

**MINUTES**  
**NC STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**ZOOM MEETING**  
**Morrisville, North Carolina**  
**April 28, 2020**

**I. CALL TO ORDER & ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

**Dr. Young**

A. Call to Order

Dr. Merlin Young, President of the Board, called the business meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at the Board's offices in Morrisville, North Carolina. Dr. Young read the following statement regarding conflicts of interest as a reminder to all Board members:

In accordance with General Statute 138A-15(e), it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict.

Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Board this afternoon?

If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved.

If, during the discussion, any Board member learns of a conflict or appearance of a conflict, he or she should notify the Chair and take appropriate action to recuse himself or herself.

B. Roll Call

All members of the Board were present. The members included Dr. Merlin W. Young, Dr. Millard Wester, III, Dr. Catherine Watkins, Dr. Edward Clemons, Dr. Karen Lanier, Dr. Raleigh Wright, III, Ms. Nancy St. Onge, RDH and Mr. Dominic Totman. Mr. Bobby D. White, Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Casie Goode, Deputy Operations Officer, Betty Sines, Investigations Coordinator, Dirk German, Investigator, Amanda Carver, Investigator, Tyler Henderson, Investigator, Jamie Rivera, Paralegal, and Mr. Douglas Brocker Legal Counsel for the Board were also present.

C. Declaration of Quorum

With all eight members of the Board present, Dr. Young declared a quorum for the purposes of conducting the business of the Board.

**II. APPROVAL & ORDER OF AGENDA**

**Dr. Young**

Dr. Wester moved, which was seconded by Dr. Lanier, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed by general consent.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**Dr. Young**

A. Recommendations for Opening Dental Practices

Dr. Watkins made a motion to approve the attached statement as amended. Dr. Wester seconded the motion, which passed by general consent.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Dr. Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Lanier seconded the motion, which passed by general consent. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Reported by: Casie S. Goode  
Casie S. Goode  
Deputy Operations Officer

Date of Approval: May 13, 2020

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

*Dr. Merlin W. Young, President*  
*Dr. Catherine Watkins, Secretary-Treasurer*  
*Dr. Millard W. Wester, III, Past-President*  
*Dr. Edward Clemons, Jr.*  
*Dr. Karen Lanier*  
*Dr. Raleigh Wright, III*  
*Ms. Nancy St. Onge, R.D.H., Dental Hygiene Member*  
*Mr. Dominick Totman, Esq., Consumer Member*

## NC State Board of Dental Examiners Statement on Providing Dental Services During the COVID-19 State of Emergency

The purpose of this statement is to provide resources to help guide dentists in the safest possible way to offer dental services, including safely and deliberately offering emergency, non-emergency, and routine services, and to do so in such a way as to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission to patients and Dental Health Care Personnel (DHCP). Although individual dentists may use their professional judgment as to what procedures to perform and when to perform them, **failure to follow heightened infection control, sterilization, and patient safety recommendations may be viewed as a failure to meet the standard of care necessary for offering treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic.** Infection control protocols considered adequate prior to the pandemic in many instances may no longer be sufficient for DHCP during the state of emergency.

The decision to resume offering routine and non-emergency care is a decision that must be made by individual dentists. Currently, the Governor's Executive Order 121 lists dentists as essential businesses and does so without restriction. This means there is no current legal restriction preventing dentists from performing any dental procedure they judge to be appropriate for any patient. While there is no legal prohibition, the procedures and protocols necessary for the safety of patients and DHCP have changed **significantly** since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NC State Board of Dental Examiners **highly recommends** that DHCP review the following sites that provide excellent information for dentists and their teams as offices continue to care for patients in these unprecedented times:

<https://pages.ada.org/return-to-work-toolkit-american-dental-association>

[https://www.ada.org/~media/CPS/Files/COVID/ADA\\_COVID\\_Int\\_Guidance\\_Treat\\_Pts.pdf?utm\\_source=adaorg&utm\\_medium=covi%20d-resources-lp&utm\\_content=cv-pm-ebd-interim-response&utm\\_campaign=covid-19](https://www.ada.org/~media/CPS/Files/COVID/ADA_COVID_Int_Guidance_Treat_Pts.pdf?utm_source=adaorg&utm_medium=covi%20d-resources-lp&utm_content=cv-pm-ebd-interim-response&utm_campaign=covid-19) .

<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/statement-COVID.html>

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

The Board also encourages dentists to contact malpractice insurance carriers for any information, advice, or forms that may provide additional support and guidance through this state of emergency.

During this time of uncertainty and severe stress for dentists as health care professionals and business owners, the Board would like to encourage all dentists and hygienists to be aware of your own mental and emotional health. If the pressure seems overwhelming and you need a confidential place to seek help dealing with these issues, or with problems associated with drug or alcohol use, please remember that the NC Caring Dental Professionals is always available to provide assistance, support and a road to recovery. They can be contacted at: 910 944 1150

<https://nccaringdental.com>