

**OREGON BOARD OF DENTISTRY
MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2025**

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.
Kristen Simmons, R.D.H., E.P.P.
Sharity Ludwig, R.D.H., E.P.P.
Ginny Jorgensen
Kieshawn Lewis

STAFF PRESENT: Haley Robinson, Interim 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); Mary Harrison, Vice President, Oregon Dental Assistants Association (ODAA); Stephen Quimby, R.D.H., President-Elect of ODHA; Jen Coyne, CEO, The PEAK Fleet; Tyler Anderson, Assistant Attorney General;

VIA ZOOM*: Amberlena Fairlee, D.M.D., President, Oregon Dental Association (ODA); John Paschal, Executive Recruiter, DAS CHRO; Sherry Lauer, Client Agency HR Manager, DAS

*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 welcomed everyone to the meeting and had the Board Members, Joanna Tucker-Davis, and Haley Robinson introduce themselves.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of October 24, 2025 Minutes

Dr. Aldrich asked whether the minutes should reflect the disruptions during the October Board meeting. Ms. Robinson offered that Board staff would review the Zoom records and document the Zoom disruptions from that meeting.

Dr. Kalluri moved and Dr. Sharifi seconded that the Board approve the minutes from the October 24, 2025, Board Meeting as presented. 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, greeted everyone with a message of “Happy Holidays.” Dr. Fairlee thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to provide the association report and shared that she is honored to serve as the President of the ODA. Dr. Fairlee expressed ODA’s gratitude to the Board for its dedication to the dental profession and stated that the Board’s commitment is deeply appreciated. Dr. Fairlee reflected on Stephen Prisby’s service and contributions to the Board and wished him the very best. Dr. Fairlee stated that the ODA is looking forward to working with Ms. Robinson as Interim Executive Director and continuing collaborative efforts with the Board.

Dr. Fairlee stated that she serves on the Dental Assistant Workforce Shortage Advisory Committee (DAWSAC) and that it has been an interesting and valuable experience. She stressed that workforce challenges remain a top priority and that she is looking forward to exploring innovative opportunities to address these issues together.

Dr. Fairlee reported that ODA held its Regional Event in Lincoln City and that it was a great success. Dr. Fairlee elaborated that members enjoyed learning and connecting in person and expressed appreciation to everyone who participated.

Dr. Fairlee announced that ODA will be hosting its Winter Webinar Series for members beginning in January. Dr. Fairlee added that the first topic will be Ensuring Effective Communication with Clients Who Are Hard of Hearing, which she described as a timely

and important subject for dental practices.

Dr. Fairlee shared that ODA has been awarded an ADA State Public Affairs (SPA) Program grant. Dr. Fairlee noted that this grant aligns perfectly with ODA's strategic plan focus of addressing workforce challenges. Dr. Fairlee explained that these resources will help ODA expand outreach, build coalitions, and strengthen communication efforts.

Dr. Fairlee said ODA looks forward to beginning discussions on the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan priorities. Dr. Fairlee presented a few suggestions ODA would like to offer for consideration:

- Workforce and access to care
- The changing landscape of dentistry, including technology such as AI and large practice organizations
- Clarification of current rules and regulations

Dr. Fairlee again thanked everyone for their time and continued commitment to advancing dentistry in Oregon, adding that she looked forward to working together as we move into the new year.

Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA)

Lisa Rowley, Advocacy & Membership Director of ODHA, announced this year's **ODHA Annual Membership Meeting** has been postponed until January because December has become too busy for everyone. Ms. Rowley added that agenda items will include a message from ADHA President Lancette Van Guilder, a report from our ADHA District XI Director Laura Vanderwerf, 2025 ODHA accomplishments & annual reports, introduction of 2026 ODHA board members, and a preview of ODHA 2026 events.

Ms. Rowley reported that ODHA hosted a webinar for dental hygiene educators in Oregon to discuss the new clinical examination for dental hygiene. Ms. Rowley said twenty educators participated and were able to get their questions answered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE), the same agency that develops and administers the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam (NBDHE). Ms. Rowley explained that JCNDE has launched a new clinical board examination for dental hygiene licensure. Ms. Rowley explained that the **Dental Hygiene Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DHLOSCE)** is a computer-based exam that uses three-dimensional models, clinical cases, and real-world scenarios to fairly and accurately evaluate if candidates have the level of clinical judgement and skills necessary to safely practice dental hygiene. Ms. Rowley added that this new clinical board examination will help states move away from requiring live patient or manikin-based clinical board examinations for dental hygiene licensure. Ms. Rowley stated that the Oregon Board of Dentistry currently accepts the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) for dental licensure and will accept the DHLOSCE for dental

hygiene licensure. Ms. Rowley said the DLOSCE and the DHLOSCE are both offered at Prometric Test Centers. Ms. Rowley noted that the JCNDE has approved a special offer for candidates who are currently enrolled in a dental hygiene program in Oregon. Ms. Rowley said that these candidates will be able to take the DHLOSCE once at no cost (a \$575 savings) in 2025 and 2026. Ms. Rowley added that if these candidates do attempt the DHLOSCE in 2025 or 2026, they will also receive a \$525 refund on their NBDHE fee. Ms. Rowley provided the following link for more information about the DHLOSCE: <https://jcnde.ada.org/dhlosce>.

Oregon Dental Assistants Association (ODAA)

Mary Harrison, Vice President (ODAA) offered Holiday greetings to everyone. Ms. Harrison stated that ODAA appreciates being part of the dental team and participating in the Oregon Board of Dentistry's (OBD) meetings and activities, explaining that DAWSAC is a great opportunity for dental assistants in the state to be heard. Ms. Harrison stated that ODAA appreciates the Board's movement on the activities and recommendations DAWSAC has presented to the Board.

Ms. Harrison reported that ODAA continues to work on workforce issues and has updated the ODAA website to include a New Job Placement area. Ms. Harrison encouraged everyone to visit the website to view updates of education courses, meetings, assistant recognition, and other important activities and information.

Ms. Harrison expressed her concern that ODAA's input be included in the Board's strategic planning, especially since dental assisting is a prominent priority on the agenda.

Ms. Harrison concluded with the hope that the holidays bring good times and many fun memories to all and their families.

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Dental Assistant Workforce Shortage Advisory Committee (DAWSAC)

Dr. Kalluri reported that DAWSAC met on December 9, 2025, and that the draft meeting minutes will be available at the next Board meeting on February 27, 2026.

ADEX Council on Examinations

The Board discussed the appointment of a new Dental Member to the ADEX Council on Examination. Ms. Robinson said she would investigate whether Dr. Clark's appointment to CRDTS would automatically enroll him in the ADEX Council because of the recent merger. Dr. Salathe volunteered to be a Dental Member for the ADEX Council.

Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts Initiative

Dr. Salathe presented an overview of the Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts initiative. Dr. Salathe discussed the value of taking blood pressure readings during dental visits and

identified resources for dental professionals. Dr. Salathe shared a video of her patient describing his experience of having his blood pressure taken during his dental visit, which may have saved his life. The Board briefly discussed cooperation between dental and medical offices.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staff Updates

Interim Director Robinson announced that the OBD will be closed for the holidays on Thursday, Dec. 25th and Thursday, Jan. 1st. Ms. Robinson stated that most OBD Staff will be taking time off throughout December, but that emails and calls will still be responded to promptly when the OBD is open during regular business hours.

Ms. Robinson reported that Dr. Carter gave a presentation to OHSU third- and fourth-year dental students on November 3rd. Dr. Carter shared an overview of his presentation and discussed the benefits of OBD staff presenting every other year at bridge meetings to reach all classes and more faculty.

Ms. Robinson shared that Kathleen McNeal celebrated her 4-year Work Anniversary on November 29th.

OBD Budget Status Report

Ms. Robinson presented the budget report for the 2025 – 2027 Biennium. Ms. Robinson highlighted that this report, which is from October 1, 2025, through November 16, 2025, shows revenue of \$103,560.10 and expenditures of \$172,940.01.

OHA Fee Increase

Ms. Robinson reported that the Oregon Health Authority submitted a fee increase request that, if approved by DAS, would go into effect January 1, 2026. Ms. Robinson explained that OHA is proposing a \$2 increase to the existing fees that the health licensing boards collect and transfer to OHA to support Health Workforce Reporting Program (HWRP) operations. Ms. Robinson said she would have more information to share with the Board at the February 27th meeting.

American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) Letter

Ms. Robinson directed the Board's attention to a recap of the ADEX annual meeting submitted to the OBD, which memorialized important work and actions from that October meeting.

Customer Service Survey

Ms. Robinson reported that, in customer service surveys received from July 1, 2025 – November 30, 2025, a majority rated their experience with us positively.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND RULES

Dr. Kalluri directed the Board's attention to the Secretary of State filing, wherein the Board amended 9 rules that went into effect on December 1, 2025. Ms. Robinson provided a brief overview of the rule changes.

Ms. Robinson informed the Board that rule changes related to the merger of CDCA-WREB-CITA into ADEX will be discussed at the next Licensing, Standards and Competency Committee meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

- October 14, 2025 OHA letter to the OBD supporting expanding the scope of practice for dental hygienists and dental therapists to include administering vaccines, especially for HPV.

The Board briefly discussed the potential scope of practice change for dental hygienists and dental therapists.

- November 20, 2025 ODHA Letter Recognizing Stephen Prisby
- November 10, 2025 ODAA Letter Recognizing Stephen Prisby

Ms. Robinson recognized Stephen Prisby for his 13 years of service to the Board and wished him well as he leaves state service.

- ADA and ADEX Joint Statement

The Board briefly discussed the implications of standardized examinations and portability opportunities for licensees.

OTHER

Items were in the Board meeting packet for informational purposes.

- November 5, 2025, CODA Letter to OBD regarding State Board Participation on 2026 Accreditation Site Visits

Board members shared some of their experiences participating in site visits. Dr. Aldrich volunteered to participate in the Rogue Community College on April 15-16, 2026.

President Kalluri invited Stephen Quimby, President-Elect of ODHA, to introduce himself.

- November 21, 2025 OHA Memo regarding Immunization Counseling

2026 – 2029 Strategic Planning Update

Ms. Robinson reminded the Board that the OBD will undertake strategic planning in person in February 2026. Ms. Robinson presented a draft of possible strategic plan priorities and a draft survey for discussion.

Ms. Robinson introduced Jen Coyne, CEO of The PEAK Fleet, as the selected facilitator for the Board's strategic planning session. Ms. Coyne presented information about herself and her company, including her work with the OBD in 2021. Ms. Coyne offered an overview of the strategic planning process and led Board members and OBD staff in a rapport-building exercise.

Ms. Robinson announced that, at next Board meeting on February 27th, about an hour of time would be devoted to setting up for the strategic planning meeting the next day. The strategic planning meeting will be held in the Board conference room on Saturday, February 28th. Ms. Robinson thanked Board members for making arrangements to attend and participate in this important activity.

Ms. Robinson reviewed strategic priorities from the previous planning session and how the Board has addressed them. The Board discussed logistics of the planning session.

The Board reviewed and discussed changes to the draft survey. Ms. Robinson said she would incorporate members' ideas into the survey and reach out to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) for guidance about how to proceed.

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

ARTICLES AND NEWS

- DANB Summit – AI & Dental Assisting

The Board discussed some of the benefits and drawbacks of using AI in the dental office. Dr. Smorra offered to include in the February board book a 2022 white paper from the ADA regarding AI.

- Dental Assisting Professional Model Overview

Ms. Jorgensen initiated a discussion about how existing Oregon dental assisting pathways might fit into the professional model. The Board discussed professional development of dental assistants and the workforce shortage. The Board discussed supporting legislation to expand the number of Board members to include representatives from the dental assisting and dental therapy professions. Ms. Robinson offered to reach out to the Governor's office for guidance about how the Board might proceed in expanding its membership.

- October 31, 2025, FDA Letter to Health Care Professionals regarding Fluoride

The Board discussed the FDA's recommendations and current practices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board entered into Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.345(4); ORS 192.660(2)(f), ORS 192.660(2)(f)(h) and (I); 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 11:56 p.m. President Kalluri took roll call and announced the Board had a quorum.

EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT OVERVIEW

John Paschal, DAS CHRO Executive Recruiter, presented general insights into executive recruitment processes, estimated timelines, and answered questions from Board Members regarding filling the Board's executive director position.

Board members reviewed Interim Executive Director Robinson's resume and discussed Ms. Robinson's qualifications.

Dr. Clark offered his support for Ms. Robinson. Dr. Kalluri offered her support for Ms. Robinson. Dr. Sharifi offered his support for Ms. Robinson.

Ms. Robinson gave remarks about her vision for the Board's future.

Ms. Jorgenson offered her support for Ms. Robinson, sharing Ms. Robinson's recent outreach to the dental assisting community. Ms. Simmons offered her support for Ms. Robinson. Dr. Aldrich offered her support for Ms. Robinson. Dr. Kalia offered her support for Ms. Robinson.

Dr. Kalluri moved and Dr. Kalia seconded that the Board directly appoint Haley Robinson as Executive Director. 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 direct DAS to facilitate the direct appointment process and negotiation. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board entered into Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.345(4); ORS 192.660(2)(f), ORS 192.660(2)(f)(h) and (I); 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 1:50 p.m. President Kalluri took roll call and announced the Board had a quorum.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

2026-0056, 2026-0070, 2026-0091, 2026-0080, 2026-0087, 2026-0075, 2026-0073, 2026-0089, 2026-0071, 2026-0079, 2026-0090, 2026-0084, 2026-0081, 2026-0042

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.

COMPLETED CASES

2026-0059, 2026-0057, 2026-0082, 2026-0043, 2026-0001

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.

2026-0009

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.

JOHN K. SULLIVAN, D.D.S.; 2025-0194 and 2026-0083

Mr. Lewis moved and Dr. Sharifi seconded that the Board issue a Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action and offer Licensee a Consent Order incorporating a reprimand, dental license revocation, and a \$9,000.00 civil penalty to be paid within 120 days of the effective date of the order.

PREVIOUS CASES REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

2025-0193

Dr. Aldrich moved and Dr. Kalia seconded that the Board deny the request under ORS 676.175. The motion passed with AK, SK, RS, TC, MA, OS, KS, SL, GJ, and KL voting Aye.

RATIFICATION OF LICENSES

Ms. Simmons moved and Dr. Kalia 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.

