



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

YADIRA MARTINEZ, R.D.H.



As we transition from spring into summer, I reflect on the changes that have occurred since the COVID-19 pandemic upended our lives and profession. I have gone through many emotions during this time; sadness, fear, anger, frustration, gratitude, happiness and have come to a point where I have learned to accept the changes. At the beginning of March if you would have told me that by the end of the month

my job would be repurposed to supervising a mobile COVID-19 testing site I would not have believed you, but here I am. I am grateful that I have been able to continue serving the people of Oregon in a different capacity and it fills my heart to see how the dental profession as a whole has stepped up to help. I would like to thank all the dentists and hygienists who have signed up with the state emergency provider registry, who have volunteered to help with testing, who have donated to different organizations that provide food and other services to those most in need in our communities and to those who have donated PPE at the risk of not being able to open their own practices. Your contributions have been noticed and appreciated. I would also like to thank and acknowledge the Board staff for all their hard work during this time. As "essential employees" of the state the Board staff has reported to work every day, overcoming their own challenges, to ensure the continuity of Board business.

We continue to make changes as new information emerges which seems to happen daily. Please check for updates on the Board's, OHA, OSHA and CDC websites to remain informed on changes to requirements, recommendations and best practices. Patience and flexibility during this time is essential as the dental professions are among those at highest risk for the virus.

For those who are graduating this summer please know that the Board is working and communicating with the various testing agencies. We are committed to minimizing the impact this has on licensure, but please keep in mind that the Board is understaffed. As a reminder, Oregon accepts all regional and national examinations for licensure including Objective Structured Clinical Examinations.

We will navigate these new waters together to ensure we are practicing as safely as possible and protecting the public. Stay healthy and be kind to one another. ■

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OREGON STATE OF EMERGENCY COVID-19 PANDEMIC

First and foremost, thank you for your continued patience as we at the Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) do our best to process the enormous amount of developing information regarding the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic. We understand that during this unprecedented time, dental procedures pose a unique risk to both dental professionals and patients alike. Now more than ever, it is critically important that you are adhering to strict infection control protocols. That section of the Dental Practice Act can be found in OAR 818-012-0040.

"Infection Control Guidelines" states: "In determining what constitutes unacceptable patient care with respect to infection control, the Board may consider current infection control guidelines such as those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Dental Association".

To reduce the spread of misinformation, and to ensure that all interested parties have access to the best, most consistent and up-to-date guidelines and information regarding COVID-19 and the practice of dentistry, the OBD defers to the advice and the best practices that are being developed and continuously disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control, the Oregon Health Authority, and the American Dental Association. The OBD encourages all parties involved in dental healthcare to continuously revisit these resources to ensure that dentistry is being practiced as safely as possible, and that the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the dental office remains as low as possible.

Links to the most up-to-date guidelines can be found on our website, www.Oregon.Gov/Dentistry. ■

Q: How do I change my information and/or practice location with the Board?

A: You can update your information on our website, by clicking "Update Contact Info" under the Licensees section. You can also email your new information to information@oregondentistry.org



A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STEPHEN PRISBY



I started with the Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) in 2012 as the Office Manager. In 2015 I was chosen as the Executive Director for the OBD. The words on my desk have been the same Focus, Fairness, Brevity, Courtesy & Equity, which is what I strive for every day. In 2015, in my first newsletter article, I stated the following:

“I am deeply honored to be in this position, serving Oregonians and the dental community... requires a lot of hard work, persistence, patience and a diplomatic and objective mindset. I am under no illusion. I know this will be a challenging position, and that I will not be welcomed or embraced by everyone, whether it is an unpopular Board decision, policy or something beyond my control.”

Everyone has had a challenging year. The Governor has been forced to take extreme measures to safeguard and protect Oregonians. The information and guidance has been challenging to disseminate and the situation has been very fluid. We have strived to remain professional and be a good resource, although some information and guidance for all healthcare professionals still remains ambiguous. I am optimistic that you are using your best professional judgement, education and training to provide safe and ethical care.

The Board remains steadfast and focused on our mission and work. Board staff members were all designated “essential employees” and the OBD as a whole remained open throughout the pandemic and declared state of emergency. Although no one was able to visit the Board in person, all duties, functions and work of the OBD have gone on without interruption. I sincerely thank all of them as they had their own personal issues and struggles in dealing with the situation, like everyone reading this has as well. We wanted to share important updates with you and let you know what we are focused on in 2020. It is important to recognize and honor the longest serving OBD employee in the OBD’s history. Teresa Haynes is officially retired and is currently serving (temporarily) as our Project Manager. She started with the Board back in November 1987 (over 32 years ago). Please enjoy the article later in this newsletter documenting her contributions to the OBD.

The OBD is in the middle of implementing a new database system, which will also automate much of the OBD’s data entry work. It should allow direct intuitive online access to interact with the Board for license applications, license renewals, continuing education submission, complaint submission, licensee lookup features and other important communications. Earlier this year we moved our network connection and aligned other IT resources with the State data center- which is the safest and most robust option for our agency. Another article in this newsletter will go into more detail about the new database system implementation project.

Our 2017 - 2020 Strategic Plan had 5 strategic priorities

- Ensure Patient Safety - focus on Dental Implants & Sedation
- Manage Changing/Evolving Model of Dentistry
- Manage Investigation & Case Complexity
- Succession Planning
- Retain Agency Autonomy

We have worked on all areas of this plan. Patient safety will always be our mission and focus. Now it is time to start planning ahead for our next Strategic Plan. We want your input and feedback. We plan to utilize a survey in the next few months to start gathering information and input from you and other stakeholders on important priorities for the OBD. Information on this endeavor will be communicated at upcoming 2020 Board Meetings. The OBD needs to have a current email address in our system from Licensees, to be able to survey you. Licensees also need to provide their current home and work addresses to the OBD as well. Please go to the OBD website at www.oregon.gov/dentistry click on “Update Contact Info” and share your information.

Many state government entities are now operating with significant revenue shortfalls due to the COVID-19 pandemic and state of emergency. Our agency is funded by our Licensees. All fees received cover our operating costs. We have experienced a small decrease in expected revenue at the time I write this article. The 2021-2023 budget development process is in full swing. This budget biennium period begins July 1, 2021 and runs through June 30, 2023. Most state agencies began the budget process earlier in March 2020. Imagine planning a 2 - year budget, 15 months before the budget period begins. Also imagine trying to plan ahead with a worldwide pandemic occurring. I always share the appropriate documents and plans in the public packets at each board meeting. I do not foresee the need for any fee increases for 2021, but if the Governor or Legislature make any significant changes, or redirect the OBD surplus, then that could change.



There could be various ways the State reduces expenditures. Agencies could be directed to cut staff, take furloughs, make pay cuts or any combination. Reducing available workers or work hours will negatively impact our service to all Oregonians. At every Board Meeting I address current budget issues and include the most recent financial report tracking all agency expenses and revenue.

Thank you all for your commitment to the dental and dental hygiene profession, and serving 4+ million Oregonians. Please reach out to me at Stephen.Prisby@state.or.us or call 971-673-3200 on anything OBD related. I hope you all persevere and wish you all the best as we carry on through these challenging times. ■

Q: What type of BLS/CPR certification am I required to maintain while licensed?



A: The CPR certification standard is the American Heart Association’s BLS Healthcare Providers Course or its equivalent, as determined by the

Board. This initial CPR course must be a hands-on course; online CPR courses will not be approved by the Board for initial CPR certification. After the initial CPR certification, the Board will accept a Board approved BLS for Healthcare Providers or its equivalent online renewal course for license renewal. All licensees are required to maintain this certification at all times while licensed, regardless of whether or not you are currently practicing.

BOARD STAFF

Stephen Prisby, *Executive Director*
Stephen.Prisby@state.or.us

Daniel Blickenstaff, D.D.S., M.Sc.,
Dental Director and Chief Investigator
Daniel.Blickenstaff@state.or.us

Teresa Haynes, *Project Manager*
Teresa.Haynes@state.or.us

Ingrid Nye, *Examination and
 Licensing Manager*
Ingrid.Nye@state.or.us

Winthrop "Bernie" Carter, D.D.S.
Dental Investigator
Bernie.Carter@state.or.us

Haley Robinson, *Office Manager*
Haley.Robinson@state.or.us

Shane Rubio, *Investigator/Diversion
 Coordinator*
Shane.Rubio@state.or.us

Samantha VandeBerg, *Office Specialist*
Samantha.VandeBerg@state.or.us

BOARD MEMBER OPENINGS IN SPRING OF 2021

The Oregon Board of Dentistry consists of ten Board Members. Six must be Oregon licensed dentists, one of which must be a dental specialist, two dental hygienists, and two public members. In the spring of 2021, two Board Member positions will be available when the second terms of service conclude for Dr. Todd Beck and Alicia Riedman, RDH. A Board term of service is four years, with Board Members typically serving two terms. The Governor appoints the Board member, and the Senate confirms them. The Governor's office will review and consider the applicant's geographic location, ethnic background, diversity, disciplinary history (if any) and other factors important to the Governor. An Oregon licensed dentist, who resides in Oregon, may apply for a dentist position on the Board. An Oregon licensed dental hygienist, who resides in Oregon, may apply for a dental hygienist position on the Board.

A Board Member is actively involved within the context of the agency's regulatory governance model: policy-making, strategic planning, and oversight responsibilities necessary for the success and well-being of the OBD, its licensees, consumers and other stakeholders. It truly is a volunteer position, with Board Members needing to be engaged in all areas that impact safe dentistry and dental hygiene licensure, education, rulemaking, policy and disciplinary matters. Please go to the OBD website for more information. At the bottom of the OBD home page under Board/Staff Openings, there is a document providing an overview of desired requirements of a board member and other important information. ■

CURRENT SITTING BOARD MEMBERS



YADIRA MARTINEZ, R.D.H.
 PRESIDENT
 HILLSBORO
 SECOND TERM EXPIRES 2022

ALICIA RIEDMAN, R.D.H.
 VICE PRESIDENT
 EUGENE
 SECOND TERM EXPIRES 2021



CHARLES "CHIP" DUNN
 HAPPY VALLEY
 FIRST TERM EXPIRES 2021

AMY B. FINE, D.M.D.
 MEDFORD
 SECOND TERM EXPIRES 2022



JOSE JAVIER, D.D.S.
 PORTLAND
 SECOND TERM EXPIRES 2024

GARY UNDERHILL, D.M.D.
 ENTERPRISE
 SECOND TERM EXPIRES 2022



JENNIFER BRIXEY
 PORTLAND
 SECOND TERM EXPIRES 2024

TODD BECK, D.M.D.
 PORTLAND
 SECOND TERM EXPIRES 2021



REZA SHARIFI, D.M.D.
 PORTLAND
 FIRST TERM EXPIRES 2023

HAI PHAM, D.M.D.
 HILLSBORO
 FIRST TERM EXPIRES 2021



SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

2020 - 2021

- August 21, 2020
- June 18, 2021
- October 23, 2020
- August 20, 2021
- December 18, 2020
- October 22, 2021
- February 19, 2021
- December 17, 2021
- April 16, 2021

REPORTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

YOUR ROLE AS THE DENTAL PROFESSIONAL

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many law enforcement agencies and domestic violence/abuse resource agencies have documented an increase in reports of domestic violence and abuse, as abuse victims have found themselves quarantined with their abusers and unable to escape an abusive and/or violent home environment. Abuse victims may have avoided visiting healthcare clinics or ER facilities for fear of contracting the novel coronavirus. As patients return to dental offices, dental professionals may be in the position of noting injuries or other signs of violence and abuse before any other healthcare professional. Please note that resource hotlines and links below have been updated to reflect current information. The OBD would like to remind licensees that, effective January 1, 2015, dentists are considered mandatory reporters for abuse of the elderly and disabled, in addition to their preexisting status as mandatory reporters for child abuse/neglect.

OREGON RESOURCES FOR REPORTING ABUSE:

- Oregon Dept. of Human Services (DHS) Abuse Hotline:
1-855-503-SAFE (7233)
How to Report Abuse/Neglect:
www.oregon.gov/DHS/ABUSE/Pages/index.aspx
- Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence:
www.ocadsv.org
- Info & Services for Victims/Survivors of Domestic Violence
(via Oregon DHS): www.oregon.gov/DHS/ABUSE/DOMESTIC/Pages/consumers.aspx
- Domestic Violence Victim Services (via Oregon DHS): www.oregon.gov/DHS/ABUSE/DOMESTIC/Pages/index.aspx
- Oregon Dept. of Justice COVID-19 specific violence/abuse resource index:
<https://www.doj.state.or.us/crime-victims/for-grantees/covid-19-updates/>



Q: When do I renew my license?

A: Dental licenses expire on March 31 every other year, and Dental Hygiene licenses expire on September 30 every other year. If you were licensed on an even-numbered year, your license will always expire on an even-numbered year; if you were licensed on an odd-numbered year, your license will expire on an odd-numbered year. This means that your first renewal cycle after your initial licensure may be slightly longer or shorter than the standard two years.



HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE

The state's Health Professionals' Services Program (HPSP) began in July 2010 following the legislative consolidation of professional health boards' alternative to discipline and diversion monitoring programs under ORS 676.190. The program has been operated by Reliant Behavioral Health ever since and supports public safety while helping licensed health professionals with recovery and to continue practicing. To be eligible for the program, the licensed health professional must have a diagnosed substance use disorder, a mental health disorder, or both types of disorders. Four health profession regulatory boards currently participate in HPSP: Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD), Oregon Medical Board (OMB), Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN), and Board of Pharmacy (OBOP).

HPSP provides the structure and accountability for licensed health professionals to be successful. Licensed dental board professionals require approval from the Oregon Board of Dentistry to participate in HPSP. The Board's designated Diversion Coordinator is Shane Rubio and he can be reached at 971-673-3200. If you have any questions or concerns regarding HPSP, feel free to contact Mr. Rubio. He can speak with you anonymously about the program and the enrollment process. You can also learn more about HPSP by visiting www.RBHMmonitoring.com.

RULE CHANGES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020

The Oregon Board of Dentistry and other state agencies operate under a system of administrative rules to ensure fairness and consistency in procedures and decisions. Periodically, these Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) must be adopted, amended or repealed. OARs are written within the agency's statutory authority granted by the Legislature. The Board held two public rulemaking hearings on September 17 and October 11, 2019, along with accepting public comment on the proposed rule changes from late August until October 11, 2019.

At the October 25, 2019 Board Meeting, the Board adopted two (2) new vaccine rules, two (2) temporary rules and amended 30 other rules. These 34 rule changes were effective January 1, 2020.

Official Notice of rulemaking is provided in the Oregon Secretary of State's Bulletin. Due to space constraints in this newsletter, the full text of the OARs and all rules can be found on our website: <http://www.oregon.gov/dentistry> under "Hot Topics".





Everything you need to know about Continuing Education (CE)

Q: What are my hourly requirements for CE as a dentist or dental hygienist?

A: Dentists are required to complete 40 hours of CE per biennial cycle, and Dental Hygienists are required to complete 24 hours. Dental Hygienists who hold an Expanded Practice Permit are required to take 36 hours. Within these hours, at least two hours must be related specifically to infection control in an oral healthcare setting, and three hours must be related to medical emergencies. For nitrous oxide and minimal sedation permit holders, four hours must be related to your sedation permit. For moderate sedation or deeper, 14 hours must be related to your sedation permit.

Q: I took an OSHA course. Can I count this towards my infection control requirement?

A: Possibly. OSHA courses can be counted towards the infection control requirement only if the time spent on infection control is delineated from the rest of the topics covered. Blood-borne pathogens, safety equipment, etc., do not meet the requirements for CE related to infection control. OSHA courses submitted without delineation of topics will automatically be counted under practice management. If less than two hours of your OSHA course was spent on infection control specifically, you will be required to take an additional course.

Q: How many of my CE hours can I complete online?

A: All of them. The OBD has no rules that would prohibit you from taking all of your required courses online. However, courses taken online must include a test at the end of the course in order to meet the Board's requirements.

Q: Do I need to submit proof of my CE to the Board?

A: Each renewal cycle, the Board audits a random selection of approximately 15% of licensees due for renewal. If you are audited, you will be notified several months in advance, with instructions on how to complete your audit. If you are audited, the OBD asks that you submit only the provided CE log as well as your BLS certification – original CE certificates should not be included, and should be kept for your records. If a complaint is filed against you, an investigator may also ask you to submit proof of your continuing education. In this case, you will be required to submit copies of your certificates for your past two biennial cycles. Proof of CE does not need to be submitted unless requested by board staff.



Q: How long do I need to retain copies of my CE certificates?

A: Four years, or two biennial cycles. Additionally, the Board will not retain certificates/CE logs sent in response to an audit or investigation – it is your responsibility to retain them.

Q: Can I take the same course twice?

A: Yes. As long as the courses were completed on two different dates, you may count them both.

Q: Can my medical emergencies course also count towards the renewal of my sedation permit?

A: Yes. You may use the same medical emergencies course to toward both requirements, however, the hours may only be counted once.

Q: If I'm not currently practicing, but I want to maintain my license, am I required to do my continuing education?

A: Yes. Even if you are not practicing, you must do the required CE in order to renew your license.

Q: How many hours of my BLS, ACLS or PALS recertification course can I count?

A: All of them. Contact the course provider to find out how many hours your specific course was.

Q: Where can I find Board-approved CE courses?

A: The Board does not approve specific CE courses. As long as it meets the requirements for continuing education set forth in OARS 818-021-0060 and 818-021-0070, it will meet the Board's requirements.

Q: What if I can't finish my CE before my license expires?

A: If you complete 75% or more of the required CE, it will result in a letter informing you to complete the remaining CE by the specified deadline. You will have a 60-day grace period from the time your license expires to complete the remaining CE. If you complete less than 75%, but greater than 25% of the required CE, the Board will request a letter of explanation, review extenuating circumstances, and audit an additional two-year biennial cycle. Discipline may be recommended after review of circumstances by the Board Evaluators. If you complete less than 25% of the required CE, the Board will audit previous renewal cycles, and recommend a reprimand and a civil penalty.

Q: How should I track my CE hours?

A: A PDF version of our CE log is available on our website for you to download. This form is electronically fillable, and breaks down all the hourly requirements. It is not required to track your CE in this format, but it may make it easier for you in the event that you are audited or investigated by a member of our staff and asked to submit a CE log.



CULTURAL COMPETENCY

NEW CE REQUIREMENT

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021

Effective January 1, 2021, licensees must incorporate two (2) hours of Cultural Competency CE into your existing continuing education requirements. This means licensees who renew their licenses starting in 2021 must complete this requirement prior to their expiration date. However, licensees do not need to wait until 2021 to take this type of course for it to count towards their continuing education. Please note that these two hours are not in addition to the 24, 36 or 40 hours of CE required for the renewal of a license, but are calculated within those hours. The Oregon Board of Dentistry defines cultural competency continuing education as:

“Cultural competency continuing education is a life-long process of examining values and beliefs while developing and applying an inclusive approach to health care practice in a manner that recognizes the context and complexities of provider-patient interactions and preserves the dignity of individuals, families and communities. Continuing education in cultural competency should teach attitudes, knowledge and skills to care effectively for patients from diverse cultures, groups and communities.”

The 2019 Legislative session yielded HB 2011, which directs most health regulatory licensing boards to require their licensees to complete this type of CE. The OBD supports the legislation, and is here to help you meet this requirement. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is regularly updating their website <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/OEI/Pages/CCCE.aspx> to assist you in taking classes on this subject. You also may fulfill the CE requirement outside of the OHA. No one is obligated to use the OHA for this type of CE.

The OBD has generally given its licensees wide latitude to complete any and all continuing education requirements. You may take classes online (except initial Healthcare Provider BLS/CPR Certification), use free providers and can always check with us before taking the class to see if it meets our criteria and rules. We audit approximately 15% of all licensees each renewal cycle, and those involved in disciplinary matters are checked for compliance as well. ■

SERV-OR - Volunteer today to save lives during COVID-19

Oregon is facing a public health care crisis due to COVID-19. Health care resources are strained, and we need health care professionals like you to register with SERV-OR to join the response to COVID-19.

What is SERV-OR?

The State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) is a statewide pool of licensed physicians, nurses, pharmacists, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), behavioral health providers, respiratory therapists and other health professionals who are willing to volunteer in response to Federal, State, and/or local emergencies.

Register with SERV-OR today to support your fellow health professionals and communities in this time of crisis

To find out more or to register, visit SERV-OR.org

PROFESSIONAL COURTESY

DANIEL BLICKENSTAFF, D.D.S., M.Sc.



Most dentists have had cases where correct protocols were followed, but they had less than ideal outcomes. If another dentist were to see one of your “less than ideal” crowns or fillings, what would you want them to do? Discuss the issue with you, or file a complaint with the Board? Even though ORS 679.310 states that “Any person licensed by the Oregon Board of Dentistry, shall report to the Board any suspected violation of this chapter or ORS 680.010 to 680.205 or any rule adopted by the Board,” perhaps you would like an opportunity to discuss what the other dentist saw, and if you agreed that the case was less than perfect, make it right before a Board complaint was filed against you.

The Board has seen an uptick of complaints against dentists filed by fellow dentists in the past year. Almost all of the dentists that have been interviewed state that they are not intentionally harming patients, that they are trying to provide competent patient care for the patient, and want to do what is right for the patient.

The Board is required by statute to investigate all written complaints against licensees, and takes the investigative process very seriously. The Board uses this process to verify that the licensee has complied with all of the Board rules pertaining to continuing education, maintaining a Healthcare Provider level BLS/CPR certificate, and the testing of each autoclave in the office where the licensee practices on a weekly basis, as well as investigating the treatment provided the patient.

This is a lengthy process and at the present time can take up to a year to complete. If you, as a licensee, have an issue with another licensee’s treatment of a patient, a quicker first step to resolve the issue might be to discuss the matter with the licensee rather than filing a complaint with the Board. You can do it via a short phone call to discuss the case or send an email to the other dentist. If bringing the issue to the attention of the licensee doesn’t resolve the issue in your opinion, then you can always take the issue to the Board.

On average, the Board investigates 250 cases per year, and of those cases investigated only about 18% result in discipline to a licensee. In many cases, the Board investigation finds that there is a violation of the Dental Practice Act, but it does not rise to the level of deserving discipline. Many times, just letting the licensee know that there are issues with the treatment that was provided is enough for the licensee to change their behavior, address the issue and/or protocols.

Again, before you file a complaint against a fellow licensee, pause and think about how you would like to be treated in this situation. We are not advocating you do not follow the Dental Practice Act, we are advocating that you communicate respectfully and professionally with your colleagues to best serve your patients. ■

Q: Is it possible to train my dental assistants in-house to perform duties such as radiology, sealants, soft relines and packing cord?



A: Yes, but first you must apply for Board approval as an instructor. Applications for the various instructor permits can be found on our website, under the “Dental Assistants” tab.

SO YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT RETIREMENT... WHAT NOW?

INGRID NYE, EXAMINATION & LICENSING MANAGER



You've had a long and happy career practicing dentistry or dental hygiene in Oregon, and you're starting to think about retirement, or perhaps you have already retired from practice. First of all, congratulations! When your next Oregon license renewal approaches, what will you choose to do? Do you want to maintain your license, retire it, convert it to a volunteer license, or perhaps just let it expire? This article will help you understand all of your options!

Maintain An Active License:

What Does It Mean? Maintaining your active license means that you will complete all the requirements for renewal, and continue renewing your license as you have done previously. You will be able to practice dentistry/dental hygiene legally in Oregon as long as your license is active.

Why? Maintaining your dental/dental hygiene license in an active status once you retire from your practice allows you to return to the practice of dentistry/dental hygiene if and when you choose to do so, without requiring you to contact the OBD or go through the reinstatement process. We are all living in uncertain times; you may retire from practice, and discover that your investments are not adequate to cover your needs in the future, and wish to return to practice in Oregon or elsewhere! If you move to a different state, or wish to practice abroad, many states/countries require that you hold an active license in another state in order to obtain a license in that state/country. If you have sold your practice and have taken part of the sales price on as a receivable asset, you may need to re-enter the practice and work again to preserve that asset if the buyer defaults on the obligation. Finally, you may feel the sentiment we hear from many of our licensees: "I worked hard to earn this license, and I want to keep it!"

How? To maintain your license, you will need to pay your renewal fees, keep your Healthcare Provider BLS/CPR certification current at all times (even if you are no longer practicing), and complete your CE requirements on the same schedule as always. If you hold a sedation permit, you will also need to complete the appropriate CE to renew that permit; if you hold a Moderate Sedation, Deep Sedation, or General Anesthesia permit, you will also need to maintain a current ACLS and/or PALS certification.

Retire Your License:

What Does It Mean? We offer our licensees who are no longer practicing dentistry/dental hygiene in any jurisdiction the option to retire their licenses. Licensees who are still practicing in other jurisdictions are not eligible for license retirement. Retiring your license means voluntarily choosing to take your license off "active" status and placing it into "retired" status. A retired license does not allow you to practice dentistry/dental hygiene in Oregon under any circumstances.

Why? A retired license is not an active license. You are not able to practice in Oregon with a retired license, but also, you are no longer required to pay your renewal fees, maintain a current Healthcare Provider BLS/CPR certification, or complete the required CE. You can enjoy your well-deserved retirement without worrying about renewing your Oregon license! By our current rules, you have up to four years to apply to reinstate your retired dental/dental hygiene license; the requirements do not change based on how long your license has been retired, and the cost to reinstate a retired license is generally lower than the cost to reinstate an expired license. Please read on to learn more about reinstating a retired license.

How? Contact the Board prior to your license expiration date and request a retirement form. Once you receive the retirement form, you will sign and date it, then return it by mail to the OBD. The signed retirement form must be received within 60 days of the date your license expires (no later than May 30th for dentists, and no later than November 29th for dental hygienists) in order for us to place your license on retired status.

Allow Your License to Expire:

What Does It Mean? Allowing your license to expire means that you voluntarily choose not to complete your renewal process at your next renewal date. If the license is not renewed, it will expire on the listed expiration date (March 31st for dentists; September 30th for dental hygienists). An expired license does not allow you to practice dentistry/dental hygiene in Oregon under any circumstances. If you are still practicing dentistry/dental hygiene in any other jurisdiction, but do not wish to renew your Oregon license, retiring your license is not permitted, and allowing your license to expire would be your only option.

Why? Like a retired license, an expired license is not an active license. You are not able to practice in Oregon with an expired license, but also, you are no longer required to pay your renewal fees, maintain a current Healthcare Provider BLS/CPR certification, or complete the required CE. You will no longer need to worry about renewing your Oregon license! By our current rules, you have up to four years to apply to reinstate your expired dental/dental hygiene license; the requirements change, and the costs increase, based on how much time has passed since your license expired. Please read on to learn more about reinstating an expired license.

How? Allowing your license to expire simply requires that you do not go through the process to renew the license. Without renewal, your license will expire on the listed expiration date. Although no action is required, the OBD does appreciate being notified by mail or email if you plan to allow your license to expire, as it lets us know we do not need to keep sending you reminders to renew!

Convert License To A Volunteer License:

What Does It Mean? The OBD offers licensees the ability to apply for a volunteer license. Once your license is converted into a volunteer license, you are permitted to practice in Oregon on a volunteer basis only. In applying for a volunteer license, you agree that you will not accept any remuneration for providing dental/dental hygiene services in Oregon as long as your license remains a volunteer license, and you agree to provide at least 80 hours of volunteer pro bono dental/dental hygiene services in Oregon per renewal cycle. A volunteer license is still considered an active license; as such, you will need to complete your CE and maintain a current Healthcare Provider BLS/CPR certification at all times, along with all of the CE/certifications required for your anesthesia permit (if any), in the same manner as a non-volunteer license.

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Continued from Pg. 7

If you wish at any time to return to practicing for remuneration, you must contact the Board and follow the steps we will provide for paying the renewal fees. Once the OBD removes the volunteer status from your license, you may return to accepting remuneration for the dental/dental hygiene services you provide. Rules regarding the volunteer license can be found in OAR 818-021-0088.

Why? There are many reasons to consider converting your license to a volunteer license! First and foremost, the OBD waives the renewal fees for individuals who apply for/renew a volunteer dental/dental hygiene license! Applying for and obtaining a volunteer license is a relatively risk-free “soft exit” from your dental/dental hygiene practice, and a great option for individuals who have a passion for providing dental care to needy Oregonians, and aren’t quite ready to let go of their licenses. You can decide at any time to return to a regular dental/dental hygiene license, and after paying the renewal fees, you can return to non-volunteer practice in Oregon within a relatively short timeline. Once you have applied for and obtained your volunteer license, you must provide at least 80 hours of volunteer pro bono dental/dental hygiene services in Oregon within the following renewal cycle. However, if you do not complete those hours, you do not need to worry about the OBD taking action against your license! The only consequences for failing to complete the required volunteer hours are as follows: at your next renewal cycle, you will not be able to renew your license as a volunteer license. Once you reached your next renewal, if you did not complete all of the required volunteer hours, you would either have to renew the license as a regular dental/dental hygiene license (and pay the renewal fees), retire the license, or allow it to expire. Finally, some organizations (notably the Oregon Dental Association) may waive or reduce some fees for individuals who hold volunteer dental or dental hygiene licenses. For example, in the past, the ODA has allowed volunteer dentists and dental hygienists to attend the Oregon Dental Convention at no cost!

How? Download the Volunteer License Application packet from the website. Fill out and sign all of the forms in the packet. Mail the documents in the packet to the OBD office. Shortly thereafter, you will receive a new license, reflecting the volunteer status, by mail. If you are converting your license to a volunteer license at the same time as your renewal, you will also need to complete your online renewal. Please note: The OBD is in the process of migrating to a new database system, and the application process for volunteer licenses is expected change in the near future! If you wish to apply for a volunteer license, please contact the OBD by email at information@oregondentistry.org or by phone at 971-673-3200, so we can make sure to direct you to the proper application process.

How Does Reinstatement Work?

Reinstate an Expired License

Any license that is not renewed by the listed expiration date will expire. A license that has expired may be brought back to active status any time up to four years after the expiration date. You may not practice under any circumstances until your license has been renewed/reinstated and returned to an active status. For the rules relevant to renewal/reinstatement of an expired license, please see OAR 818-021-0085.

If expired 10 days or less;

- Pay the biennial renewal fee, and;
- Submit a completed renewal application form and certification of having completed the Board’s continuing education requirements.

If expired 30 days or less;

- Pay a \$50 penalty fee, and;
- Pay the biennial renewal fee, and;
- Submit a completed renewal application form and certification of having completed the Board’s continuing education requirements.

If expired more than 30 days but less than 60 days;

- Pay a \$100 penalty fee, and;
- Pay the biennial renewal fee, and;
- Submit a completed renewal application form and certification of having completed the Board’s continuing education requirements.

If expired more than 60 days but less than one year;

- Pay a \$150 penalty fee, and;
- Pay all renewal fees that would have been due while the license was expired, and;
- Pay a \$500 reinstatement fee, and;
- Submit a completed reinstatement application form, and;
- Submit certification of having completed the Board’s continuing education requirements (the Board may request evidence of satisfactory completion of the CE courses.), and;
- Complete a new background check (instructions for completion of the background check will be sent upon receipt of a reinstatement application).

If expired more than one year but less than four years;

- Pay a \$250 penalty fee, and;
- Pay all renewal fees that would have been due while the license was expired, and;
- Pay a \$500 reinstatement fee, and;
- Pass the Board’s Jurisprudence Exam, and;
- Submit evidence of good standing from all states in which the applicant holds a license/certificate in a health care profession, and;
- Submit a completed reinstatement application form and certification of having completed the Board’s continuing education requirements (the Board may request evidence of satisfactory completion of the CE courses.), and;
- Complete a new background check (instructions for completion of the background check will be sent upon receipt of a reinstatement application), and;
- Pass any qualifying examination as may be determined necessary by the Board after assessing the applicant’s professional background and credentials.

If expired more than four years, renewal/reinstatement of the expired license is no longer possible. The dentist or dental hygienist must apply for a new license under the current statute and rules of the Board.

Reinstate a Retired License

A dentist or dental hygienist may retire their Oregon license if they do not practice dentistry or dental hygiene in any other state. Once your license is retired, you may not practice under any circumstances until your license has been renewed/reinstated and returned to an active status. For the rules relevant to renewal/reinstatement of a retired license, please see OAR 818-021-0090.

- Pay a \$500 reinstatement fee, and;
- Pass the Board’s Jurisprudence Exam, and;
- Submit evidence of good standing from all states in which the applicant holds a license/certificate in a health care profession, and;

- Submit a completed reinstatement application form and certification of having completed the Board's continuing education requirements. (The Board may request evidence of satisfactory completion of the C.E. courses.), and;
- Complete a new background check (instructions for completion of the background check will be sent upon receipt of a reinstatement application), and;
- Pass any qualifying examination as may be determined necessary by the Board after assessing the applicant's professional background and credentials.

If retired more than four years, renewal/reinstatement of the retired license is no longer possible. The dentist or dental hygienist must apply for a new license under the current statute and rules of the Board.

What About Resignation?

Resignation of a License

A dentist or dental hygienist who no longer practices in Oregon, but wishes to continue to practice in another state, may resign their Oregon license. Licenses that are resigned under this rule (OAR 818-021-0095) may not be reinstated.

When dental professionals near the end of their careers in dentistry and dental hygiene, there are many choices to be made, some of which are exciting, and others which may prove to be quite nerve-wracking! Talking with friends, family, and fellow professionals can often be helpful in making these decisions. When it comes to making a decision about what to do with your Oregon dental/dental hygiene license, OBD Staff would be happy to be a part of the decision-making team! Please feel free to reach out to the OBD at information@oregondentistry.org or 971-673-3200 at any time, if you wish to discuss your options, or if you need more information about any of the options included in this article. The OBD is deeply grateful to you for your years of service to the people of Oregon, and we congratulate you on taking steps towards this new phase of your life! ■

Q: I am attempting to get my license in another state, and they are requesting verification of my Oregon credentials. What do I need to do?

A: Primary source license verification for active licenses is done through our online database, which can be accessed here: <https://lookup.oregondentistry.org/>. If your license in Oregon is no longer active, you will need to contact our office to request the appropriate form.



RINSE & SPIT by Walt Garschek & Chuck Hart



PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM (PDMP)

The PDMP is a tool to help health care providers offer patients better care in managing their prescriptions. It contains information provided by Oregon-licensed retail pharmacies. Pharmacies submit prescription data to the PDMP system for all Schedules II, III and IV controlled substances dispensed to Oregon residents. The protected health information is collected and stored securely.

Legislation was passed in February 2018, along with rules enacted by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requiring all dentists with an Oregon active Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration to register with the PDMP by July 1, 2018. The OBD implemented a new rule: effective January 1, 2020, failure to register with the PDMP is considered unprofessional conduct. The OBD has also put in place new protocols that when doing any type of investigation, Board staff will verify that the Licensee has registered with the PDMP.

As of May 1, 2020, approximately 92% of Oregon licensed dentists, required to register with the PDMP, have done so. Licensees who are required to register, but who have not, could be subject to an investigation and Board Action taken against them.

Following is information on how to register:

- PDMP registration at <https://oregon.pmpaware.net>
- Short videos on how to register at <https://www.oregonpainguidance.org/state-organizations/pdmp-access/>
- Required for Registration:
- Access to a PC, tablet, or smart phone
- NPI and DEA number
- Digital copy of government-issued identification, such as passport or state-issued driver license

The most common error and cause of delay is failure to verify registration via email. New registrants must open the verification email from the PDMP and click the "Verify your email" link right away. If they do not receive an email they should check their spam folders. Please contact the PDMP staff directly if you are having issues registering at pdmp.health@state.or.us

Q: How can I obtain an additional copy of my license?

A: You may request an additional copy of your license on our website, under the "Update Contact Info" section. You can also call or email our office at any time to request additional copies. Please note that licenses are printed and mailed every Friday, so requests may take up to a week to process.



RECOGNITION OF SERVICE:

TERESA HAYNES

By Stephen Prisby, Executive Director

Teresa Haynes has been officially retired from the OBD since December 31, 2019. However, most licensees don't realize that, because she has graciously been working with the OBD as a retiree with limited hours, due to restrictions on PERS retirees. She has agreed to oversee the database implementation project with the Executive Director. She will also assist in a smooth hand off of job duties to our new (as of April 1) Office Manager, Haley Robinson, who is scheduled to be back from maternity leave later in the year.



Teresa with her daughter, Michelle

Teresa has served the Board since November 2, 1987, and originally started working for the State of Oregon in June 1984 when she was in her early twenties. During her 32+ years of service to the Board she has helped thousands of Licensees navigate the licensing process and make sense of the many versions of the Dental Practice Act. She transitioned to the Office Manager role a few years ago to train Ingrid Nye as the Examination & Licensing Manager, and further support the OBD. She has been able to navigate changes to the office staff, leadership, systems, processes and state government bureaucracy with a positive attitude and a commitment to service.

Teresa is the youngest of nine children and she was born and raised in Oregon. She started her state career with the Department of Commerce, and worked for the Corporation Commissioner, Jane Edwards. Ms. Edwards later became the Executive Director for the OBD. Ms. Edwards asked Teresa to come work with her when she became the Executive Director, which she happily accepted. Teresa has worked with a colorful cast of Board Members, Executive Directors and staff over the past 32 years. Teresa has a daughter, Michelle, who is now 28 years old, and is finishing her education to become a veterinary technician. Teresa plans to be semi-retired for a few years, and she no doubt will have many opportunities available. She looks forward to more travels, running some 5k and 10ks and volunteer work as well.

When I joined the Board in the summer of 2012, I relied on Teresa like many to understand the Dental Practice Act and the interesting complexities of certifications available to dental assistants. She was invaluable to me, as I was new to state government. She has been an indispensable resource to many Board Members, staff and licensees.



Governor Kate Brown (left) and Teresa Haynes (right)

We will plan to properly honor and celebrate her contributions at either the August or October Board Meeting as the pandemic and appropriate social distancing restrictions abate.

When asked for words to describe her from Board Members and other stakeholders (this was a small sample) that have worked with her, this is what was received and I had to summarize due to space constraints in this newsletter:

"She is welcoming, generous, warm, thoughtful, giving, and real."
"Teresa is very compassionate and cares for licensees as people."

"Honestly, Teresa is the rare gem you get to meet a few of in a lifetime. She knows how to make everyone feel valued and treasured, you feel you can truly relax in her presence. She is just a pleasure to work with and a joy to have met."

"She is an expert at her job, but more than that, I am honored to have met her and have had the opportunity to have worked with her."

"Teresa doesn't rush to judgment; she waits for data before making decisions."
"When I think of her, I think of the perfect employee."

"One could ask Teresa a question about anything and she always had the answer. If not, she was quick to say she would check on it and get back to you, and always did!"

"Always cheerful and willing to help, it was a joy working with her."
"Her vast knowledge of the way things work is going to be missed."

"There have been several Executive Directors, not to mention Board Members during her time with the Board and I believe she trained you all well!"

OBD NEW DATABASE PROJECT



The Oregon Board of Dentistry in early 2020 contracted with inLumon, an established regulatory software provider supporting dozens of government agencies, state licensing boards and commissions in over 15 states, to implement a new Application, Licensing and Investigation system. The new system will be designed to improve efficiencies and track compliance for the issuance, renewal, and maintenance of licenses for dentists and dental hygienists within the state. The new web-based system will enable a variety of users, including applicants, current licensees, Board staff, and the public, a highly-secure and intuitive platform for easily accessing online services.

Some benefits of the new system will include:

- Online portal for applicants and Licensees to apply online, submit information and receive status updates electronically.
- Automated workflows and notifications for staff and constituents.
- Real time report generation of licensing data.

Stay tuned for updates via board emails and Board Meeting documents. We ask that you provide the Board with an updated email address so that you can receive updates on this and other important OBD business like license renewal notices, Committee and Board Meetings notices, rule changes, etc.

The project will be implemented in stages to ensure functionality and workflow meet the project's requirements. Change is one theme of 2020, and we appreciate your patience as you navigate the new system whether to renew your license, or interact with the Board through this new system in a number of ways. ■

Did you know that you can be a part of our mailing and/or emailing list for rule changes, board meeting and committee agendas?

Stay up-to-date on what's new by sending your contact information to information@oregondentistry.org and request to join our mailing list.

CLARIFICATION ON RADIOGRAPHS

The Oregon Board of Dentistry (Board) regularly receives questions about the requirement for radiographs/Xrays, and how often they are required. The decision when to take or not to take radiographs is the responsibility of an Oregon licensed Dentist or an Expanded Practice Permit Dental Hygienist and is based on factors including the patient's oral health, patient's age, the risk for disease and any sign or symptoms of oral disease that a patient may be experiencing.

The Board does not have a time requirement for how often radiographs or X-rays are to be taken. So if your Dentist says we (the Board) require X-rays every year, that is not true. The Dentist is the one who decides if the radiographs are needed, not the patient. They are an important diagnostic tool and it is the responsibility of the treating Dentist to determine how often they are needed.

The Board takes the following into consideration when it reviews care provided by our Licensees: Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 679.140(4) states:

"In determining what constitutes unacceptable patient care, the board may take into account all relevant factors and practices, including but not limited to the practices generally and currently followed and accepted by persons licensed to practice Dentistry in this state, the current teachings at accredited dental schools, relevant technical reports published in recognized dental journals and the desirability of reasonable experimentation in the furtherance of the dental arts."

To put this in perspective, in order to diagnose dental pathology and do an adequate examination on a new or existing patient, the Dentist must have adequate dental radiographs, periodontal probings if appropriate and a current medical history. If during the dental examination pathology is diagnosed, the Dentist is obligated to tell the patient what the problem is, to explain the treatment options, explain the risks of providing or not providing the treatment, and answer questions. The Dentist is also required to document in the patient's records any dental pathology that is diagnosed during the examination. When treatment is provided, the Dentist is expected to have obtained the patient's informed consent prior to providing the treatment. The Board expects that the treatment is acceptable; i.e. crowns fit appropriately, restorations are not placed over caries, and that periodontal disease is treated (including home health maintenance instruction).

Further, Oregon Dentists and Expanded Practice Permit Dental Hygienists should follow the guidelines established by the American Dental Association and the Food and Drug Administration. ■



OREGON BOARD OF DENTISTRY

OREGON BOARD OF DENTISTRY
1500 SW 1ST AVENUE, SUITE #770
PORTLAND, OR 97201

Phone: 971-673-3200

Fax: 971-673-3202

Oregon.gov/dentistry

Email:

Information@oregondentistry.org