. Rowley announced that Rogue is scheduled to graduate its first cohort of 20 students in 2026.

Ms. Rowley reminded dentists who are looking for dental hygienists that they can send their job postings directly to the dental hygiene program directors, who will then forward

those job postings to all their graduates at no cost.

### **Oregon Dental Assistants Association (ODAA)**

Mary Harrison, Vice President of ODAA, stated that she always enjoys the information in the Board meeting packets, but especially appreciated this one because of the reporting on so many special announcements for OBD staff. Ms. Harrison highlighted Dr. Smorra being named the Ambassador of Public Service and the OBD earning the Gold Star Certificate for work done on finances and reports from the Board. Ms. Harrison also highlighted the many compliments to Kathleen and staff for the help and encouragement they give when assisting people on the phone or in person. Ms. Harrison shared that she likes to say, "Make the Board and the OBD office your new best friend" and that OBD staff confirm her point.

Ms. Harrison reflected that another ODC has passed where old friends were seen, fun was had, and informative classes were held. Ms. Harrison reported that she attended the panel addressing the workforce issues where the audience provided input and recommendations that were the same as those offered by the ODAA two years ago. Ms. Harrison elaborated that those included seeking out high schools and career/job fairs, and doctors talking with young patients about all the career possibilities available in dentistry.

Ms. Harrison reported that during the previous week, ODAA was able to attend a job fair at Sherwood High School where they spoke with over 200 students, answered questions, and highlighted the benefits of being a dental professional. Ms. Harrison encouraged dentists to connect with nearby schools and arrange visits, adding how impressive it would be to have a dentist available to answer questions and share information. Ms. Harrison stated that ODAA looks forward to meeting with ODA and working together to address workforce issues.

Ms. Harrison thanked DANB for their work on a proposal to create a dental assistant registry and other topics from the OBD strategic plan.

Ms. Harrison reminded everyone that Mother's Day is coming up and that plants and candy are good gifts.

### **COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Ms. Robinson presented the 2026-2027 Committee & Liaison Assignments and mentioned that Dr. Clark and Dr. Aldrich are placeholders on that list until new members join the Board. Ms. Robinson thanked Drs. Clark and Aldrich for graciously serving through the June 2026 meeting.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **CODA – Site Accreditation Visits**

State Board Representative: Michelle Aldrich, DMD  
Rogue Community College  
Grants Pass, OR  
4/15/2026-4/16/2026  
Program: Dental Hygiene

Dr. Aldrich completed her site visit at Rogue Community College.

### **OBD Budget Status Report**

Director Robinson presented the attached budget report for the 2025 - 2027 Biennium. Ms. Robinson highlighted that this report, which is from July 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026, shows revenue of \$ 1,448,060.46 and expenditures of \$1,267,404.46. **Attachment #1**

### **OBD 2027 – 2029 Revenue Projection**

Ms. Robinson introduced the 2027 – 2029 budget, which is in its initial planning and development stages, and reported that the revenue projection and supporting documentation was submitted to Department of Administrative Services & Legislative Fiscal Office per budget development instructions.

**Attachment #2**

### **2026 Dental License Renewal**

Ms. Robinson reported that the 2026 Dental License renewal period ended on March 31, 2026, and that a majority of the dentists renewing their licenses had no issues and were generally pleasant when interacting with staff. Ms. Robinson reported the following 2026 Dental license renewal information: 1691 renewed, 185 expired, 18 retired and 2 deceased.

### **Customer Service Survey**

Ms. Robinson presented the attached most recent customer service survey results for the period from July 1, 2025, through April 15, 2026. Ms. Robinson stated that the results of the survey show that the OBD continues to receive positive feedback from those that choose to submit a survey. **Attachment #3**

### **Staff Speaking Engagements**

Ms. Robinson reported that Kathleen McNeal, Licensing Manager, gave a license application virtual presentation to the dental hygiene students at OIT- Klamath Falls on Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

Ms. Robinson reported that the Oregon Dental Conference was held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, April 9 - 11, 2026 and that OBD staffed a resource table outside the Exhibit Hall to answer questions and encourage safe oral health practice amongst the attendees. Ms. Robinson expressed her appreciation to the OBD staff who worked at the table. Ms. Robinson reported that OBD staff gave four presentations at the conference:

Dr. Angela Smorra gave a presentation on Thursday April 9, 2026, covering Record Keeping, Board Protocols, & Important Information.

Dr. Bernie Carter gave a presentation on Thursday April 9, 2026, covering The Gummy Smile—Surgery to Final Restorations: Esthetic and Functional Crown Lengthening Procedures.

Ms. Robinson gave a presentation on Friday, April 10, 2026, covering an overview of the Board, operations, budget, rulemaking, enforcement, CE and FAQs.

Dr. Bernie Carter gave a presentation on Friday April 10, 2026, covering Periodontal Surgery for the General Dentist.

Ms. Robinson thanked the Oregon Dental Association for inviting the OBD to present again at their well-attended conference.

Ms. Robinson reported that Dr. Angela Smorra gave a presentation on Monday April 13, 2026, to the dental students at OHSU covering Record Keeping, Board Protocols, & Important Information.

Ms. Robinson reported that Kathleen McNeal, Licensing Manager, gave a license application presentation to the dental students at OHSU on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

Ms. Robinson reported that Kathleen McNeal, Licensing Manager, gave a license application presentation to the dental hygiene students at Concorde Career College on Thursday April 16, 2026.

### **Ambassador of Public Service**

Ms. Robinson announced that Dental Director, Dr. Angela Smorra, was chosen as the OBD's Ambassador of Public Service as part of Public Service Recognition Week, May 3-9, 2026. Ms. Robinson nominated Dr. Smorra as someone who is a true Ambassador of Public Service and exemplifies this year's theme of leading with purpose. Ms. Robinson said that, in her role as Dental Director, Dr. Smorra exemplifies the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and dedication to public service. Ms. Robinson added that Dr. Smorra approaches her work with a strong sense of purpose—prioritizing patient safety, upholding regulatory standards, and fostering trust within the dental community. Ms.

Robinson announced that Dr. Smorra was invited to attend a reception with Governor Kotek at Mahonia Hall (Governor's home) in Salem on May 21, 2026, to recognize her positive impact on our agency and the citizens of Oregon.

### **FY 2025 Accounts Receivable Honor Roll**

Ms. Robinson announced that the OBD again was recognized for financial controls, and that this aligns with one of OBD's annual goals. Ms. Robinson stated that the OBD strives to submit timely and accurate A/R reports, and that this honor roll recognition memorializes the OBD's success. **Attachment #4**

### **Federal Rules: Accessibility of Web Information and Services**

Ms. Robinson announced that the deadline for meeting the new federal rules has been extended until April 24, 2027, and will require all content published on state websites, including webpages and uploaded documents, to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) digital accessibility standards. Ms. Robinson explained that these requirements, known as WCAG 2.1 AA, apply to all public organizations nationwide and set new expectations for how digital materials are created and published online.

### **Newsletter**

Ms. Robinson announced that the next OBD Newsletter is scheduled to be available later in the summer and will have important news and updates for our Licensees. Ms. Robinson encouraged Board Members to share any topics of interest and also asked staff members for articles of interest to be included.

### **2027 Proposed Board Meeting Dates**

Ms. Robinson presented the attached draft of the proposed board meeting dates for 2027. Ms. Robinson explained that these dates follow the Board's regular annual schedule of holding them every other month. Ms. Robinson suggested the Board consider adopting these dates for next year's meetings so that all can plan accordingly. **Attachment #5**

Dr. Kalia moved and Ms. Simmons seconded that the Board approve proposed 2027 Board Meeting Dates as presented. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- March 3, 2026 email from Dr. Justin Jones regarding HB 4040

The Board discussed Dr. Jones's email and issues related to supervision of out-of-state dental students.

Dr. Sharifi moved and Ms. Jorgensen seconded that the Board refer the issue of HB 4040 to the Licensing, Standards and Competency Committee. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

- Kristen Gallaway Letter re Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHATs)

Ms. Rowley clarified that not all dental therapists in Oregon are dental hygienists. Ms. Rowley elaborated that the scope of practice for dental therapists and DHATs is the same.

- Dr. Mariya Costa letter supporting Scaling Assistants

Ms. Robinson stated that the scaling assistant issue currently resides in the Rules Oversight Committee. Ms. Robinson said she would include Dr. Costa's letter with all the other testimony delivered to the Rules Oversight Committee.

Ms. Rowley stated in response to Dr. Costa's letter that actual physical facilities constraints, not the ratio of faculty to students, is the barrier to growing the dental hygiene programs in Oregon. Ms. Rowley expressed opposition to increasing the number of students per instructor.

Ms. Robinson reiterated that OBD staff will be updating the OBD website in the coming months and offered that staff would review, update, and clarify information about course requirements that could be posted on the website. Ms. Robinson added that some of these updates might be the basis for discussion and development at the committee level. Ms. Robinson said she would report on the progress toward standardizing course requirements at the June Board meeting.

- Karla Brumley Request for DA EFDA and Restorative Rule Review

The Board discussed that California has a clinical state exam that it administers instead of ADEX or CRDTS and whether the Board should consider steps to ease migration of providers from neighboring states.

- Karla Brumley Request for Acceptance of Out of State Credentials

The Board moved deliberation of Karla Brumley's request to the June Board meeting and directed OBD staff to evaluate the California state clinical exam to help the Board determine if it is equivalent to ADEX or CRDTS exams and whether Ms. Brumley's request should be approved.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND RULES**

Dr. Kalluri initiated a discussion about the need to improve interoperability of medical and dental records. Ms. Robinson offered that OBD staff would research the issue and post an article in the Newsletter and on the OBD website providing guidance to dental providers on how to access patients' medical records.

Ms. Robinson presented the Board's Strategic Priorities for 2026-2029. Ms. Coyne led a Board discussion of priorities and action items.

Dr. Clark initiated a discussion about requiring CE related to mental health, substance abuse, and suicide.

Dr. Clark moved and Ms. Ludwig seconded that the Board refer the issue of requiring CE related to mental health, substance abuse, and suicide to the Licensing, Standards and Competency Committee. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

Dr. Salathe moved and Ms. Ludwig seconded that the Board refer the issue of dental hygienists administering Botox to the Licensing, Standards and Competency Committee. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

Dr. Kalia initiated a discussion about access to dental care for special needs adults. Ms. Robinson said she would reach out to Dr. Ahmed Farag, Dental Director at OHA, to discuss possible approaches to this problem.

The Board discussed the 2025-2027 Affirmative Action Plan (AAP). Ms. Robinson said she would reach out to Juliet Valdez at the Office of Cultural Change for guidance on how to meet the Governor's expectations for the AAP and would report to the Board at the June Board meeting.

## **OTHER**

### **Items were in the Board meeting packet for informational purposes.**

- CAMBRA 2026 Position Paper
- Proposal – Oregon Dental Assistant Workforce Registry
- Memo – Election of Officers

Dr. Sharifi moved and Dr. Kalluri seconded that the Board elect Sheena Kalia, D.D.S. as Board President. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

Dr. Sharifi moved and Dr. Kalluri seconded that the Board elect Sharity Ludwig as Board Vice-President. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

- Other Public Comment (no comments)
- Tribes (no comments)

## **ARTICLES AND NEWS**

- CODA 2025 Annual Report
- ADEX At a Glance
- ADA and ADEX Advance Dental Licensure Examinations Through New Agreement
- DANB Welcomes Vice President of External Relations and Policy

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Board entered into Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.606 (2)(f)(L); ORS 676.165; ORS 676.175 (1), and ORS 679.320 to review confidential investigations, consider exempt records and to consult with legal counsel.

**OPEN SESSION:** The Board returned to Open Session at 1:36 p.m. President Kalluri took roll call and confirmed the Board had a quorum.

**\*Note the Board Members' votes are identified by their initials.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**2026-0138, 2026-0139, 2026-0143, 2026-0136, 2026-0130, 2026-0128, 2026-0140, 2026-0151, 2026-0132, 2026-0137, 2026-0131, 2026-0129**

Dr. Kalia moved and Dr. Kalluri seconded that the Board close the matters with a finding of No Violation or No Further Action. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

## **COMPLETED CASES**

**2026-0065, 2026-0028, 2026-0148, 2026-0022, 2026-0031, 2026-0030, 2026-0118, 2026-0066, 2026-0014, 2026-0105**

Dr. Kalia moved and Dr. Sharifi seconded that the Board close the matters with a finding of No Violation or No Further Action. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

### **2026-0005**

Dr. Sharifi moved and Dr. Kalluri seconded that the Board close the matter with a Letter of Concern. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

### **2026-0126**

Ms. Jorgensen moved and Dr. Sharifi seconded that the Board close the matter with a Letter of Concern. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

**PASCAL V. NGUYEN, D.M.D.; 2025-0166**

Dr. Aldrich moved and Dr. Sharifi seconded that the Board issue a Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action and offer Licensee a Consent Order incorporating a reprimand, refund patient CT \$2,976.00, and issue a civil penalty of \$500.00 payable within 60 days of the effective date of the Order. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

**2026-0069**

Ms. Ludwig moved and Dr. Aldrich seconded that the Board close the matter with a Letter of Concern. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

**PREVIOUS CASES REQUIRING BOARD ACTION****GERALD L. TORGESON, D.D.S.; 2026-0027**

Dr. Clark moved and Dr. Aldrich seconded that the Board issue an Amended Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action and offer Licensee a Consent Order incorporating a reprimand, and civil penalty of \$2,600.00 payable within 90 days of the effective date of the Order. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

**LICENSING & EXAMINATION ISSUES**

Mr. Lewis moved and Ms. Ludwig seconded that the Board deny the request from Dr. Jia Lin Goh to remove the public discipline related to Case 2008-0031. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

Ms. Simmons moved and Dr. Kalluri seconded that the Board deny the request from Linda Logston for confidential records related to Case 2026-0082 pursuant to ORS 676.175. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

**RATIFICATION OF LICENSES**

Dr. Sharifi moved and Ms. Jorgensen seconded that the Board ratify the licenses presented in Tab 16. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

**LICENSE, PERMIT & CERTIFICATION**

Ms. Jorgensen moved and Ms. Ludwig seconded that the Board approve the reinstatement of expired license for Sharen Strong, D.M.D. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next Board Meeting was scheduled for June 12, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

    /S/      
Aarati Kalluri, D.D.S., President