

## Community Service Program

By: Christopher P. Grovich, Esq.

As the counsel to the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry, it is my honor to introduce an exciting new initiative that will hopefully benefit many Pennsylvanians in need. Thanks to the enthusiastic urging and support of both community service committee chairperson, Mariellen Brickley-Raab, R.D.H., and former board chairwoman, Susan Calderbank, D.M.D., the State Board of Dentistry will soon institute a community service program for licensees who incur minor violations of the board's law and regulations – such as continuing education deficiencies and lapsed licenses.

With the cooperation of the Department of State's prosecuting attorneys, licensees charged with minor violations not related to standard-of-care issues may soon be able to pursue opportunities to provide dental care at free and reduced-fee clinics across the commonwealth, in lieu of paying civil penalties and incurring public reprimands. Again, for public safety reasons, it is extremely important to note that this program will *not* be available to licensees who have been charged with standard-of-care violations.

For a variety of reasons, many Pennsylvanians do not receive adequate dental care. Furthermore, many of Pennsylvania's free and reduced-fee clinics are unable to meet the dental needs of our fellow citizens who cannot afford regular dental treatment. In the spirit of increasing access to care for all Pennsylvanians, the State Board of Dentistry believes that this new community service program will not only provide dental care to citizens in need, but will also spark a mindset of compassion and volunteerism among the commonwealth's dental professionals.

The board is very enthusiastic about this emerging program, and hopes that licensees who elect to provide this sorely needed care will be inspired to provide similar treatment as part of their future endeavors. Additionally, the board hopes that all of its licensees consider donating a small portion of their time at a local free or reduced-fee clinic, especially in a time where many less fortunate citizens are compelled to make difficult economic choices regarding health care and other personal needs.

Any licensees with questions about the community service program are welcome to contact Chris Grovich, board counsel, at (717)783-7200. Furthermore, all licensees interested in assisting fellow Pennsylvanians in need of dental treatment are encouraged to contact their local free or reduced-fee clinic. A list of clinics may be found under the "Patients" tab of the Pennsylvania Dental Association's Web site: [www.padental.org](http://www.padental.org).

## Meet Our New Members

The State Board of Dentistry has recently welcomed several new members, and we are pleased to introduce three of them in this issue:

**Lisa P. Deem, D.M.D., J.D.**, of Montgomery County, graduated from Temple University School of Dentistry and was elected to Omicron Kappa Upsilon. She earned a Juris Doctorate from Temple University, Beasley School of Law, and was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in 1999.

Currently Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs at the Kornberg School of Dentistry and an Associate Professor in the Department of Dental Public Health Sciences, Dr. Deem is also a consultant examiner for the North East Regional Board, and National Licensure consultant for the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

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## Other News:

- [Disciplinary Actions](#)
- [PA Becomes Smoke-Free](#)
- [2009 Novel Influenza A \(H1N1\)](#), information from the PA Department of Health
- [CHIP](#), health insurance for Pennsylvania children and teens

Dr. Deem is a fellow in the American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, and the American Dental Education Association Leadership Institute. She is also a member of the American Dental Association, Pennsylvania Dental Association, and the Philadelphia County Dental Society.

**John F. Erhard, III, D.D.S.**, of Lackawanna County, is a graduate of the University of Scranton and Temple University School of Dentistry. He served in the Navy and has been in private practice for over 30 years. Dr. Erhard is active in several community projects, and has served as president of the Scranton District Dental Society. A delegate of the Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA) for 10 years, Dr. Erhard has been president of the association's third district and served on the council of government relations and the association's political action committee.

**Barbara Lee "Bonnie" Fowler, B.S.W.**, of Cumberland County, is the newest member of the State Board of Dentistry and serves as one of two public members. She formerly served as director of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and of the Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women.

Ms. Fowler now works as a private consultant with nonprofit organizations, focusing on public policy, technical writing and organizational development issues. She has extensive experience as a board member in national, state and local organizations, currently serving as a commissioner of the Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission, co-chair of the Advocacy Committee of YWCA Carlisle and a board member for Project S.H.A.R.E food bank.

The State Board of Dentistry is composed of the Secretary of Health, the Director of Consumer Protection, the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs Basil L. Merenda, and ten members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate. According to the act, those ten appointees must consist of:

- Two members representing the public at large;
- Seven members who have been licensed and engaged in the practice of dentistry in the commonwealth for not less than 10 years immediately preceding their appointment; and

- One member who is a dental hygienist licensed to practice in Pennsylvania and engaged in the practice of dental hygiene for at least three years immediately preceding appointment

## REMINDERS

- Licensees must contact the board with any changes in name or address within 10 days.
- Name changes require a copy of a court order, marriage certificate or divorce decree.
- Licensees must notify the board within 90 days if another state board takes disciplinary action against them.
- Criminal convictions must be reported to the board within 30 days.
- If you are practicing under a corporate or fictitious name, you must register with the board. You may download the application form from the board's Web site at [www.dos.state.pa.us/dent](http://www.dos.state.pa.us/dent).

## Governor's Newsletter

[Sign up now](#) to receive the weekly e-newsletter from Governor Rendell on important issues facing Pennsylvania.

- Learn more about how stimulus money will help PA residents and businesses, [www.recovery.pa.gov](http://www.recovery.pa.gov).
- [Here to Help](#) State programs to help in these tough times