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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

F I N A L M I N U T E S

MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

TIME: 9:06 A.M.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

June 12, 2020

1 State Board of Dentistry

2 June 12, 2020

3 ***

4 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
5 Board of Dentistry was held on Friday, June 12, 2020.
6 John F. Erhard III, D.D.S., Chairman, called the
7 meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Roll call was taken.

8 ***

9 For the Board's Information/Discussion - American
10 Board of Dental Examiners, Incorporated
11 (ADEX) - Typodont in Dental Hygiene Clinical
12 Licensing Examination/ADEX - Typodont in Dental
13 Periodontal Scaling Clinical Licensing Examination
14 [John F. Erhard III, D.D.S., Chairman, thanked
15 everyone for attending the teleconference. He
16 addressed a recent press release by the American Board
17 of Dental Examiners, Incorporated (ADEX), regarding a
18 manikin tooth that is going to be employed in the
19 periodontal section of the dental examination and in
20 the scaling section of the dental hygiene exam.

21 Chairman Erhard referred to prior discussion at
22 the May meeting, where the Board wanted to require a
23 licensure examination for dentists' and dental
24 hygienists' initial licensure. He noted a review of
25 comments to waive examinations completed for this

1 year's licensure cycle, although the Board felt that
2 an examination was essential and in the best interest
3 of Pennsylvania dental patients.

4 Chairman Erhard provided a summary of what was
5 approved for a dentist license, which included
6 acceptance of the CompeDont tooth as a reliable and
7 valid substitute for a live patient for the candidate
8 evaluation in the restorative and filling aspect of
9 their examination, some of which was based on the
10 recommendation of an independent psychometrician and
11 testing of over 500 candidates at 6 dental school
12 examination sites.

13 Chairman Erhard addressed advice from the
14 psychometrician to eliminate the periodontal exercise
15 field test, because the periodontal skills portion for
16 dentists as a dentist exam was not essential and was
17 not a procedure that those who had graduated from
18 dental school within the last five years performed on
19 a routine basis. He stated the procedure was assigned
20 to hygienists, along with scaling, pocket measurement,
21 and tooth polishing skills.

22 Chairman Erhard noted, in light of the COVID-19
23 situation, this year's hygiene candidates were granted
24 a provisional hygiene license until a live patient
25 examination was deemed practical. He noted there had

1 not been alternative manikin teeth available at that
2 juncture, and the requirement to take the examination
3 after site and facial availability was possible to
4 allow these candidates the legal amount of time to
5 prepare for the examination while at the same time
6 providing an opportunity for employment and more time
7 to hone their skills.

8 Chairman Erhard addressed the new typodont ADEX
9 recently made available as a manikin tooth for the
10 scale, polishing, and pocket determination portion of
11 both the dentist and dental hygiene examination and
12 noted the task of deciding whether to accept this new
13 tool as sufficient for determining competency.

14 Chairman Erhard noted he is a license examiner,
15 has read all of the Assessment of Clinical Skills
16 (ACS) technical data and had telephone contact with
17 ADEX and the Commission on Dental Competency
18 Assessments (CDCA) leadership as well as with
19 Dr. Ellis Hall regarding this aspect of the license.
20 He provided results of the testing that he considered
21 failing.

22 Chairman Erhard also addressed the ultrasonic
23 scaler, noting that it would not be universally
24 available for hygienists or dentists due to the
25 overall results. He also noted a study related to

1 COVID and the amount of aerosols, air droplets that
2 are released using an ultrasound in the field.

3 Chairman Erhard mentioned the CompeDont tooth
4 that matches very closely to a natural tooth regarding
5 calculus, stain, and pocket depth. He noted the
6 proposed typodont tooth does not mimic a real tooth
7 nearly as closely as the CompeDont restorative tooth
8 mimics the real tooth.

9 Chairman Erhard noted discussion during the last
10 meeting, where periodontal skill for the dental exam
11 even with the use of live patients was not considered
12 psychometrically relative. He mentioned testing
13 agencies will have the ability to conduct live patient
14 hygiene examinations in August and September of this
15 year, which will allow candidates the opportunity to
16 improve their skills, be employable, and prepare for
17 what is in the competency-type examination to become
18 more skilled and satisfy the Board's charge to protect
19 the citizens of Pennsylvania.

20 Chairman Erhard encouraged Board members to
21 consider becoming an examiner.

22 Dr. Lugo questioned whether anyone had a personal
23 experience with these teeth to say the data was fair
24 and suggested setting up a clinical experience for
25 Board members, hygienists, and dentists.

1 Chairman Erhard agreed with Dr. Lugo and will
2 contact CDCA and ADEX.

3 Chairman Erhard noted the Board needed to
4 determine whether to accept this new periodontal
5 manikin for an examination or whether they felt that
6 the results were not reliable and valid.

7 Ms. Murray commented that the study was more
8 about the quality and characteristics of the manikin
9 tooth, unlike the previous CompeDont study that had a
10 comparative on dental exam results with the patient
11 and with the CompeDont tooth.

12 Chairman Erhard agreed, noting side-by-side
13 testing with the CompeDont tooth, with results that
14 were a couple percentage points one way or the other,
15 which gave him and a lot of other people confidence in
16 the validity of the restorative portion of the dental
17 exam.

18 Chairman Erhard commented that there was not
19 enough positive data on this tooth, noting the people
20 who developed the well-recognized CompeDont tooth are
21 already close to releasing a hygiene-type tooth in the
22 future.

23 Ms. Lutz mentioned the importance of being aware
24 of the waivers that were granted to be extended for
25 the duration of this COVID-19 emergency plus an

1 additional 90 days thereafter. She suggested focusing
2 on now and the current state of emergency, and in the
3 event there was another outbreak afterwards, to deal
4 with it then. She questioned whether this was
5 something the Board wanted to consider for this period
6 or if it was better in the interest of the health,
7 safety, and welfare of the public to wait until
8 traditional clinical exam and testing sites are again
9 available.]

10 ***

11 DR. JASPAN

12 I would like to make a motion that the
13 Board accept the tyodont option during
14 the extent of the COVID-19 emergency and
15 extensions thereof pending further
16 evaluation of effectiveness of the test.

17 CHAIRMAN ERHARD:

18 Do I have a second?

19 MR. JOHNSON:

20 I second the motion.

21 CHAIRMAN ERHARD:

22 I will send it out for discussion. The
23 motion is to accept this trial tooth for
24 the dental hygiene clinical license
25 examination. Is there any discussion?

1 Discussion

2 [Chairman Erhard suggested all audience comments be
3 read and not opening it up to audio input.]

4 CHAIRMAN ERHARD:

5 The motion was made and seconded to
6 accept the typodont tooth exam as a
7 testing means for this period for dental
8 hygiene clinical license examination.
9 "Yes" would be to accept. To choose
10 "no" would be to reject it.

11

12 Erhard, no; Jaspán, yes.

13 DR. SULLIVAN:

14 Noted the typodont restorative part has
15 been really vetted and is still in the
16 process and noted concerns that the
17 periodontal and hygiene typodont tooth
18 is in the early stages. It concerns me
19 that we are going to make our vote on
20 this report of 30 people, some of whom
21 were students.

22 MR. JOHNSON:

23 I know from the state's perspective, we
24 are relying on the Board's substantive
25 experience in determining whether the

1 Board is comfortable in moving forward
2 with this particular exam as it relates
3 to the hygiene portion. My opinion is
4 that sample size is limited. Limited
5 sample size was not conclusive. Taking
6 those two factors into account, I
7 probably would not vote in favor of this
8 particular tyodont exam with the
9 clinical hygiene portion.

10 MS. HUGHES:

11 Commissioner, I think at this point you
12 have seconded the motion that was made
13 to approve the use of this tyodont, and
14 you just indicated how you are going to
15 vote or how you might vote. I think
16 that maybe we need to withdraw the
17 motion and start fresh, just for a
18 matter order.

19 MR. JOHNSON:

20 Maybe my understanding was incorrect.
21 My understanding was that we were moving
22 to vote on the use of this portion. I
23 was seconding to move procedurally to
24 vote, and the vote can be yea or nay.
25 In seconding the motion, my seconding

1 was to actually to forward the whole
2 process, not a vote of approval. I may
3 have misconstrued the motion. In that
4 respect, I would rescind my second.

5 DR. JASPAN:

6 Since I made the original motion, let me
7 clarify my thought process of the motion
8 to accept for this emergency period.
9 Rather than what our previous position
10 was is that if we were going to just
11 delay it until they can put an in-person
12 exam in place, which at this point, I
13 would agree because we have a little bit
14 of knowledge from this limited sample
15 but trying to move on so that these
16 recent graduates and other applicants
17 for the Board could proceed in a more
18 reasonable time frame just temporarily
19 until we have more information.

20 That is why I suggested that we only
21 do it for emergency purposes until we
22 get more information. I wanted to
23 clarify my thought process there.

24 MR. STAUFFER:

25 I wanted to make a comment that we have

1 received a number of comments in
2 Q&A, and I think it might be important
3 to bring them to the public before we
4 continue this vote.

5 MR. JOHNSON:

6 I would also like the Board Chair to be
7 able to respond to those comments, so I
8 would hold on the comments until we
9 confirm that he is back and able to
10 participate.

11 DR. LUGO:

12 In terms of the order, we are in the
13 middle of a vote and now we are going
14 back to discussion. I believe we have
15 to get out of the vote.

16 MS. LUTZ:

17 I believe the commissioner has rescinded
18 his second, so we are still, I believe,
19 in the motion. There was a motion made.
20 We are waiting on a second and then we
21 have discussion.

22 MS. HUGHES:

23 Second.

24 MS. LUTZ:

25 Now, we can have discussion all over

1 again, so if you want to open it up to
2 the questions from the public, I believe
3 we can do that at this point.

4 MS. MURRAY:

5 I was just curious whether it is
6 possible to just hold off on any vote
7 until some of the other dental hygiene
8 programs have this experience.

9 My second thought was, I am just
10 curious how it would work if we move
11 forward with this vote as a temporary
12 measure, even though we have, according
13 to the study, 30 people who responded to
14 the survey study, how it would work that
15 our dental schools could be part of this
16 study to add to it.

17 DR. SULLIVAN:

18 It was my understanding that when we
19 approved the provisional licenses for
20 dental hygiene, that was in response to
21 this COVID-19 pandemic and that this
22 would give hygiene candidates an
23 opportunity to hone their skills and
24 then be able to take the test. We were
25 giving them that opportunity. When we

1 talk about approving this exam, this
2 tyodont tooth for the exam, I do not
3 see the relevancy because we have
4 already given a provisional license and
5 also with the governor's systems in
6 place, that has also addressed the
7 COVID-19 issue.

8 My question is am I wrong when I say
9 that. I thought that is what we have
10 responded to. I just wonder why we
11 would not treat this as a response to
12 COVID-19 too.

13 DR. JASPAN:

14 Again, the reason for my motion was that
15 I thought while this was far from
16 definitive, it is better than turning
17 untested people out there to work on the
18 public with not having knowledge of a
19 skill, so this would give us some basis
20 of do they have enough skills to work on
21 the public.

22 DR. CASEY:

23 I understand the position on that matter
24 too, but let us do the devil's advocate.
25 What happens if the student has to

1 struggle with that tooth and the tooth
2 does not present to be accurate or the
3 tooth is not proven to be a standard of
4 somewhat to give the student an
5 advantage.

6 MS. GROODY:

7 Which is more dangerous, damaging, and
8 detrimental to the public and the
9 students. If there are tyodont
10 concerns on this model, I feel like I
11 want to wait for the better CompeDont
12 tooth. Giving a provisional license and
13 leaving that wide open until the exam
14 exists live, we have to think of
15 students getting a patient and schools
16 responding to COVID-19 precautions and
17 guidelines. This may put the timeout so
18 long that then what other skills would
19 they have to actually do the exam.

20 MR. JOHNSON:

21 It was the presence of direct
22 supervision as well as the fact that
23 this was not an open-ended provisional
24 license. This provisional license was
25 only intended for the duration of the

1 emergency declaration with the
2 understanding and reasoning being that
3 the governor's decision to end the
4 emergency declaration would then allow
5 us to revert back to the functions of
6 the exam before COVID-19. This is not a
7 provisional license in perpetuity. I
8 would just ask for clarification from
9 the Board.

10 In terms of the process here, I think
11 we should be voting on whether to accept
12 the tyodont, not voting to accept the
13 tyodont. The vote is a binary
14 function, so you are either in
15 opposition or you are in affirmation of
16 the decision.

17 I think the motion should be amended
18 to reflect that we are voting to either
19 accept or not accept this particular
20 examination at this time.

21 DR. CASEY:

22 Do we reject the tyodont tooth at this
23 time and what was presented to the
24 hygiene to take the exam under the
25 governor's orders was acceptable.

1 DR. JASPAN:

2 Given the recent discussion and thought
3 process, I would like to, even though I
4 believe what I said before, I think in
5 the presence of what is going on now, I
6 withdraw my motion.

7 MS. LUTZ:

8 We are at the point now where the motion
9 was rescinded, so we need to start over.
10 Is there anyone who is prepared to make
11 a motion, followed by a second, followed
12 by discussion, and followed by a vote?

13 CHAIRMAN ERHARD:

14 Dr. Jaspan has rescinded his motion. We
15 are looking for a new motion, as the
16 commissioner said, regarding acceptance
17 or if you oppose typodont tooth for
18 periodontal exam, such as the hygiene
19 and dental. If we need to separate them
20 out, I will ask counsel, but that is
21 what we are looking at.

22 We need a motion.

23 MS. HUGHES:

24 I will make that motion.

25 DR. CASEY:

1 I will second it.

2 CHAIRMAN ERHARD:

3 The motion is to accept or reject. Ms.
4 Hughes, are you accepting the typodont
5 tooth or rejecting it?

6 MR. STAUFFER:

7 While you were offline, there was some
8 discussion, before voting during the
9 discussion period, looking at some of
10 the Q&As that come in. Is that
11 something we are still doing?

12 CHAIRMAN ERHARD:

13 I have no idea what I missed. I will
14 rely on the Board secretary to comment
15 on that.

16 DR. CASEY:

17 I believe once the motion is made and
18 seconded, it opens to discussion. I
19 believe that is protocol, correct?

20 MS. LUTZ:

21 That is correct.

22 CHAIRMAN ERHARD:

23 Did we get a second?

24 DR. CASEY:

25 We are rejecting this, correct?

1 CHAIRMAN ERHARD:

2 That is the motion Dr. Casey made to
3 reject. Do we have a second?

4 MS. HUGHES:

5 I am sorry, I misunderstood. I thought
6 the motion was to accept. I thought the
7 motion that Attorney Lutz announced was
8 to accept or utilize or authorize the
9 use of the manikin for testing for this
10 cycle. That is the motion I would
11 support and make.

12 MS. LUTZ:

13 The motion currently on the table is to
14 accept the tyodont for this testing
15 cycle.

16 We need a second.

17 MS. MURRAY:

18 Second.

19 CHAIRMAN ERHARD:

20 For any further discussion, I will
21 clarify. It is to accept the use of
22 this tyodont manikin for hygiene and
23 dental periodontal testing.

24 We have a motion and we have a
25 second. We are voting to accept the

1 proposed typodont tooth for the exams
2 during this period for both exams, the
3 hygiene and the dental testing.

4 Any further discussion?

5 DR. FUNARI:

6 I am going to explain where my vote is
7 going to go. I have been a member of a
8 national certifying board for my
9 specialty, and I have been involved in
10 development of different aspects of that
11 exam. That usually involves a number of
12 psychometric testing where we would
13 introduce new items and use it in the
14 test process for comparative reasons.

15 When I look at this study that is
16 being used to justify the acceptance of
17 this test platform, it is limited in
18 scope. It was commissioned report. If
19 you go down to the conclusion, the last
20 paragraphs states that while there are
21 some favorable aspects to this, it was
22 equally skewed to positive and negative.
23 Their last comment is not withstanding
24 this conclusion, the data also suggests
25 that the patient-based demonstration of

1 clinical skills remains superior
2 comparative option. I do not feel this
3 test has been validated enough in a
4 clinical setting to accept it. I am
5 afraid that if we now establish a
6 precedence to accept this, albeit under
7 extraordinary circumstances, that that
8 is going to be the precedence to move it
9 forward in the ongoing years without us
10 having confidence in it as a test model.

11 I understand the ethics of testing on
12 a live patient and I am torn on that. I
13 also have great sympathy for what is
14 happening to our students as they come
15 out. It is going to affect the
16 residents coming into my training
17 program because they are not going to
18 get licensed, and our institution
19 mandates that they get licensed before
20 they start their program.

21 I do not feel what is being presented
22 as an alternate has been validated as a
23 legitimate test platform.

24 MS. GROODY:

25 I think this tyodont does have

1 limitations. The study was small. They
2 are saying that a patient is better, but
3 if we give people a provisional hygiene
4 license, then that calendar keeps
5 ticking until they find a patient and
6 can test. I feel like that is worse.

7 MS. LUTZ:

8 The motion that was made was to accept
9 the use of the typodont manikin tooth
10 for both exams during this period, which
11 would be throughout the duration of the
12 pandemic, depending on how many cycles
13 it lasts. That is how I read the waiver
14 that was received by the governor's
15 office.

16 DR. CASEY:

17 I have one comment for the dental part
18 of it for getting licensure to go on the
19 programs. He questioned whether a
20 dentist who graduates from a university,
21 one of our state schools, applies to a
22 program in either our state or in an
23 adjacent state or anywhere in the United
24 States, will not be given a license to
25 go into that program; thus, if a student

1 is applying to either a specialty
2 program in oral surgery, they will not
3 be allowed into the program or is there
4 any type of special provision. It is my
5 understanding these students have
6 already been accepted in a program. Are
7 they being allowed to still enter with
8 the exception of they still have to make
9 up part of the exam.

10 DR. FURNARI:

11 In my particular case, the institution
12 has accepted the candidates for
13 residency training, but the requirements
14 for them to actually start patient care
15 is that they have a valid Pennsylvania
16 state dental license. That is an
17 institutional requirement, and that is
18 what we are trying to get overturned or
19 at least set aside for this year
20 considering the extraordinary
21 circumstances with COVID-19.

22 The implication is there are some
23 people out there who cannot go into
24 private practice. There are other ones
25 who cannot go into training. It impacts

1 a lot of different areas. It impacts me
2 personally. I have also been a Board
3 examiner, and I have been involved with
4 the process of validating things, and I
5 personally am uncomfortable that this
6 has not been validated. I understand
7 that not testing somebody is as bad as
8 testing somebody on a platform that has
9 not been validated.

10 DR. CASEY:

11 I believe by the second week of July,
12 all of the Pennsylvania dental schools
13 will have completed their licensure
14 testing minus the periodontal scaling
15 skills, so they will be eligible for a
16 license if they pass the exam. We
17 waived the periodontal for this year, so
18 if they passed everything else, they do
19 not have to take the periodontal.

20 CHAIRMAN ERHARD:

21 The vote on the motion is to accept this
22 typodont tooth for the dental hygiene
23 periodontal scaling portion and the
24 dentist periodontal scaling portion of
25 the licensure examination if it is

1 offered by the testing agency.

2 Can we start with the roll call now?

3 ***

4 [Mr. Stauffer read questions and comments from the
5 audience that included hygiene directors being in
6 agreement that the typodont exam should be used for
7 the class of 2020, the comment of students having
8 difficulty finding a patient who is willing to
9 participate in the exam because of COVID-19, a
10 question of whether permission was already given
11 because of the waiver, a comment that ADEX has
12 accepted the dental hygiene typodont exam for 2020,
13 and a request of acceptance of the typodont exam for
14 the time during the COVID-19 pandemic.]

15 ***

16 CHAIRMAN ERHARD:

17 I think we are pretty clear on where we
18 are going here. The motion was to
19 accept it. A "yes" vote is you accept
20 the typodont tooth during this COVID-19
21 period. A "no" would be to continue
22 with the recommendations that we sent to
23 the governor's office from our May
24 meeting.

25

1 Erhard, no; Johnson, no; Casey, no;
2 Funari, no; Goody, yes; Hughes, yes;
3 Jaspan, yes; Lugo, yes; Matta, no;
4 Mountain, no; Murray, yes; Sizemore,
5 yes; Sullivan, no.

6
7 Seven to reject and six to accept.

8 [The motion carried.]

9 ***

10 [John F. Erhard III, D.D.S., Chairman, thanked the
11 Board for the intense, informative deliberation. He
12 was hopeful that the Board entertain accepting
13 reliable, vetted, identifiable typodont teeth to
14 eliminate live patient treatment, which is more
15 ethical and safer.

16 Chairman Erhard announced that this was his last
17 meeting with the Dental Board. He commented on how
18 much he respected his appointment to Board Chair and
19 leaves the Board with extreme confidence in its
20 continued success. He mentioned being proud of Board
21 members who responded to his request to participate in
22 MOM-n-PA. He commended staff and Commissioner
23 Johnson. He wished the Board good health and
24 happiness.

25 Board members thanked Chairman Erhard for his

1 guidance and exemplary leadership during his time
2 serving the commonwealth. They also thanked him for
3 being an awesome colleague and friend.]

4 ***

5 Adjournment

6 DR. LUGO:

7 I need a motion to adjourn.

8 DR. FUNARI:

9 So moved.

10 CHAIRMAN ERHARD:

11 All in favor?

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13 ***

14 [There being no further business, the State Board of
15 Dentistry Meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.]

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Dentistry meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the State Board of Dentistry meeting.



Evan Bingaman,
Minute Clerk
Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY
REFERENCE INDEX

June 12, 2020

TIME

AGENDA

9:06	Official Call to Order
9:07	Roll Call
9:10	For the Board's Information/Discussion
10:57	Adjournment

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